



NEWS for immediate release

Fremont County School District #1

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Contact: Paige Fenton Hughes, Superintendent (307) 332-4711

Electives proposal gains school trustees approval

(Lander) – A standing room only crowd of nearly 100 parents, students and staff were sardined into the Fremont County School District 1 Administrative building's board meeting room and adjacent spaces Friday morning for the second reading of a proposed change in curriculum at Lander Valley High School.

Recommended by the district's Curriculum Coordinating Committee, the board approved the changes after debating the meshing of required proficiencies with credits for graduation.

The changes include approving two new classes, a Native American history class and an English Honors class, plus a proposal for an open period and to incorporate community experience and virtual classes into the curriculum. The changes also include allowing a junior high school student to earn a high school credit in Algebra 1 and a change in the district requirement for the number of elective credits required for graduation.

Board chairman Bruce Palmer said he was proud of the community input into the process and he acknowledged the work of district staff, administration and board members that resulted in the recommended changes.

Judy Crawford represented one of the stakeholder groups involved in the discussions, the Citizens for Education, at the meeting. She echoed Palmer's statement and urged community stakeholders to remain involved in the process, and not just when a parent had an individual issue.

The board also reviewed a new attendance policy that would allow elementary and junior high school students a maximum of six unexcused absences per semester. Currently, there is no maximum for the number of allowed absences.

“Right now a parent can take a child out of school 50 times and there’s nothing we can do about it,” said the district’s truancy prevention specialist Rachel Bergstrom. “The more kids attend school, the better they perform. Sometimes it takes a formal structure to change a culture.”

The policy will be an action item on the board’s next meeting.

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Lander Valley High School Principal Al Sparkman, center, responded to questioning from the board during an early morning meeting Friday at which new elective requirements for graduation were adopted.

Fremont County School District 1 Board of Trustees member John Schumacher, center, made a point during discussion of changing graduation requirements at Lander Valley High School during a board meeting Friday morning.

