



Local News

Bullock Creek to vote tonight on recalling staff

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The Bullock Creek School District is expected to recall 16 teachers -- originally slated for layoffs in 2009-2010 -- at tonight's school board meeting.

The board of education meets at 7 p.m. in the high school's media center. The board plans to go into closed session to discuss contractual issues near the meeting's start.

Superintendent John Hill said he will talk about reinstating teachers, other staff and programs after the recent passage of the countywide enhancement millage.

"This year's been particularly challenging (financially)," Hill said. "It feels really good to bring staff back."

The countywide enhancement millage will levy 1.5 mills for five years and will generate \$4.7 million annually for Midland County's four school districts. The millage will be levied starting with the 2009 winter tax bill, and the districts will receive the money in the spring of 2010. Bullock Creek will receive \$703,716 annually.

Recalling the staff will meet one of the enhancement millage's priorities -- maintaining class size. For example, Hill said, six sections in the elementary grades will be restored with the recalls.

"The number one priority is how it's going to impact our students," he said.

Bullock Creek is the second local district to recall teachers back to work. The recent retirement of six teachers, who were each given an early retirement package, from Meridian Public Schools will help the district keep at least some of the eight teachers it planned to lay off for 2009-2010.

Hill also will talk about reinstating other staff, including four paraprofessionals, and programs, at tonight's meeting.

The board will vote on recalling the following staff:

* Teachers Jamie Allen, Michael Boman, Kelly Brandle, Ann Burke, Rachel Casady, Wendy Danna, Misty Dopp, Rebecca DuBuque, Cristina Griggs, Andrew LaFave, Stefanie LaPonsey, Scott Page, Troy Reuter, Deborah Swears, Shaun Turkelson and Theresa Weaver. LaFave is a half-time teacher; the other 15 teachers are full-time.

* Paraprofessionals Bonnie Diamond, Stacy Kolka, Susan Laskowski and Holly Stillwagon.

* Jason Tisdale as auditorium manager.

* Brenda VanNorman as the district's marketing committee coordinator.

* Reinstating a half-time middle school principal and a half-time high school assistant principal. This will include the recall of Shawn Hale as high school assistant principal and Career and Technical Education (CTE) coordinator and the transfer of Vicki Mikusko back to middle school assistant principal. Mikusko will remain the district's director of special services.

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