

Overviews highlighted on 2 school grant apps

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Application statuses for two grants were reviewed at the Feb. 25 meeting of Holyoke School District Re-1J Board of Education.

The meeting had been postponed from the regular date of Feb. 19.

Superintendent Bret Miles said the BEST grant application deadline is March 1. The Great Outdoors Colorado grant application for the all-weather track is due March 6, with Phillips County as the grantee for the GOCO application.

The Building Excellent Schools Today application for the Holyoke district will be a variation on one submitted two years ago when funds were awarded for the boiler/electrical/roofing/fire alarm project.

The new BEST application is a rewrite of the security grant that was not funded in 2011. It proposes remodeling the main office at each building for security purposes, including a roll-top counter and more restrictive door access.

Notification for BEST grant awards will be made in late June.

Miles said revisions were made on the GOCO grant application narrative and a second attempt was turned in. The district's grant writer will be in the district Friday to help fine-tune the application.

A couple of positive highlights were mentioned by Miles since the board discussion on the GOCO grant at its Feb. 5 meeting.

Phillips County Recreation District has given money to the project to add exercise stations around the track.

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Additionally, the Jack Pettys Foundation, associated with First Pioneer National Bank, pledged a \$100,000 donation, contingent on a successful GOCO grant award. The pledge will be payable at \$25,000 a year for four years.

Preliminary notification on the GOCO grant is expected in mid-May, with official awards to be announced June 11.

Policy changes introduced

Three policy changes were proposed by Miles. They will be further discussed March 5, with first reading scheduled for the March 19 board meeting.

The first change involves the addition of Presidents Day to the paid holiday list for 12-month-basis classified personnel.

The second relates to wording changes on the regulation for part-time and substitute professional staff salaries.

An addition to the policy on inter-district choice/open enrollment is the last proposed change. A statement is proposed to be added that notes the school district is not required to enroll any nonresident student after the pupil enrollment count day.

Other business

In other business at the Feb. 25 meeting, the Re-1J board:

—approved two-year contracts for JR/SR High Principal Susan Ortner and Elementary School Principal Kyle Stumpf. Several board members commented on the positive role the principals are playing in the district’s vision and goals.

—acknowledged a donation from Melissa Memorial Hospital of an exercise trampoline and medicine ball set for the weight room.

—approved the budget timeline which was introduced at the Feb. 5 meeting.

—accepted the resignation of Brittany Daniel, one-on-one paraprofessional at the elementary school, effective Feb. 20; and hired Dottie Drake for the position.

—heard comments from Miles and board members Dennis Herman, Kris Camblin and Jon King, who attended the Colorado Association of School Boards legislative meetings recently. They noted the main focus was school finance.

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