



NEWS for immediate release

Fremont County School District #1

February 17, 2010

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Attendance policy adopted, bid opening for middle school set

(Lander) – The Fremont County School District 1 Board of Trustees Tuesday night approved a new school attendance policy for grades K-8 that now allows only six unexcused absences per semester. Students who miss classes for medical or other pre-approved reasons would not have those absences count against their total.

In adopting the policy, trustees noted that the district had to have a mechanism in place to ensure that kids attend school. The new policy would establish a Student Attendance Review Board as an interim step and eventually allow prosecution of parents or guardians if their children had six or more unexcused absences in any one semester.

“Our teachers can teach any kid from any circumstance as long as they are in class,” said Superintendent Paige Fenton Hughes. “This policy is about creating awareness that kids need to go to school so we can teach them.”

In other news from Tuesday’s meeting, a pre-bid conference for firms interested in working on portions of the new approximately 78,000 square foot middle school construction project attracted over 30 subcontractors and their representatives Tuesday in Lander. Bids for the new school will be opened on March 4th. L.M. Olson Construction Company of Rawlins is the general contractor on the project.

“We are anticipating some very competitive bids for the subcontracting work as our new school is the biggest project going in the state right now,” said Hughes. Groundbreaking for the new school is scheduled for later this spring.

Also at Tuesday’s meeting:

- Assistant Superintendent for Finance Kirk Schmidt reported that the district’s expected level of funding for the 2010-11 school year that begins in July is projected to be flat. The amount of funding to be received from the state is dependant on action taken at the budget session of the state legislature, which is now in session. The district’s current budget is \$25.8 million.
- Trustees recognized Rick Heryford for his efforts in serving students and staff at Lander Valley High School. Trustee Chairman Bruce Palmer noted that Heryford has served as a homebound tutor, an in-school tutor, as a PAWS testing facilitator, and that he works as a short term and long term substitute teacher. Heryford was nominated for the recognition by LVHS Principal Al Sparkman.
- Hughes updated the board on the current status of the Wind River Children’s Triad, a group that is comprised of Fremont County school districts plus social, governmental and tribal entities who serve students on the Wind River Indian Reservation. She said the focus of the group is on supporting enrollment and attendance by reservation students. Hughes and Lisa McCart represent FCSD 1 on the group.
- Proposed changes in the No Child Left Behind Act is a subject reported in the latest blog posted by Supt. Hughes on the Superintendent’s page at the district web site, FCSD1.com. Hughes recently attended, and blogged from, the American Association of School Administrators conference. She reported on the blog, and other topics from the conference, during the trustees meeting.
- Trustees asked for revisions in the proposed calendar for the next school year beginning this fall. Trustees indicated a desire for the first semester to end prior to the annual holiday break, and for a shorter

holiday break. The requests will be taken to the calendar committee and reported back to the board at its March meeting.

- Personnel decisions approved at Tuesday's meeting include:
 - Resignation of bus driver Rene Gustafson,
 - Contract renewals for principals Bill Alley at South Elementary, Kathy Hitt at Pathfinder H.S. and Al Sparkman at Lander Valley H.S.
 - Kevin Green and Doug Hughes were approved as assistant track coaches at LVHS,
 - Buddy Red Bow, Shawna Morgan and John Rounds were approved as assistant track coaches at Starrett Junior High.
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- A formal review of the district's annual audit is scheduled for the board's work session, the first Friday morning in March.

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