

## Long-time faculty will retire early

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Friday, 14 February 2014 15:32 -

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**SUMMER PROJECTS**

Several summer projects got the green light from the District 20 board Monday night including the acceptance of a \$61,442 bid from Trane Inc. to replace heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units in the Community Building gymnasium.

Other bids were from Reamason for \$47,217 and Siemens for \$52,970. Although the Trane bid was the highest, architect Robert and an engineer recommended accepting the bid because it fit the district's needs the best, officials said.

Work will begin this spring or summer.

Other projects include:

- Upgrading outside lighting to LED (light-emitting diode) for longer life and efficiency (\$4,000).
- Sanding, painting and finishing the south gym floor (\$17,000).
- Providing easier access to the stadium and a storm shelter (\$2,000).
- Replacing kindergarten and Community Building doors (up to \$40,000).
- Putting in new upper bleachers on the north side of the Community Building gym (up to \$40,000).

Officials are still researching the possibility of an on-site greenhouse, adding new equipment to the south playground and installing new bleachers on the north side of the stadium.

More than a century of teaching will be absent from the classroom this August.

During a District 20 board meeting Monday night, the resignations of Ernie Blecha (vocal music), Jan Blecha (kindergarten), Dan Yilk (elementary physical education) and Teresa Brooks (Title I who was also an elementary teacher) were accepted.

The retiring teachers applied for early retirement through an incentive program offered by the district.

They represent 121 years of teaching in the district as follows:

Yilk—36 years

Ernie Blecha—31 years

Brooks—28 years in district and 31 years in education

Jan Blecha—26 years in district and 31 years in education

Board members also accepted the resignation of Dudley Elementary media specialist Angie Richeson who has taught in the district for 11 years.

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Richeson plans to pursue a doctoral degree.

Superintendent Dr. Mike Teahon said the district is advertising to fill the positions and a special education opening.

Teahon said he and other administrators hope to start interviewing applicants in the next three to four weeks.

“It’s bittersweet and exciting to move the district forward,” he said.

In other action, the board offered 11-month contracts to high school principal Randy Evans, Dudley Elementary principal Jim Widdifield, junior high principal Ryan Groene and Dudley Elementary principal Allison Jonas in 2014-15.

Salaries will be determined at a later date.

A new school calendar for 2014-15 is ready and received board approval.

Classes begin Aug. 14 and end the Friday before Memorial Day.

Six early dismissals, which will begin at 2 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m., are scheduled for school improvement. Two additional school improvement meetings will occur on a Thursday set for parent-teacher conferences.

School will be dismissed on both Thursday and Friday when conferences are set on Sept. 25 and 26 and on Feb. 12 and 13, 2015.

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On another matter, the board approved a contract with Educational Service Unit 10 for yearly special education services that include vocational services by Rick Love of Cozad, for an estimated \$7,000; an audiologist for an estimated \$2,000; and a deaf education teacher for an estimated \$16,000.

The audiologist and deaf education teacher are provided through Educational Service Unit 10.

Following the meeting, the board met for 10 minutes in closed session to talk about safety and security in the district.

No action was taken when members reconvened.

In other business, the board;

approved option enrollment requests to allow Bailey Brown, seventh grade, and Isabella Brunswick, second grade, to transfer into the district from the Cozad school district and for Dade Brock, 10th grade, and Dakin Brock, eighth grade, to transfer into the Brady school district.

learned that the school's accreditation progress report has been accepted by the AdvancED Quality Assurance Review team.

were told that almost 93% of parents/guardians of elementary students attended parent-teacher conferences last week with 60% attendance in the junior-senior high school.

were informed that kindergarten registration will be Tuesday, March 25, at 7 p.m. in the high school performing arts center.

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heard that the Swedes will compete in B6 district track in Ogallala.

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