

Superintendent happy with CISL team report

By JIM MISUNAS
Lyons USD Superintendent Gary Sechrist said the recent report from the Center for Innovative School Leadership (CISL) team gave the district a favorable review.

Team members evaluated USD 405 in the areas of leadership, teaching and learning, facilities management, and human resources. Bill Sailors, CISL leader, Sailors shared the highlights of the CISL Effectiveness and Efficiency School Review at a recent meeting. He presented the district profile information, comparisons to peer and region schools, some of the commendations, opportunities/recommendations for improvement, projected impact, and the survey results.

"We were very pleased with the report and heard many positive comments from the CISL team members," Sechrist said. "They felt there was a strong emphasis on student learning."

The few shortcomings were a lack of custodial staff and questions about counseling services and at-risk students.

Sechrist targeted the lack of adequate custodial staff as a potential shortcoming.

"The buildings look good, but it confirmed what we already knew -- that our staff keeps up with our square footage despite being understaffed compared to other places," he said.

Forty percent of the parents and patrons believed the district does not an effective special program for students at risk of dropping out of school.

"We will have to analyze what that means when you get more information," Sechrist said. "Many people may be unaware of our Lyons Learning Center which helps students with credit recovery and dropout recovery. We've also got a strong summer program."

Forty-percent of the students felt the district had inadequate counseling.

"We feel like we have good counselors, but we will take a closer look at the raw data," he said. "It helps for us to listen and see if changes are needed."

Sailors said a full report would be available in a month.

The CISL team surveyed the district patrons and staff April 12 and 13 and conducted interviews with parents, administration, certified staff and classified staff.

● **LHS GOLF** At the July 2009 board meeting, action was taken "to continue golf for one year under the stipulation that the Country Club waive the fees in writing."

In August 2009, the board received a letter from the Lyons Town & Country Club, Inc. waiving all fees chargeable to the school district for the use of the golf course as a practice facility for

the boys and girls high school golf teams for the 2009-10 school year. The 2009-10 boys' golf season ended with two eligible students participating.

Chris Wilson voiced his support of the golf program and said the Lyons Town & Country Club President expressed an interest in voting to waive the fees again next year. The administration's recommendation was to drop the program due to lack of students and cost. Discussion included the pros and cons of cooperating with other districts, funding options, future student interest, the cost (\$3,800 coach, \$400 to \$1,000 entries and an \$1,100 golf course fee), number for team competition (6), and deadline for a decision (Jan. 1).

It was agreed that discussion should be tabled in order to obtain a letter from the Country Club waiving the fees, to contact Little River, Chase and Sterling regarding co-operating options, and to poll students and consider a criteria of six students. The board tabled discussion until the September board meeting.

● **DRUG TESTING** Bob Turner, LHS athletic director, is in the process of researching Kansas schools that are using the random drug tests and the policies that are in place.

He suggested that action be delayed until more conversations have taken place with patrons, staff, and the entire coaching staff of USD 405.



Tanner Deering (blue shirt), Sarah Denton (brown shirt), and Sydni Wilson (with the ponytail) make their styrofoam boats.

Lyons readers enjoy a 'Boat Load of Fun'

The 2010 Summer Reading Program, Make a Splash...Read, continued June 17 with the session theme, a "Boat Load of Fun."

Boats are a wonderful way to have fun in the water. What could be better than a hand-made boat?

Books read were "Adventure on Klickitat Island," by Hilary Hippy and "Canoe Days," by Gary Paulsen. The dinghy and canoe were then discussed as two of many types of boats.

The participants then had a chance to build a couple of different boats. One boat was a water bottle with holes poked in the lid. A little baking soda wrapped in a paper towel and some vinegar turned this bottle into a jet-powered machine. The children also took Styrofoam plates and cut them into a special v-shaped boat. When soap was added

to the cut out, the boat was propelled forward. The session ended with a fun boat exploration across a blow-up pool.

The Kindergarten through second grade students heard "Shipwreck Saturday," by Bill Cosby and Fergus and Bridey by Olivier Dunrea.

Participants were given a choice to complete one of two hidden picture pages. They were then given a sheet of aluminum foil to turn into a boat.

Square or traditional shapes were folded to transform the foil into a boat. Participants in this group also made a v-shaped boat from a Styrofoam plate and used soap to propel it in a blow-up pool. The session ended with the reading of "Across the Big Blue Sea," by Jakki Wood.

The preschool children, who arrived at 4 pm, began their session

with a worksheet all about the letter 'B' and a boat picture to color. They enjoyed the books "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," by Iza Trapani and "Across the Big Blue Sea," by Jakki Wood.

After taking a Styrofoam bowl, a straw and some colored paper, participants assembled their very own boat. They also folded aluminum foil into another type of boat. The boats were then sailed across the blow-up pool.

In a learning exercise, each child added an item onto a Styrofoam plate to discover why boats can carry such heavy items across the ocean. The session ended with the reading of Shipwreck Saturday by Bill Cosby.

The June 24 for the session titled "Splish, Splash, Swim," will explore the creatures that live in and around the water.

Drivers report flat tires on Rice County's roads

Drivers should be aware on 11th Road if one citizen's complaint means anything.

One Rice County driver was tired of having flat tires caused by sharp objects on the road. The driver shot a photo of nails and assorted sharp objects in the vicinity of 11th Road and Ave. Q recently.

The driver had two flat tires last week and started surveying a nearby road after recent rainy weather. The driver turned up the assorted mix of nails and sharp objects.

John Achatz, Rice County public works director, said the road fill comes from crushed concrete and demolition material from the landfill and AB-3 material purchased from places such as Florence

The Rice County public works department is responsible for the maintenance of county roads and bridges, 160 miles of asphalt roads and 160 miles of gravel roads.



A search of a Rice County roadway turned up an assortment of sharp objects.

Sixty-four bridges are rural secondary system, and 156 off-system bridges.

County bridges are in compliance with Federal Highway Administration and Kansas Department of Transportation requirements.

Rice County Commissioner Derek McCloud said road maintenance is a constant job.

McCloud said public works typically adds crushed concrete and demolition material on county roads.

"Depending on the size

of the washout, larger size broken concrete might be needed," he said. "We are constantly adding rock to use as road base."

Some of the concrete and demolition material was obtained from the Lyons Federal Bank building which was demolished.

McCloud said the material is ground up and crushed and screened twice to minimize harmful material being placed on the roads. Magnets are used to separate metal objects from the road material.

Biohazard shuts down Lyons pool

Lyons swimming pool activities were interrupted Monday after several weeks of smooth operation.

The Lyons Municipal Pool was closed for three hours Monday due to a biohazard warning.

Pool manager Leslie Barber said that the sudden interruption will not affect the Aerobics and lap swim lessons that are conducted in the mornings and evenings.

Barber said the pool resumed full operation Monday afternoon and it is not an alarm to service for such bio-hazard more often.

"We have been having at least 200 kids at the pool so, cleaning up the pool is necessary especially now," she said.

The pool has been the center of interest for Lyons and neighboring towns since the grand opening of the facility May 31.

Just Ask Series:
Lifelong Learning Program
"Understanding Alzheimer's"

Amy Siple, MSN, FNP-BC
Associate Professor Newman University
Thursday, June 24, 2010
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
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Sterling Presbyterian Manor
204 West Washington
Please RSVP to Sadie Goodwin at 620-278-3651

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www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/fumclyons

FROM PAGE ONE

FIRE

He called 9-1-1 and Chase, Bushton and Geneseo firefighters and EMS personnel responded to the structure fire in the 200 block of Monroe at 5:19 a.m. June 15.

"I appreciate everyone's help who responded, all the fire departments and the American Red Cross," he said.

Behnke said his house, insured for \$89,000 is likely a total loss, but his insurance should cover the damages.

"I was pretty lucky. Thank goodness I've got those dogs because they saved my life," he said.

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