

47J Board will have four openings, WGS gym now has new floor

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board of directors meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Independent reporter Schann Nelson reminded the board that many members have had students engaged in high school sports, both presently and in the past, and that the reason given for starting meetings at 6:00 p.m., instead of 7:00 p.m., was partially to give board members more time to attend events.

Cheney later told Nelson that, while she would like to serve on the board, she would have to hire a sitter for her younger children when an older child began to attend high school sports practices. Cheney said she was "not trying to be trivial" but that somebody else needs to be there if she

cannot do the job.

Cheney said that she is exploring options before the school board election in May. Four positions, those of directors Cheney, Krahn, Cari Levenseller and Ed Buckner, will be up for election. Filing deadline for these positions is March 17.

Audit Report

Larry Grant, of Grove, Mueller & Swank, presented the annual audit report. There were no negative findings, but the auditor had a few recommendations, which Deputy Clerk Dawn Plews said either have been, or will be, implemented this year. Last year's recommendation that Quick Books, rather than Quicken, be used for high school student body funds, has not yet been implemented.

Maintenance

Washington Grade School continues to have a variety of plumbing problems, Maintenance Supervisor John Lewis told the board. Lewis said that the WGS gym was nearly ready to be reopened. Superintendent Funderburg explained that the decision had been made to resurface the floor over the Christmas break because it was in very poor condition with bare wood exposed. He said that Lewis called himself and Krahn in after the floor was sanded because there wasn't enough floor left to refinish. Funderburg praised the efforts of Tower Woods to procure particleboard at a good price, and thanked the wrestling team for carrying in the wood on delivery. The new floor has been

sealed and completely relined.

Funderburg said he has asked Lewis to emphasize the continuing problems at WGS. "Not a day or a week goes by without problems at WGS. The building is falling apart", Funderburg said.

Randy Hansen reported that tree removal went well. When the district receives payment [for the logs] they will meet with the Parent Teacher Association to discuss purchasing playground equipment. Funderburg said that Plews is exploring a state-approved list of providers because using a previously approved vendor would speed the process and get equipment on the ground sooner.

Budget Calendar

The board approved the budget calendar, with meetings of the budget committee on May 5 and 19, and the Public Hearing and approval of the budget scheduled for June 23 at a board meeting. Funderburg said that there are three openings on the budget committee and that the process should not be as painful as it has been for the last several years. Last year's state appropriation for education was \$4.9 billion and it is expected that the legisla-

ture will approve a budget of at least \$5.0 billion for next year. Various lobbying groups have calculated that roll-up costs (primarily inflation and contractual agreements) would require a funding level of \$5.4 billion, according to Funderburg, resulting in school districts across the state again looking at significant cuts. He told the board that he does not expect Vernonia to have to cut because enrollment continues to be higher than expected and the district has been judicious in spending money, leaving a healthy carry-over.

In other business the board:

- Approved hiring Erin Dolan and Jennifer Martin as instructional aides for high needs special education students.
- Approved hiring Randall Aultman as a temporary PE instructor at WGS.
- Heard that 18 sections (the equivalent of nine high school credits) have already been earned by students enrolled in the Charter School.
- Received framed proclamations thanking board members for their efforts in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

Letters, cont.

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others that (are) unsafe for habitation that are still in operation. We do not want people walking into our homes and telling us how to keep house and so these other places still exist and will because we have the freedom, which we want and need, because of a few who twist the laws and ordinances some of us pay the piper. I am tired of paying the piper.

There are some fine people in Vernonia as well as some not so fine, but that is the way it is wherever you live. People want to have a beautiful place to live and we are a threat to that beauty. We don't have land we can work on outside of the city.

We have been informed that property has not sold for the value as we have lowered the tax value of adjoining property, we asked why didn't the owners talk to us (they rarely do, people who have a complaint want the officials to talk to their neighbors, you don't do this to neighbors so I guess we aren't neighbors). We have improved our land since we moved here in September of 1996, when we moved here we had to pick up garbage that was in the yard and carport, flowers were struggling to grow and the ditch bank was a tangle of weeds and trees, it has been slow but our place is better. Our philosophy has been to leave a place

better than when we moved into it and we have done so wherever we have lived, as we have made improvements inside the house and outside on the land.

I am tired of living next to people who will not walk on the same side of the street as I do and who do not have a positive thing to say to you. It has been a drought of neighborly fellowship. But we do have good neighbors who stop and talk and will give the occasional good word and who are there when you need a friend to help, laugh with and sometimes cry with you, loan you the occasional egg or keep an eye on your family or property if you are gone, so there are only a few arid areas and they should not affect you but the strife builders are hard to ignore. You can be right legally but wrong to and for your neighbors. I would hate to be always right

and not have any friends. There have been times I have been upset about a neighbor and later found out it was a case of wrong information or just a bad day, so far as I remember I have not knowingly offended a neighbor on purpose and have tried to extend the courtesy I want to others. There are problems that do need to be addressed and wrongs that need to be made right. I know of no one who has the perfect home, yard, family or neighbors or the perfect pets. Dogs will bark, cats (tom cats spraying) will destroy property, people will tick you off by what they do or do not do, but you do not go on a rampage because of it. You are not always courteous to everyone you meet, but you try and apologize if need be.

Thank You for Listening,
Sandy & Allen Deweber, Sr.
Vernonia



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