

BURLINGTON USD 244

Bid approved for first-grade wing renovation

Katie McMurray
Reporter

BURLINGTON — The renovation of the first-grade wing at Burlington Elementary School is moving forward. The Burlington USD 244 Board of Education, at its regular monthly meeting Monday, March 9, approved a bid for the project.

Bids came in higher than expected, according to Superintendent Craig Marshall and architect Clark Simpson. There was more than one reason for the higher-than-anticipated bids, and they included finding out the restrooms are not ADA compliant and so must be renovated to be compliant and finding insulation on the lay-in ceiling and adjusting the plan to include adding spray-on insulation to the underside of the roof so that insulation stays in place and doesn't create issues down the road. Where the BHS roof bids came in about \$160,000 under the original estimate, the first-grade renovation bids came in approximately \$290,000 over initial projections. Marshall said the project can still be funded in capital outlay, though some other projects will have to be adjusted and completed at a later date. The projects that

will be adjusted were not announced or discussed during the board meeting.

Five companies submitted bids for the renovation project. The bids included a base bid 'A' on the district's timeline of 89 days from June 1 to Aug. 18 and a base bid 'B' on the construction company's timeline that gives their estimate of both cost and how long it will take, also starting June 1. Bidders, their bid for 'A' and their bid and timeline for 'B' included Decker Construction Inc., no bid and \$770,000 in 150 days; Harbin Construction, \$813,700 and \$803,000 in 120 days; Triangle Builders, \$859,000 and \$824,000 in 105 days; Trinium Contractors, \$900,000 and \$880,000 in 100 days; and Wiens and Company, \$814,000 and \$794,000 in 120 days. Because the 'A' bids included liquidation damages, Marshall and Simpson both recommended going with a 'B' bid and specifically recommended Wiens and Company, as for an additional \$24,000, they will complete the project in 120 days versus low bidder Decker Construction, Inc.'s 150. The board approved the bid from Wiens and Company in the amount of \$794,000.

A full board was present to make the decision, including Monique Hart, Stacy Au-

gustyn, James Higgins, Shane Fejfar, Michael Thorp, Lucas Allen and Selena King. Also present were Marshall, Board Clerk Tracey Moerer, Special Education Director Lindsey Graf, Technology Director Doug Vander Linden, BHS Principal Stacy Reed, BHS Assistant Principal/Activities Director Dave Watkins, BMS Principal Matt Spring and BES Principal Darla Long and several patrons. Simpson attended the portion of the meeting involving the first-grade renovation via StarLeaf.

The board accepted two retirement requests, with regret. The requests were from John Cottenmyre, who will retire as BES counselor effective July 1, and Justina Decker, who retired as a bus driver effective March 1.

Also approved were four resignations, three new hires and one termination. Resignations included Allison Nauert as a Bridges paraprofessional effective March 4, Terri Swartz as a BES custodian effective March 13, Taylor Kigerl-Hill as BHS college and career advocate effective June 5 and Sarah Dunbar as BMS family and consumer sciences teacher effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year. Ben Nasserri was termi-

nated as a Bridges paraprofessional effective Feb. 14.

New hires included Cooper Whitworth and Tina Dunlop as BHS assistant softball coaches effective March 2 and Tyler Hickman as a BES custodian effective March 6.

Four executive sessions totaling 55 minutes were held to discuss employee job expectations with the board, Marshall and Spring present. No action was taken upon return to open session.

One 10-minute executive session was held to discuss certified contracts with the board and Marhsall present. No action was taken upon return to open session.

Marshall proposed an updated working after retirement policy. Currently, the policy doesn't include any way to know from year to year if staff working after retirement plan to return, and Marshall said the district needs to be ready to replace these staff members with the best possible candidates when they do decide to retire for good. He proposed posting working after retirement (WAR) positions each year in mid-January with a mid-February deadline for applications.

See Renovation, Page 12

MENUS

Coffey County

East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging program congregate meals are available on a grab and go basis at the center Monday through Friday at the Burlington Senior Center (620) 364-2730, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Lebo Senior Center (620) 245-6166, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Waverly Senior Center (785) 733-2603. Meal deliveries will continue as usual. A volunteer and the site manager will be available to oversee the meal distribution.

Monday: Sloppy joe, sweet potato wedges, broccoli and cauliflower, tropical mixed fruit, wheat bun and milk.

Tuesday: Chicken with dumplings, mixed vegetables, strawberry cup, cookie, cocoa bread and milk.

Wednesday: Turkey and noodles, whipped potatoes, pickled beets, ambrosia salad, dinner roll and milk.

Thursday: Ranch pork chop, macaroni and cheese, creamed peas, peach crisp, wheat bread and milk.

Friday: Country steak with gravy, whipped potatoes, scal-

loped tomatoes, pineapple, wheat roll and milk.

Lyon County

Lyon County Congregate Friendship meals are available to be picked up to take home Monday through Friday at Olpe and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Neosho Rapids. Call one day in advance for Olpe meals at (620) 475-3384 and Neosho Rapids meals at (620) 342-8232. Home delivered meals will continue as usual. Please call before 9:30 a.m. to cancel a meal at (620) 340-8001.

Monday: Pulled pork, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, applesauce, chocolate chip cookie, bun and milk.

Tuesday: Chili, cole slaw, mandarin oranges, cinnamon roll, crackers and milk.

Wednesday: Baked country steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, applesauce, roll and milk.

Thursday: Turkey ala king over rice, green peas, tossed salad with dressing, peaches, bread and milk.

Friday: Spaghetti with sauce, Italian blend vegetables, mandarin oranges and pineapple, garlic bread and milk.

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God's guarantee

Learning my way around the countryside on my bike was an adventure. I would ride out and take new loops and turns, finding my way through unexpected roadways – some smooth, others freshly graveled with bits of rock popping out from the edges of my tires. I discovered the road just off 11th Lane, with a canopy of trees. I learned the route out to the old schoolhouse. I made my way past Jacob's Creek and to Hartford, realized I had no plan for a loop, and rode all the way back.

One day I crossed the Dam and looped down below it, finding a paved road past a campground. It felt a bit isolated and empty, so I stopped atop a rise and stood tall to see ahead. I spotted Wolf Creek and oriented myself. To my delight, I realized I could cross the highway and later turn onto Native Road. I wasn't sure where that would lead, but I had water and food so I pedaled on. Eventually, I crossed the Neosho River and arrived back in town – safe and sound.

We are on a similar journey, my friends. We are moving along a path that is unexpected and uncertain. Our country, and the whole world, is in an uproar.



Carrie Hammye

We wash our hands, sanitize our public spaces, and work to stay healthy. Will it be enough? What comes next?

I'll tell you the truth, no one knows if it will be enough. The future is uncertain. What is certain is our Savior Jesus Christ. His promises are without fail and His comfort is irrevocable.

Hebrews 6:19a ESV says, "We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul..." What is the hope to which this scripture refers? It is the certainty that God is a giver of good promises which He is perfectly capable of keeping.

Psalms 33:16-22 says it far better than I can. The king is not saved by his

great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

We stand atop an unfamiliar rise, straining up on tippy toes to try to see ahead ... and what is ahead is a place God knows and is taking care of. We can trust God and remember daily our "hope in His steadfast love."

May we decide to be steadfast and peaceful in Christ, because we know Him. And if you do not know Jesus in a personal and real way – cry out to Him today. If you believe in Him, if you confess your sins to Him and ask Jesus to come and be at home in your heart, He will respond with "Yes!" You will begin a new and beautiful path, one that is 100 percent guaranteed to lead to eternal life. That is a promise to stand upon.

True faithfulness

He was late for church and slipped quietly into his regular place for Sunday morning worship. He listened as the pastor prayed: "We have left undone those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things we ought not to have done." After a moment of silence he continued, "You know, Lord, I believe I've found my kind of people. I belong here."

No one escapes failure but our Lord. Whatever He said He would do, He did. Whatever He has promised, He has or will fulfill - in the past, present and future.

The Bible contains about 5,000 promises. As the One who created the universe, all of its laws and living beings that are under His control and command, no one or no thing can stop Him from keep-

ing His promises. "Not one word has failed of all the good promises He gave," said Solomon.

His compassion for His children never fails. His Son has experienced suffering and humiliation that is beyond us and has endured them with grace. So, He can be sympathetic with us in the deepest, darkest moments of our lives. Jeremiah reminds us that "His compassion never fails."

Equally important is His faithfulness. He is not strong one day and weak the next, nor attentive one moment and indifferent the next. When He created us He did so with the knowledge that He would be faithful to us. Said the Psalmist, "I will not take my love from Him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness!"

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