



NEWS for immediate release

Fremont County School District #1

November 17, 2009

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

Lander schools to reconfigure in Fall 2011

(Lander) – Reconfiguration of Lander’s primary schools is on tap for the fall of 2011 following unanimous action by the trustees of Fremont County School District 1 Tuesday night. Citing the educational values of such a move, first approved by district patrons in 2005, the board acted to implement the plan in anticipation that a new middle school building will be ready by fall 2011.

Details of the reconfiguration will now be in the hands of school administrators and staff. Those details will include determining what grade levels would be combined and at what locations. Staff will have less than two years to plan and gain approval of the logistics and configuration details.

In a related report, Superintendent Paige Fenton Hughes said that the architectural plan for the new middle school is scheduled to reach the 95 percent level by December 10<sup>th</sup>, with 100 percent completion of the plans expected by the end of the year. Fenton Hughes said that if that schedule holds, bids are tentatively set to be let in February with weather conditions determining when construction would begin, perhaps as early as next March.

The vote to reconfigure was made despite uncertainty as to when a new South Elementary School would be constructed. The trustees asked administrators to recommend a plan that would be the least disruptive to students as possible.

Also at Tuesday night's meeting:

- A standing room only crowd filled the meeting room to hear about electives at Lander Valley High School during a “listening session” prior to the regular meeting. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment John Metcalfe presented a detailed analysis of how electives fit into state mandated assessments. He also reported which electives have the most and also the fewest number of student learners, in relation to district resources devoted to each elective. The issue will come up again in December on the agenda for the trustee’s regular third Tuesday meeting.
- Metcalfe also reported that attendance at LVHS has dropped from 604 students in October of 2006 to 543 students this fall, a decrease of 61 students. Metcalfe said enrollment at the high school would continue to trend downward for the next two to three years due to fewer numbers of students coming up from the junior high.
- Trustees approved on second and final reading a Memorandum of Understanding with the Lander Children’s Museum, an agreement that would allow collaboration between the district and the museum in areas of shared interest in providing educational programs.
- Trustees debated a possible bullying policy to protect students in the district on first reading at Tuesday’s meeting. Trustee John Schumacher said he would continue to further refine a proposed policy in line with comments made during discussion and report back to the board. Policies on a Family and Medical Leave Act were also read on first reading.
- In other action items trustees voted approve a new policy that creates an Oath of Office for board members.
- Trustees decided to schedule a separate meeting to discuss a personnel and superintendent’s evaluation process, in order to give the topic adequate time.

- Members of the LVHS Student Council made a presentation to the board that reported on the climate, activities and fund raising occurring at the school this fall. Students also shared with the board an award the Student Council had received from the Make A Wish Foundation for raising \$1,817 last year.
- Supt. Paige Fenton Hughes and trustees Dave Clark, Susan Crane and Joe Palladino will be representing the district at the Wyoming School Board Association's annual meeting this week.

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