

# Bull Sales

# Election

## Man wants to keep quality educators

With the desire to make a difference and continue giving a quality education in the Oberlin School District at a fair price to the taxpayer, Doug Brown is seeking a seat on the school board.

Mr. Brown said he's lived in Oberlin for 20 years this October. He is the Operations Manager at Frenchman Valley Co-op in McCook.

He said he sees the job of a board member as not to micromanage the superintendent, principal or teachers. The board does need to keep quality teachers and administration, which is what it's doing now, he said.

Mr. Brown put his name into the hat to serve on the board after Delayne May resigned.

He interviewed for the board position and it came down to a tie between him and Jerry Chambers. Mr. Chambers won the position on a coin toss.

Recently the board decided to combine the position of the superintendent and grade school principal starting next year.

Mr. Brown said he agrees with that decision as Principal Duane Dorshorst is more than qualified to do the job. He's been here for a long time.

He is so into kids and wanting them to get a quality education. Mr. Dorshorst, said Mr. Brown, is well respected not only by the students, but by the community as well.

The district will save money by combining the two because the district will save salary and benefits. Mr. Dorshorst is able to multi-task

and has a good staff around him.

Among the positives this district has are the teachers and administrators. There's lots of community support behind the district, which is second to none. Look at all of the people who support kids, said Mr. Brown. When people show that kind of enthusiasm the kids can feel that and are happy and proud and want to be able to achieve.

The district and board, he said, will face budget challenges. With that said, staffing may change because if there isn't enough money it's hard to pay them.

From what the superintendent has said, it looks like the district will be able to retain the per pupil money allowed by the state, at least for the next two years. By the time the per pupil amount changes, he said, hopefully things will be better.

Mr. Brown said he's served on the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce and attends the co-op board meetings.

He said he has a degree in business and economics with an emphasis in accounting from the University of Nebraska.

"As a parent I want my daughter to get a good education," he said. "That's something no one can take from her."

Mr. Brown said he will have the students, administration, teachers and taxpayers at the forefront of every decision he will make. He said he wants to continue to provide quality education at a fair price.

Mr. Brown and his wife Pat have one daughter Skyler, 7.

## Woman says she'll stay well informed

With a love for the community and the desire to take her time and do what's best for the district, Abby Hisson is running for the Oberlin School Board.

Mrs. Hisson is a licensed insurance agent, She works for Fredrickson Insurance Agency.

It's really important, she said, that people have a vested interest in the community and education system. There's a really good education system here.

As a school board member it's important to make well-informed decisions that are in the best interest of the district.

She said she's a parent and has a vested interest. She is willing to listen and do the homework so that she can be a qualified board member. Board members have to have the desire to do a the job well, which she said she does.

It's important to look for the facts, and then make a decision. There aren't any dumb questions. If asked a question that she can't answer she will not be afraid to say she doesn't know and then find out the answer.

The recent decision to combine the superintendent/principal's job was a good one, she said, because Principal Duane Dorshorst will do a good job. It isn't the right job for everyone, but for him it will work.

The joint position, said Mrs. Hisson, will take a highly motivated hands-on person, which Mr. Dorshorst is.

This decision will make the district stronger, because everyone who works for the district has a vested interest and wants to see it succeed. Mrs. Hisson added the

goal is for the district to continue to stay strong for many years to come.

Some of the positives include the support of the community and a great staff overall who care about the kids and the community.

As far as what the students learn, it's amazing to see what kids in school here know and learn compared to those in other states. The students from this district

are ahead. The Oberlin School District stays on top of the new ideas and techniques.

The biggest challenge the district is going to face is declining enrollment which will mean less money. This is not insurmountable; it can be overcome.

Although not originally from here, Mrs. Hisson does love the community, it's her home and she wants to do the best for it.

It's important for people to voice their opinions, both good and bad, to those who have the opportunity to make well informed decisions, and she invites people to do so if she's elected.

Mrs. Hisson interviewed with the board to take the seat vacated by Delayne May, but wasn't chosen.

She and her husband Dr. Travis Hisson have two children Alexis, 12 and Gatlin, 9.

Mrs. Hisson is involved in Decatur Tomorrow as a co-convenor for the multi-generational group, and is a member of the Aquarius Club and Support Our Schools. She is a past member of Relay for Life and the Last Indian Raid Museum board.



Doug Brown



Abby Hisson

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## Man has 10 years experience on board

With 10 years of experience, Dan Wasson is again seeking a seat on the Oberlin School Board.

Mr. Wasson served on the board from 1993 to 2003. He decided to run this time because a constituent asked him to and although he was asked in the past to serve again he wasn't ready for the job until now.

Mr. Wasson said he graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1970 and has lived here since then. He farms and has a cattle business in the county.

Mr. Wasson said he joined the National Guard and was in for six years until his discharge as a second lieutenant.

The job of the board member is to budget and to manage the superintendent and personnel, he said.

He said he's dealt with six administrators in all of the boards he's

served on and so has an idea of how their jobs are done and how to evaluate them. It's an important job, said Mr. Wasson, and it's important that the board do an evaluation for the administrator.

Mr. Wasson said he doesn't agree with the decision of the board to combine the position of the grade school principal and superintendent.

Although he understands some of the reasons with the budget, the decision will make the district the largest one in the state to have only two administrators.

He said he isn't sure if one man can handle the two jobs, although it's worth a try. If it doesn't work, he said, the district can always go back to separate jobs.

With the job combination, said Mr. Wasson, the district will save money because of the difference in salary. The superintendent's office

may have to be moved to whatever building the administrator is working in.

It will be a big job for whoever has it, said Mr. Wasson. They won't be able to attend as many meetings, because they will have to be in the district.

This district, said Mr. Wasson, has a good reputation for educating students. It has as good as or better education offered than any other district in northwest Kansas.

The district also has excellent facilities, said Mr. Wasson. He said

he's traveled to many schools and no one will find better facilities than we have. The staff is also excellent.

The biggest challenges, he said, are managing the budget and getting the bills paid with the money the district has coming in.

Mr. Wasson said people should vote for him because of his experience. He said he is a lifelong resident of Decatur County and understands the county and school. He cares about the students of the district who are the future of the community.

Mr. Wasson and his wife Carol, who teaches at the grade school, have three children, Tom, who farms in the county; Anne, who attends Kansas State University and Nolan, a junior here. They also have a grandson, Gavin, who will be in kindergarten next year.



Dan Wasson

## Graduation 2010 could move to a Saturday

The Oberlin School Board talked about changing the day for graduation in 2010 at its meeting last Monday.

Principal Charlie Haag said the junior class, which will graduate in 2010, was polled about having a Saturday or Sunday graduation date. The class voted unanimously for a Saturday graduation.

The board took the information under advisement but didn't make any decisions.

The board talked with Spanish teacher Carol Brown about the Spanish Club's upcoming trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in June.

Mrs. Brown said there are 10 students and seven adults planning to go. She said she's been keeping up with what's going on in Mexico. It seems most of the problems are along the border, she said. An alert, said Mrs. Brown, which is different than a warning, has been issued about drug trafficking.

She said she will continue to monitor what's happening. Everyone has purchased travel insurance so if they don't end up going they can get their money back.

The trip can be called off at a later date if needed, she said.

Mrs. Brown asked if the district would provide transportation if the group pays for gas.

The board agreed to provide transportation and pay for Mrs. Brown to go on the trip, which it has done in the past. Approval was contingent on the idea that the trip

can be canceled if needed.

In other business, the board:  
• Heard that the district's technology plan and curriculum, which includes what will be taught, has been updated. The plan, said Elementary

Principal Duane Dorshorst, has to be updated every three years. The board gave permission for Mr. Dorshorst to send the plan in to make sure it is OK. He said he wants to wait for board approval when it's

in its final form.

• Held a 10-minute, and two five-minute closed sessions for non-elected personnel with the board, principals and superintendent present. There was no action taken.

## Board wants prices on new buses

The Oberlin School Board asked the transportation director to get prices for new and used buses and Suburbans to update the district's fleet.

Transportation Director Brian Simonsson said he has talked with people in the industry about a potential used bus, but they haven't been able to find one. A new bus, he said, will cost around \$47,000.

However, it looks like a new bus might be the best answer, said Mr. Simonsson, because the prices are coming down.

The fleet, he said, is getting older and the buses and Suburbans are having more problems.

It seems like the Suburbans are getting lots of use. The vehicles, said Mr. Simonsson, have anywhere from 69,000 to over 100,000 miles on them.

The board suggested that Mr. Simonsson get some prices. With the prices down and zero percent interest offers, said member Dan Grafel, he thought Mr. Simonsson shouldn't rule out new buses or Suburbans.

Mr. Simonsson said he would get some prices for the April meeting.

## School countdown

At the meeting last Monday, the Oberlin School Board:

- Decided to not allow the Decatur Community High School Alumni Association to use the district mailing address. Story on Page 3A.
- Talked about changing the day for graduation in 2010 but no decision was made. Story above
- Asked the transportation

director to get prices for new and used buses and suburbans to update the district's fleet. Story at left.

• Heard from the technology director about some changes that need to be made, including replacing the computers in the lab on the second floor of the grade school. Story to come.

April 7, 2009  
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