

School board approves staffing cuts

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Without a state budget to work with, the Menomonie School Board had no choice but to engage one of its worst-case scenario options.

On Monday evening, the board approved the nonrenewal of staff contacts. The list for the 2013-24 school year includes five full-time teachers, two half-time teaching positions, a half-time speech/language clinician, a 40 percent guidance counselor, a 40 percent library media specialist, and a 33 percent art instructor.

If the district receives \$150 or more per student from the state, however, the board could possibly reinstate the positions.

District Administrator Chris Stratton said she is becoming more optimistic about the funding, but remains cautious. "We continue to plan for the worst-case scenario," she said.

The board also accepted the resignation of Calvin Zenz as a 50 percent physical education instructor at the high school for the 2012-2013 school year.

Vehicle replacement

The board also approved a vehicle replacement and maintenance plan for the 2013-2014 school year. In April, the board reviewed the projected cycle for vehicle maintenance and replacement.

Mike Meyers, director of buildings and grounds, recommended and the board agreed to sell a 1994 Chevrolet Suburban, a 1995 G20 Chevrolet van, a 2001 Ford F250 with a plow, and a 2010 Ford E150 handicap van.

Vehicles to purchase include a new truck set up with a plow and lift gate as well as a new minivan.

In other news

- Meyers reported that he asked for bids for asphalt replacement at district buildings from three semi-local companies. The bids were due back to the district on May 16. He recommends that the middle school, Oaklawn and Knapp repairs be done first.
- Tree limbs and branches from the recent snow storm were cleared at the environmental site by volunteers. And the board learned that 1,400 gallons of sap from maple trees were gathered from 40 taps. The maple syrup produced sold quickly for \$10 a quart with proceeds going back into the sap fund.
- Representatives from Menomonie's sister city in Japan will be visiting next week. They will be staying with host families and touring the city.