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School board calls for clear financial reports

Superintendent Everly also asked to set up LPC meeting

By Leigh Stone

Managing Editor

The Nicholas County Board of Education has asked Superintendent Randy Everly to give detailed monthly reports on the school system's finances and also asked him to set up a meeting with the Local Planning Committee.

The district is still headed toward a deficit, according to Everly's calculations.

All board members were present, including Ricky Hicks, Sherry Upstegraft, Don Elder, Vice Chairman Donna Gail Mattox and Chairman Mona Vice. About 15 community members attended the nearly three hour long meeting.

Everly said board members could still be approved or a new plan could be submitted. He believes the state wanted the two groups to meet because two new school board members took office in January and the state wanted to see if the board wanted the same thing for the district as the prior board.

DEFICIT

Board members also asked Everly to submit a monthly report to each of them concerning the district's finances.

"We're close," he has answered Mattox about the impending deficit. Under Ken Lutzky, law school districts aren't permitted to have a deficit. Districts with deficits can be taken over by the state until the finances are balanced.

According to Elder's calculations, the district's expenditures are \$1,839,521.20 and assets are \$1,720,130.85. So we're minus \$119,390.35.

STAFFING

Everly said letters to classified staff would go out this week stating the district would have

a "reduction in force." Giving classified employees notice that they may not be rehired this fall may help the state understand Nicholas County is trying to combat its financial problems.

Classified workers include bus drivers, cafeteria workers and teacher aides. Approximately 80 classified staff and 15 non-tenured teachers will get the letter.

During his administrative report, Nicholas County Elementary Principal Gerald Hammons said the board the site based decision making council's recommendation for staffing cuts submitted to Everly may not work out exactly as

The following statistics by Rob Lane were shared with the board and those present at the meeting Monday night.

The numbers show how the number of students in Nicholas County reached a high point in 1992-93 with 1209 students and has consistently lowered to 1,134.5 students for the 1995-96 school year.

1989-90, ADA (average daily attendance) 1,164.2 students

1990-91, ADA 1,171.5

1991-92, ADA 1,182.2

1992-93, ADA 1,200.2

1993-94, ADA 1,183.5

1994-95, ADA 1,159.9

1995-96, ADA 1,134.5

stated. Just because county recommended a fifth grade teacher will lose his job, Hammons explained. The positions we're dropping may not be the ones we lose," he said. Much still depends on the academic needs of students and is being taken into consideration currently, Hammons said.

Teachers are discussing courses for next year at this time.

NCHE Principal Greg Reid asked Everly if Dr. Fred Williams, a state board consultant, had given a report on the district's financial status.

Everly said it wasn't done yet, but would mostly center on next year's budget.

Reid also asked if the site based council should put a freeze on spending. Rob Elder and Mattox said the allocations

given to the schools belonged to the schools for council to determine the best use of the funds.

Elder said if a project sounded good, to spend the money, but if not cutting measures could be installed that would be okay.

Reid said he didn't have a problem with that, but sometimes council asked him questions he couldn't answer.

"Like what?" Elder asked.

"The continued feedback say no bus transportation for field trips. How do you do it?"

Hammons said the council looked ahead and put a freeze on half of its funds.

We're still spending at 50 percent," he said. "You're looking at \$100 every time the bus rolls."

WATER PROBLEMS

Both Hammons and Reid reported roof leakage problems at both the elementary and high school. Hammons said the water source hadn't been located yet. He also noted the playground needed repair due to water wash off. The PTA informed him that funds to spend on the playground and Attorney Fawn Letcher said it would be wise to have the PTA send a letter with the specific amount of money to be donated and earmarked specifically for the playground.

Reid said water damage at the high school was damaging the floor in the cafeteria area. However, the high school does have a new improvement. New doors have been installed with new locks throughout the building. The old doors were an estimated 20-30 years old.

CALENDAR

Reid announced that high school graduation is June 1.

Transportation Director Rob Lane and the school calendar for this year has been revised.

We last three days for new and three to flooding. We made use of those days up to we've extended the calendar. The last day for students is May 28.

A teacher in service is scheduled for May 29 but many teachers have already met in service retreats and won't have to attend.

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Explaining the trend

Nicholas County Transportation Director Rob Lane explained at Monday night's board of education meeting that the downward trend in student enrollment could be attributed to families working elsewhere, not necessarily academic course selection. He suggested community unity and a positive attitude would bolster growth and asks that people view Nicholas County as a safe place to have their children.

County rates "good, excellent"

How would you rate Nicholas County as a place to live? If you're like two-thirds of the respondents to a recent community assessment, your answer would be good or excellent.

The committee has been working for the past two years to formulate a plan for improving health and human services in Nicholas County through a Community Connections for Children Initiative program grant received in Nicholas County through a Community Connections for Children Initiative program grant received in early 1996 from the Bluegrass Library, the Cooperative Extension Service office, and the Nicholas County Hospital.

The 100-plus document contains valuable detailed information on dozens of factors affecting the quality of life in Nicholas County. The report is available to the public for review at the Nicholas County Public Library, the Cooperative Extension Service office, and the Nicholas County Hospital.

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-In Brief-

Fish & Game Club

The Fish and Game Club meeting will be held Friday night, April 25, 7:30 p.m. at the Club. The meal will be potluck.

Summer Little League

The Mayville-Mason County summer league will be holding summer baseball sign-up April 26 at the Nicholas County Library from 1:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for any BOY or Girl grade 3rd through 12th. Please bring a Parent any questions call Pat Moore (606) 564-4099 or (606) 564-0965.

Auxiliary Bake Sale

The Nicholas County Auxiliary will have a bake sale at the Conference Center in the hospital Friday, May 8, starting at 8 a.m.

We will have sausage and biscuits, cookies, breads, lots of other goodies, and tea and coffee. The proceeds will go to the activity fund for the Nursing Home.



The Nicholas County School Board has asked Superintendent Randy Everly, seated far right, to provide monthly financial reports and tell about significant financial items concerning the district. From left are School Board Attorney Dawn Letcher with Vice Chairman Donna Gail Mattox, Chairman Mona Vice, and members Don Elder, Sherry Upstegraft and Ricky Hicks.