

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Tuesday night Chase County Schools board members verbally agreed with Imperial Education Association representative Jason Speck to hold an open enrollment for Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance for the 2013-2014 school year.

Superintendent Dr. Brad Schoeppey told the board that federal changes in health care allow a school district to voluntarily hold open enrollment next fall. The following year schools are mandated to hold open enrollment.

The open enrollment will affect “a couple” of teachers at CCS, Dr. Schoeppey said. Those are teachers who, when first employed, didn’t add a spouse to their insurance, but want to now.

A teacher at present can’t change his or her health insurance to add or subtract a spouse or child unless there’s a “life-changing event,” the superintendent stated.

“It could cost the district some money because we pay full health insurance,” he added. Board member Dan Reeves observed that the additional cost wouldn’t be big.

The board took a step toward “E-Meetings” with training on their laptops toward the end of the board meeting. They were showed how to obtain meeting agendas, and to follow those agendas during a meeting.

As board president Jeff Olsen moves down the agenda, the members will be able to see action taken and votes made.

This eliminates the need for paper agendas and paper reports by administration.

Resignations were also accepted from secretary Sheila Stromberger and English Language Learner aide Lorena McArthur.

The board terminated activities custodian Lupe Tarango effective Feb. 28.

The board hired Bob Holman as assistant high school boys track coach for the 2012-2013 school year. He replaces Marc Mroczek and will coach sprints and hurdles.

Also hired was Mercedes Hauxwell as assistant junior high track coach for long and triple jump for the spring season, replacing Jacci Paisley.

Board members approved Dr. Schoeppey’s recommendation to give four employees some extra unpaid leave. The four have run out of sick day leave, and have also used up their nine unpaid leave days.

Policy allows the superintendent to give additional unpaid leave after the nine days if approved by the board.

The board’s calendar committee will meet soon with school administration and teachers to determine next year’s school calendar.