School board approves after-school program

Written by Deb Egenberger Friday, 18 January 2013 15:07 -

Brady school officials hope an after-school program aimed toward at-risk students will not only help them succeed in the classroom but build responsibility as well.

School board members approved, during their regular monthly board meeting on Monday, the addition of an after-school program to begin this semester.

Superintendent Bill Porter told the board that he feels requiring students to spend time after school to complete work will not only improve their classroom grades but it will make for better students in the long run.

"Most of these kids just have bad habits," Porter said. "It's been proven that once we hold them accountable, they will change some of those habits. Kids don't really want to stay after school. They'll start getting their work done."

With several four-day school weeks, the district had been relying on extra instructional time for those at-risk students on the Mondays or Fridays when no classes were scheduled.

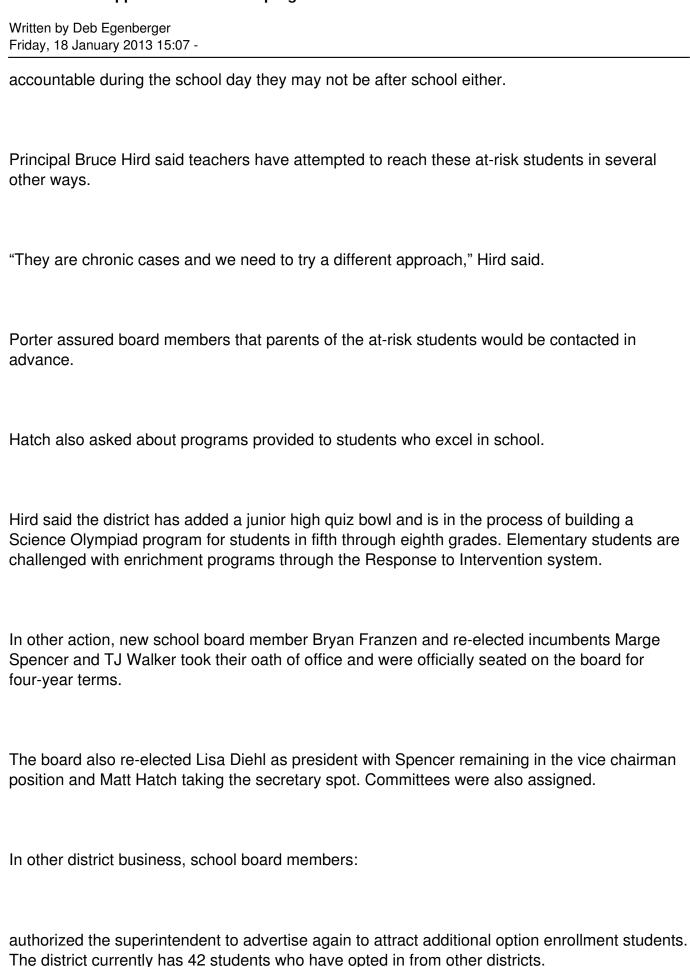
Porter said transportation became an excuse and the students who really needed to show up never did.

With the after-school program, he said transportation will be provided by the district and hopefully students who miss too much school or simply don't turn in work will get the added attention they need.

By keeping the students after-school for an hour twice a week, Porter believes they will get the instruction they need and structure to build better study habits.

Board member Matt Hatch questioned the approach, saying if students are being held

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discussed a request from Darrin Messersmith, a registered sex offender, to attend school activities his children are involved in. Porter told the board that school attorney Tim Thompson suggested the request be denied since Messersmith is only allowed supervised visits with his children. The board agreed.

approved contracts with Educational Service Unit 16 for the 2013-14 school year for distance learning services, early childhood special education services, school age special education services and network support with computer repair. The total for all four contracts is \$131,794.

accepted a three-year auditing contract with McDermott and Miller CPA.

agreed to pay Rebecca Stearns \$8.75 per hour as a full-time para-educator. The position was added to accommodate a new student who enrolled for the second semester.

discussed in closed session the superintendent's response to his evaluation and later approved offering Porter a contract for the 2013-14 school year with a salary of \$75,000.