



NEWS for immediate release

Fremont County School District #1

January 19, 2010

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Nirider sworn into office; Strict attendance policy reviewed

(Lander) – The newest member of the Fremont County School District 1 Board of Trustees, Teresa Nirider, was sworn into office Tuesday evening at the regular monthly meeting of the board. Nirider was appointed to the seat last week from a pool of six candidates to fill a vacancy created by the resignation in December of board vice president Y.T. Sempert. Elected by the trustees as the new vice president of the board was Susan Crane.

Saying that the district had to have a mechanism to ensure that kids attend school, trustees Tuesday reviewed on first reading an attendance policy that would put in place 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 is not about sending a parent to jail for 10 days, this is about creating awareness that kids need to go to school so we can teach them.”

Trustees were told that at least one student has already accumulated over 40 absences.

In other news from Tuesday’s meeting:

- Proposed alterations to the LVHS electives to change district graduation requirements and allow students to take additional electives was discussed at the meeting. Calling the changes a very comprehensive proposal and sweeping in nature, Assistant Supt. John Metcalfe said he had not yet had a chance to fully vet the proposal. After over one hour of testimony from staff and district patrons, the board agreed to review the proposal further and take action on the plan at its February 5th meeting. "The choice that matters in my mind is that when kids leave our school that they have choices for college or careers," said board president Bruce Palmer.
- Supt. Hughes reported that the funding for a new South Elementary School has not been listed as a priority for the next round of construction, according to the current budget proposal before the legislature. The Joint Education Committee met Tuesday in Casper. "South is not on the funding list now, but our efforts are to get that funding secured as soon as possible." Hughes said. Assistant Supt. of Finance Kirk Schmidt said funding has been awarded to design the new building, but that money has not yet been released.
- The annual audit of the school district was reported as an unqualified success, or the best audit report possible, according to auditor Jim Dodson of the Certified Public Accounting firm Porter, Muirhead, Cornia and Howard of Casper. The audit report indicated that no material weaknesses were discovered in the district's financial reporting and that the district was in compliance with the records reviewed.
- Staff from each district school building updated the board on plans for the North Central Association's accreditation process, which is planned for the 2010-11 school year. Staff also reported on the progress in completing curriculum core mapping throughout the district and on continuous improvement programs.
- Central Wyoming College's BOCHES program, which provides dual or concurrent enrollment classes for Lander Valley High School students, recorded 303 enrollments in the just concluded fall semester, according to BOCHES Director Jackie Meeker. She said the total number of college credit hours earned by LVHS students this

past fall was 976 hours. The value of the credits totaled \$86,864 in tuition and fees, which is paid by the CWC program. Meeker said that in the last school year, one LVHS student graduated with 53 college credits. Later in the meeting, the board voted to join BOCHES and later will appoint a trustee to represent the district on the BOCHES board.

- In personnel decisions, the board approved renewing the contracts of the district's two assistant superintendents, John Metcalfe and Kirk Schmidt and resignations were accepted from Keri Myers, a job coach at LVHS, Paul Steinkamp, a custodian at South, and David Foxley, a teacher at LVHS. The board also acknowledged the resignation of Chelsey Red Bow at Starrett Junior High School track coach.

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