

**By Jan Schultz**

### ***The Imperial Republican***

Personnel issues took up the majority of time at Tuesday's school board meeting, and included two more resignations from full-time teaching staff.

Ed Fisher, a grade 7-12 industrial arts teacher, is retiring. Becky Mousel, a grade 5-8 special education teacher, has accepted another teaching position in Minden.

Both resignations were approved by the board of education.

Fisher has been an instructor at Chase County Schools for 34 years, while Mousel is completing her 21st year here.

As they discussed Ed Fisher's resignation, Supt. Matt Fisher informed board members that Lynn Rinehart will be assuming all of Fisher's classes next year, which include building construction and drafting I, II and III.

In this year's class setup, those two instructors had a total of five study halls between them. Supt. Fisher said that number will drop next year when Rinehart assumes Fisher's classes.

In order to do that, the school will be offering all the drafting classes (I, II and III) together over the same class period.

Another piece of action during Tuesday's meeting included moving Renae Bottom and Jill Bauerle to full-time positions for 2009-2010. Both currently teach part-time.

The two will assume all of the classes now taught by Cathy Howard, who resigned at last month's meeting and plans to retire from full-time teaching.

Supt. Fisher said the school had advertised for a 7-12 English teacher for next year, and had some interest, but felt confident that having Bauerle and Bottom assume Howard's classes was the "best arrangement."

Bauerle is also interested in directing the high school's speech and drama programs, which Howard also handled.

However, Supt. Fisher said they may consider an assistant in that program if student participation warrants it. He said Bauerle had some concerns with the time commitment in the spring speech season.

Howard will continue to teach the Honors English class next year, but will be an employee of Mid-Plains Community College, Supt. Fisher said.

The six long-time teachers leaving the system this spring have a total of 175 years of teaching at schools in the CCS district.

In addition to Howard, three other teachers announced retirements last month, including Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, Vicky Fine and Jane Lenners.

All six long-time educators will be honored at a reception this Friday, May 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the school commons area.

#### **Secretary, classified staff hired**

Audrey Jennings, who currently resides in Arizona, was hired for the accounts payable/secretary position in the superintendent's office.

She is scheduled to start her position on June 8.

Supt. Fisher said they had a large pool of applicants for the job, vacated by Tonya Bush, and said Jennings was the one to hire, according to a consensus of administrators and other office staff.

She has extensive accounting background, Fisher said, and is originally from Brady, Neb.

A long list of classified staff members, including aides, custodians, bus drivers, secretaries and food service personnel, was hired by the board.

Supt. Fisher said they still need to hire a replacement for Ken Robinson, who retired from his bus maintenance position. There is also a half-time special education aide that needs to be hired.

Normally, the classified staffs' salaries are set at this meeting. Fisher said with no firm confirmation yet on state aid, the board will be asked to deal with that at a later meeting.

Earlier in the meeting, Supt. Fisher said Chase County Schools can expect to received about \$108,000 less in state aid next year, as that bill is addressed in the legislature.

While CCS will lose funds, he noted the Lincoln Public Schools will gain about \$17 million more and the Omaha Learning Community (Omaha area public schools) will receive between \$35 million and \$40 million more next year.

The board ended the meeting with a two-hour closed session as they further discussed personnel and staff salary negotiations.