

BURLINGTON USD 244

# BHS students will have opportunity to earn high school credits for college coursework

**Katie McMurray**  
Reporter

BURLINGTON — Burlington High School students taking technical college courses will now be able to earn credits toward their high school graduation from those college courses.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Burlington USD 244 Board of Education, BHS College and Career Advocate Taylor Kigerl-Hill and BHS Principal Stacy Reed presented information to the board regarding graduation requirements and a proposal to give students who attend certification programs core credit toward high school graduation. Several reasons to give credit to students who attend certification programs were shared and included that it would encourage students to utilize college resources, taking advantage of the Excellence in CTE Senate Bill; allow students to take elective classes when they return (to BHS from Flint Hills Technical College) for afternoon classes; and recognize the work that students do. Additionally, schools and states across the USA have similar programs, including Emporia, Iola, Santa Fe Trail and Anderson County high schools here

in Kansas and schools in the states of Missouri, Virginia and Arizona.

To receive the credit, students must complete all classes within the program that are available to high school students and must receive a technical certificate and or a bronze or higher certificate on the ACT WorkKeys. At the end of their senior year, the student's college grades will be averaged and placed on their high school transcript as technical math, technical science and or technical English.

At present, FHTC programs that will have possible credits in all three areas (math, science and English) include automotive technology, emergency dispatch technology, graphic arts technology, health occupations technology, hospitality /culinary arts and power plant technology.

FHTC programs with possible credits in math and science include computer program design and development, computerized machine tool engineering, industrial engineering technology and welding technology. The business technology and interactive multimedia technology programs will have a possible English credit. The dental assisting program will have possible science and English credits, and the emergency service technology program will have a possible science credit. Credit possibilities for the network technology program are to be announced.

The school is working to make it possible for students to attend classes through Regional Rural Technical Center (RRTC), La Harpe, and Goppert Eastern Kansas Technology Center (EKTC), Garnett. There are three programs being considered, construction trades and wind energy programs at RRTC and an HVAC program at GEKT, and all three would have possible credits in math, science and English. Other future applications for the credit proposal including adding new programs as they become available and adding locations such as Washburn Tech and or online programs. The board unanimously approved giving academic credit toward graduation requirements, for students who complete a CTE program, in the form of technical math, technical science and or technical English.

A full board was present for the meeting, including Monique Hart, Stacy Augustyn, James Higgins, Shane Fejfar, Michael Thorp, Lucas Allen and Selena King. Also in attendance were Reed, Kigerl-Hill, Superintendent Craig Marshall, Board Clerk Tracey Moerer, Special Education Director Lindsey Graf, BHS Assistant Principal/Activities Director Dave Watkins, BES Principal Darla Long and a couple of patrons.

In personnel matters, contract renewals for Maintenance Director Margarito Solano and Transportation Director Doug Rohrer were approved effective July 1, and a contract renewal for Food Service Director Diana Hess was approved effective Aug. 1.

In other personnel action, Carah Lozo was terminated as a BES paraprofessional effective Jan. 24. The resignations of Paige Reed as a BES paraprofessional effective Feb. 7, Mercedes Landis as a Bridges paraprofessional effective Feb. 17 and Bart Kuhlmann as a BMS special education teacher effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year were accepted.

Jay Hale expressed his appreciation for the staff who put on such good programs here and also said thank you on behalf of God's Storehouse. The elementary school staff collected cans and provided them to God's Storehouse back in December and, also right before Christmas, the high

school held a big food drive and collected over 2,200 items and a bunch of cash, as well. He said the shelves are full now, not only because of these two food drives but because of the whole community working together.

"The big thing for me with the high school and the other schools is that our students need to realize that as a citizen, they do have an obligation to their fellow man," Hale said. "Giving back, even just a food item, helps cement that in their mind, so I appreciate the efforts the schools go through to make that happen for our students."

Hart suggested possibly holding a board leadership training in Burlington, with the potential to invite other districts to attend. The other board members were interested and thought it was a good idea. More details will be gathered.

Two bids were received for epoxy flooring projects. The projects include the nurse's office and staff lounge at BHS, the fifth-grade science room, sixth-grade science room, staff lounge and nurse's office at BMS and the cafeteria and staff lounge at BES. UNI Floor bid \$55,800 for the projects, while Froeschl Floors

bid \$85,874. References were checked for UNI Floor, including Olathe USD 233, Blue Valley USD 229 and Independence USD 446. The board approved the bid from UNI Floor in the amount of \$55,800.

One 10-minute executive session was held for preliminary discussions about the acquisition of real property to protect the public interest in obtaining a property at a fair price, with the board and Marshall present. No action was taken upon return to open session.

In other action, the board approved the following:  
 ▶ The 2020-21 calendar draft No. 4 subject to final ratification of the employment contract with Burlington Unified Teachers Association. Under calendar draft No. 4, the 2020-21 school year will begin Aug. 20, 2020 and end May 26, 2021.  
 ▶ The results monitoring report concerning science and social studies as reasonable progress toward meeting the board's results policies.  
 ▶ The engagement letter with Jarred, Gilmore and Phillips for the 2019-20 financial audit in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.  
 ▶ The bills and financial reports, Jan. 13 regular and Jan. 6 linkage meeting minutes and the agenda.

## County

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### County Treasurer

County Treasurer Karen Maley presented a resolution to cancel outstanding checks. Commissioners authorized the chairman to sign Resolution No. 751-B, a resolution canceling outstanding and unpaid county checks and warrant checks issued prior to Jan. 1, 2018, and the funds to be replaced in the county treasury. Most of the checks were for less than \$50. Commissioners asked to check on a check for more than \$9,000 written to Delta Dental.

In response to a question, Maley was told to use the current evaluation forms until the compensation study is done. She also asked commissioners to reconsider her decreased salary as it pertains to her having a learning curve, "That upsets me greatly," she said.

### Economic Development

New Strawn resident James Weeks made an appointment with commissioners to urge them to move forward with hiring an economic development director.

"I believe the county is actually, from an economic standpoint, going downhill," Weeks said. He explained the Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, the county's largest employer, once had 1,100 employees. The company now has just over 800 employees and is currently working to reduce the workforce to less than 700.

Weeks said to expect the number of plant projects to be reduced, partly due to economics. "As the plant gets closer to the end of life, you can't justify spending that money and not being able to get a return," he said. "I suspect in a few years you will see the actual value of the plant decreasing."

Referring to schools, Weeks said many graduating seniors are returning to Coffey County. "There is nothing here for them

to come back to," he said. "If we don't have something to bring people here, we are losing."

Weeks said in the last few years, many of the positions held by retiring Wolf Creek employees didn't get hired back. "The ones that did, the younger people didn't move to Coffey County, because their spouse wouldn't have anything to do here. If they are single, they don't want to live here because there is no dating going on here, there is no nightlife or anything," Weeks said.

Weeks said the hospital hasn't been able to replace a doctor who left the area. "In New Strawn, we lost our golf course, we lost our lumberyard, the city of Gridley is having issues ... and look at the number of empty buildings in Burlington," Weeks said referring to the empty Shopko building, former Dollar General building, former bowling alley and other empty buildings. "I think we need economic development in the worst way, because if we don't start figuring out what we need to do in the county to get people to come here, we will be saddling the people who are left with higher taxes and fewer amenities."

"I strongly urge you to get another economic development coordinator on board and to support that person wholeheartedly to get the economy turned around in this county," Weeks continued. "Lyon County is doing great. Franklin County is doing great. We have two major highways ... yet we don't seem to be able to attract people here. There has to be things we can do to fix that."

"I agree with you as far as getting an economic development director," said Commissioner Hugunin. "We are not going to be an Emporia, but we can remain Coffey County ... and I agree that individual should have the full support of the commission ... I know some people see it as a waste of money; but, it takes money to make money."

Weeks reminded commissioners that nuclear plants that have closed in the United States the last few years have

had a devastating effect on communities.

"There is still time, but it is going to take a group effort," Hugunin said.

"We have to do something to help our county," said Commissioner Meats. "Just because we retain an economic development director doesn't guarantee anything ... I don't know what the answer is ... but we probably need to move that direction. Everyone is so mobile anymore. Any business can pick up and move."

"We need somebody out there beating the bushes," Weeks concluded.

### County Engineer

County Engineer Wayne Blackburn recommended commissioners approve a number of motions. Commissioners approved:

- ▶ Soliciting formal bids for bridge deck repairs and resurfacing for six county bridges: #024, #035, #244, #106, #116 and #165. Blackburn estimated the cost to be just under \$980,000, which does not include the cost of any permits.
- ▶ Finding a 2001 John Deere Tractor 6410 (TR-019) is no longer required or cannot prudently be used for public purposes of Coffey County and should be disposed of by trade-in to Kan Equip - Ottawa (Case/IH) for \$14,500. Notice of the board's intention to dispose will be published Feb. 27 and March 5 in the official county newspaper.
- ▶ Accepting a bid from Kan Equip - Ottawa (Case/IH) for one 2019 Case IH Maxxum 125 tractor as being the best bid as per specifications in the amount of \$142,877, less government discount of \$46,135 and less trade-in value of \$14,500 in the total amount of \$82,242. Kan Equip - Ottawa was the lower of two bids submitted. Blackburn said the John Deere dealer missed getting the bid in by deadline.
- ▶ The county engineer's request to approve the dust control program for 2020 as presented by the county engineer and to direct the county clerk to publish notice about the

program. The county intends to continue charging \$1.50 per linear foot to participate in the program.

- ▶ The county engineer's request to solicit sealed bids for magnesium chloride for the 2020 dust control program.
- ▶ The consultant-client agreement for bid letting services and construction engineer inspection services from BG Consultant Engineers as per agreement dated Feb. 18, not to exceed \$76,110.
- ▶ Blackburn's request for authorization to advertise and hire one full-time assistant fleet foreman, which will fill a vacant position within the department due to a position transfer.
- ▶ Designating April 13-18 as spring clean-up week in Coffey County.

At the county landfill, the following items were deposited during January: solid waste - 415.69 tons, construction debris - 123.08 tons, special waste - 2.53 tons, metal - 2.83 tons, tree limbs - 0.62 tons, appliances - 7 items, car tires - 117, truck tires - 15.

Blackburn said county crews treated the roads last week. At this point, they are trying to take care of the county roads and perform maintenance. When there is no threat of snow, the sander boxes will be removed from the dump trucks so rock can be hauled, as needed.

Three-inch clean rock was not listed in the rock quotation summary. Blackburn received an additional quote from Nelson Quarries at \$9.50 per ton for three-inch rock stockpiled near the landfill.

### Executive Sessions

At Commissioner Rowley's request, the board entered into a 10-minute executive session with County Counselor Wade Bowie II to discuss matters that would be privileged under the attorney-client relationship exception to the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA). No action was taken upon return to open session.

Commissioners entered into a 20-minute executive session

for consultation with County Counselor Bowie to discuss ongoing county litigation for matters deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship exception to KOMA. Also attending the closed door session were Insurance Litigation Attorney Dave Seeley (by phone), County Clerk Angie Kirchner and County Treasurer Karen Maley.

Upon return to open session, commissioners unanimously approved four motions:

- ▶ Rescind the signature and approval of the chairman on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, dated Dec. 30, 2019 (Item No. 8 in minutes) signing the settlement agreement and release between Laura Hawkins and Coffey County, Kansas, Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas, Christopher Phelan, Karen Maley, Brenda Cherry and Heidi Harris. The board further acknowledges that although a portion of the settlement payment is being deemed as wages, the board, in approving said check, states that this payment is not an admission that Hawkins is or was a Coffey County employee entitled to any type of compensation related to her claims of wrongdoing by any of the named defendants. Further, the board states that the employer's share of social security being paid by Coffey County is required by operation of law and in no way reinstates Hawkins' former status as an employee of Coffey County.
- ▶ Upon the recommendation of the county counselor and litigation counsel, to sign the settlement agreement and release between Laura Hawkins and Coffey County, Kansas, Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas, Christopher Phelan, Karen Maley, Brenda Cherry and Heidi Harris. This signed settlement agreement will not be considered a binding legal agreement until signed and approved by all remaining parties. Maley told commissioners she does not agree with signing this settlement; however, she said she would sign because she would have to retain her own legal counsel if she wanted to continue challenging it.
- ▶ To rescind and void the check in the amount of \$10,000 approved by the board on Dec. 23, 2019 (Item No. 24 in minutes) as payment of claims made by Laura Hawkins, subject to further negotiation and approval at a later date.
- ▶ To approve a check in the amount of \$10,000, less with-

holding based on the amount of \$16,520.02 = \$8,044.60, as payment in settlement of claims made by Laura Hawkins as it relates to the Feb. 10, 2019 signed settlement agreement and release between Laura Hawkins and Coffey County, Kansas, Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas, Christopher Phelan, Karen Maley, Brenda Cherry and Heidi Harris. The board acknowledges that the payment in settlement of claims, including wage withholdings, is being made to avoid the expense and inconvenience of litigation and is not to be considered an admission of any fault or wrongful conduct by any named defendant as it relates to any claim made by Laura Hawkins. The Board further acknowledges that although a portion of the settlement payment is being deemed as wages, the board, in approving said check, states that this payment is not an admission that Hawkins is or was a Coffey County employee entitled to any type of compensation related to her claims of wrongdoing by any of the named defendants. Further, the board states that the employer's share of social security being paid by Coffey County is required by operation of law and in no way reinstates Hawkins' former status as an employee of Coffey County.

### Miscellaneous

Bowie is in the process of putting together a proposed job description for a new position in the county attorney's office. He has been looking at a number of job descriptions from other counties. Also, he will have to revise the job descriptions for the two current full-time employees.

Commissioners approved the revised Resolution No. 817A, originally approved Monday, Feb. 10; the resolution adopts the East-Central Kansas 2019 Region J Multi-Hazard, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Monday in Room 201 of the Coffey County Courthouse.

## Hospitals

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report documents the importance of the health care sector to the Kansas economy. While the estimates of economic impact are substantial, they are only a partial accounting of the benefits health care in general, and community hospitals in particular, provide to the state. Kansas community hospitals help stabilize the population base, invigorate their communities and contribute significantly to quality of life."

According to the 2020 economic report, Kansas hospitals employ 4.8 percent of all job holders in the state. The report calculated economic multipliers, or "ripple effects," and estimated hospitals account for 88,143 additional jobs throughout all other businesses and industries in the

state. In other words, for each new job in the hospital sector, another 0.91 jobs were created in other businesses and industries in Kansas. The hospital sector employment had a total impact on state employment of approximately 185,153 jobs.

Furthermore, the entire health sector in Kansas employs about 240,000 people, or 12 percent of all job holders in the state. This puts Kansas ahead of the national average, which is 10 percent of job holders in the United States working in health care services. The total employment impact of the health services sector in Kansas is nearly 417,000 jobs, making it the third largest aggregate employer in the state. This report confirms health care is directly or closely related to more than 20 percent of all Kansas employment.

The study also found Kansas hospitals generate more than \$7.1 billion in direct labor income to the Kansas economy

each year. For every dollar of income generated in the hospital sector, another \$0.60 was generated in other business and industry. As a result, the hospital sector had an estimated total impact on income throughout all businesses and industries of \$11.4 billion.

The full statewide report and links to county reports can be found on the KHA website.

## Waverly

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cost of the generator and installation cost up to \$5,000.

Prior to the start of the council meeting, the council held a public hearing for the purpose of evaluating the recent water improvement project. The project has been completed. It replaced approximately 12,633 linear feet of aging cast iron water infrastructure with new

lines consisting of 1-, 2-, 4- and 6-inch pipe. The project eliminated several existing dead ends by creating looped supply lines. The project also added system valves, 97 new services, and 14 fire hydrants. There was no one present to speak at the hearing. Final documents related to the project are now available for signatures.

The council approved spending \$4,448.51 in interest and service fees due to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The monies are due by Feb. 21 for a loan agreement made on April 6, 2018 with regard to the recent water project. The council's other option would have been to put the amount owed KDHE into the loan.

The council approved Ordinance 559, regarding the sale of general obligation bonds to cover the cost of the recent water improvement project.

The council approved bill and payroll for the previous

month totaling \$69,152.53. Bills were \$52,940.91 and payroll \$16,211.62.

The council approved a special use permit for two dwarf goats owned by a granddaughter to be kept as pets at the residence of Wayne Blackburn. The permit requires an annual fee of \$12.50.

The council approved a zoning permit for Nathan Stewart to build a house at 201 and 203 Farrow, once a review of the location is completed.

They approved a zoning permit for Kristin Bradley to build a shop that included a mother-in-law's apartment at 2638 Trifold Road.

The council approved reappointing Albert Gaddis to the Waverly Housing Board.

Clerk Keena asked the council to be added to the employee's medical insurance plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield. The plan includes vision and dental. At the time of her employment, Clerk Keena stayed

on her own insurance policy and was provided a stipend by the city. The council voted 4-1 to make the policy changes; Councilman Collins voted against the changes.

Officer Sam Franz reported new radios are being purchased by the Coffey County Commissioners, which will save the city about \$12,000. Franz reported the Waverly officers were spending time working on animal control and getting home owners in compliance with city ordinances.

The City of Waverly will be advertising for:

- ▶ a part time Recreation Director.
- ▶ a part time custodian for the community building at \$75 a month.
- ▶ a manager of the municipal swimming pool at \$3,200 and 30 percent of receipts from swim lessons.
- ▶ a part-time utility billing clerk at \$10 an hour with no more than 1,000 hours per year.