

Summer school deemed successful

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Holyoke's first attempt at summer school in four years was deemed a success, as reported by Superintendent Bret Miles at the Aug. 6 school board meeting.

Invitations went out to 50 students, and 37 attended the July 8-26 morning sessions. Five teachers and one paraprofessional allowed for small groups as they worked on reading, writing and math and did some work in the computer lab, as well.

Miles had further good news when reporting the final quarterly financial report for 2012-13. He indicated the district will end the year slightly under budget on expenditures and with slightly more revenue than anticipated.

Some further revenue may come in that can be attributed to 2012-13.

The district ended the year nearly exhausting all of the planned expenditures within \$5,000.

Miles said as they watched revenue coming in and looked at other accounts tracking under budget, they were able to make some decisions about facilities improvements to allocate dollars there this spring and still stay within the spending limits.

The ending fund balance was budgeted at \$1.408 million, but it looks like it will come in at \$1.46 million. At the end of the third quarter, Miles anticipated the ending fund to be \$1.5 million, so that's a change from what they were expecting.

However, with the lesser amount of fund balance used as revenue in the 2013-14 budget, it doesn't change anything or raise any level of concern, Miles assured the board.

Lauer, Szabo and Associates will be in the district offices the last week of October for the field work, and the audit report is expected by December.

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Extra-duty approved

Further extra-duty assignments for 2013-14 were made last week, adding to those already approved at the July 16 meeting.

The coaching additions include Cutter Garrison, assistant HS football; Theresa Tharp, assistant HS volleyball; Jack Garrison, head HS and head JH wrestling; Cutter Garrison, assistant HS and assistant JH wrestling; Stefan Betley, volunteer head HS boys' golf; Adria Colver, volunteer head HS girls' swimming; Aly Brinkema, volunteer assistant HS girls' swimming; Clay Christensen, head JH football; and Josh Rahe, assistant JH football.

Charges made to DAAC

The district accountability advisory committee was charged with five tasks for the 2013-14 school year, as approved at last week's meeting. They include the following:

—serve as 1338 Council to provide input to revisions of teacher and principal evaluation policies as a result of changes to the law from SB191.

—review unified improvement plans prior to final presentation to the school board.

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—receive reports throughout the budget development process and offer comments on the budget priorities and the proposed 2013-14 school budget.

—become educated on the new state board rules for statewide graduation requirements and advise administration on the plan to implement in the future.

—continue work from the mill levy override project of last year—shifting the focus to the future needs of the district and how potential continuation of the MLO may benefit the district.

Other business

In other business Aug. 6, the Re-1J School Board:

—approved first reading of a board policy, including a regulation and exhibit, on evaluation of licensed personnel and second reading of a policy on staff leave.

—approved 10 nonresident students including Lucinda Mares, Caleb Deaver, Kyleigh Jaeger, Cozner Ring, Riley Klinzmann, Kody Timm, Caitlynn Deaver, Taylor Hendrix, Ty Sandquist Dirks and Angel Acosta.

Transportation requests were also approved for Acosta from the Haxtun School District, Mares and Dirks from Sedgwick County and Hendrix and Klinzmann from Yuma County.

—reviewed changes to the staff handbook as presented by JR/SR High Principal Susan Ortnier. She noted teacher Stefan Betley created an electronic iBook format of the handbook.

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—gave consent for the school board calendar for 2013-14, adding a request from board member Kim Killin to schedule a work session to address weighted grading.

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