School board approves paying balance owed if repairs are made

By Jan Schultz
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While Chase County Schools still hasn’t resolved the football field light installation issue, it appears all of the field’s bleachers should be in place by the spring track season.

A missed Aug. 1 deadline on the visitor side bleacher completion by the contractor, and some design flaws, resulted in the school holding out about $41,000 owed to CBS Constructors of McCook.

However, at a special meeting last Wednesday, the school board voted 9-0 not to assess liquidated damages if modifications are made to the bleachers.

Their vote followed a recommendation to do so from the board’s facilities committee of Dirk Haarberg, Charley Colton and Tom Gaschler.

The bleacher system that CBS had built for the school was not the exact model listed in the bid specifications, but was an approved alternative by the school’s engineer, W Design of McCook.

“So, they (CBS) contends what was delivered to the school was what was bid,” said Supt. Matt Fisher.

However, the bleachers did not come with removable tongues on opposite ends of the two bleacher units, which allow them to be hooked together to make one large unit. Rather, they came with permanent tongues.

And, the rail system they installed on the connecting sides of each bleacher unit did not allow them to attach together.

The school wanted the bleachers in two units to be attached if needed, or so that one or both units could be moved elsewhere for additional seating at other events in the community. However, the way they were delivered did not allow them to be attached.

According to Fisher, CBS will make the requested alterations to the bleachers, including:

1) A removable tongue will be added on opposite ends of the bleachers, allowing them to butt up against each other;

2) The railing system will be modified with a drop-in type rail versus the swing-out version that was installed, which didn’t allow the bleachers to butt together; and

3) A bridging system will be built along the bottom two rows of the bleachers, allowing fans to walk from one side to the other.

“In lieu of these changes, we will wipe out the liquidated damages,” Fisher said.

Fisher said there was no deadline set for completion of the modifications, but CBS won’t be paid the balance of the contract until they are completed.