

TO: Roger Breed, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Freida Lange, Administrator
Rick Moses, Consultant
Dennis McGuire, Consultant
Accreditation and School Improvement

SUBJECT: Request from Hay Springs Public School for Waiver of Rule Regulation

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of a request from Hay Springs Public School for a modification of Rule 10-004.02C (prohibiting 6th grade students from participating in athletic contests) for school year 2011-12. This request is in accordance with waiver provisions in Rule 10, Section 013.05.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rule 10-013.05 provides that public school districts which exist in unique circumstances due to population sparsity, geographic barriers, or other similar factors may submit a request to the State Board of Education for a modification of the Rule to better meet the needs of the students.

Hay Springs Public School is requesting a waiver of Rule 10-004.02C for the 2011-2012 school year. Hay Springs will have five boys and two girls in grade 7 and six boys and three girls in grade eight for the 2011-2012 school year. The 20-30 miles to co-op with another school provides a distance barrier and placing students on a bus every day is not in their best interest.

The school district has indicated that without this waiver the school would not have enough students to offer junior high activities. Granting this waiver would give students equitable learning opportunities and the skills of team work and responsibility that only a team can build. Attached is the official request from the school.

Estimated Cost

Supporting Documentation Included: Official request from Hay Springs Public School

For additional information on this item: Call Freida Lange (402) 471-2444 or e-mail: freida.lange@nebraska.gov or Rick L. Moses: rick.l.moses@nebraska.gov

**Hay Springs Public School
Sheridan County School District #3
P. O. Box 280
Hay Springs, NE 69347**

Date: May 7, 2011

To: Nebraska Department of Education, Accreditation and School Improvement

From: Hay Springs School Board

The Request

The Hay Springs School Board of Education is requesting a waiver for 6th grade boys and girls to participate in Jr. High Activities for next year. In accordance with **Rule 10, Waiver and Plans, section 013.05**; "Public school district which exist in unique circumstances due to population sparsity, geographic barriers, or other similar factors may submit a request to the State Board of Education for a modification of this Chapter to better meet the need of the students."

Hay Springs is a small class III school with the current student population of 128 students in K-12. Hay Springs is a Title I District located in North West Nebraska with a sparsely populated constituency.

Next year's students that finished the school year and will be in seventh and eighth grade follows:

Students at the end of the 10-11 School Year Going into Grades 7 and 8

Grade 7	Grade 8
5 boys	6 boys
2 girls	3 girls

There would be 11 boys but only 5 girls able to participate in activities if all participated. Like most schools, not everyone will participate in activities. In accordance with **Rule 10, 00402C**; 6th graders do not participate in any kinds of athletic contests. The Board of Education is required by **Rule 10, 012.01** to offer opportunities for quality learning in equitable opportunities for all students. Without offering Jr. High girl's and boy's activities, the Board of Education feels that the equitable learning opportunities for all students may be in jeopardy. Our school prides itself in giving all students the opportunity to be successful. We feel that taking away this opportunity could possible jeopardize the future of our school.

Options to overcome this inequity have been explored. One option consists of co-oping our junior high activities. However, Gordon-Rushville is already unified together as a C-1 and Chadron is a Class C-1 school which means they have plenty of their own students. However, there is a distance barrier that consists of 30 miles to Gordon-Rushville and 20 miles to Chadron. The Board of Education feels strongly that placing students on a bus every day is not in the best interest of the school or the students.

The Proposal

The Hay Springs School Board of Education would propose the modification of allowing 6th grade boys and girls to participate in Junior High activities. The Board feels confident that the proposal would make equitable allowances for our Jr. High girls and boys to field a team and be allowed to participate in activities. We feel without this request being granted that our students would suffer the loss of athletic teams and a sense of self-worth and pride. We want to provide opportunities for our students to have the skills of team work and responsibility that only a team can build. Without our school offering this program, we feel that students could opt out of our school and lose the benefits that our small school district has to offer. We also notice that our ineligible list (school policy) has a lot more added to it when there are no activities in session.

NDE Summary of Responses for Waiver Request Provisions of Rule 10-013.05 for the Hay Springs Public Schools Request for Waiver of Rule 10-004.02C

Rule 10-013.05 provides that school systems to better meet local goals, may submit a request for a waiver of one or more regulations found in Sections 004 through 012.01C of the Rule. The waiver request must respond to items in 013.05 (1) through 013.05 (5). The items below provide a summary of responses provided in the formal request by the Hay Springs School Board.

- **013.05 (1) – An explanation of the unique circumstances leading to this request.** Hay Springs Schools is a public schools district with a current students enrollment of 128 students K-12. The predicted 2011-12 enrollment for girls in 7th grade is two and for girls in 8th grade is three (not enough for a volleyball team). The predicted 2011-12 enrollment for boys in 7th grade is five and for boys n the 8th grade is six. Therefore, the district would not be able to provide an athletic program for girls especially but am predicting not all boys would participate so boys also. Other options such as co-oping with other districts would not work with the towns around us.
- **013.05 (2) – Proposed modification to better meet the needs of the students.** Modify Rule 10-004.02C for the Hay Springs Schools for the school year 2011-12 to allow 6th grade girls and boys to participate with 7th and 8th grade girls and boys in athletic contests between school districts.

Students at the end of the 10-11 School Year Going into Grade 6

Grade 6

5 boys

4 girls

- **013.05 (3) – An explanation of how the modifications will provide quality learning, equity, and accountability.** This modification will provide the opportunity for the junior high boys and girls to have equitable opportunities to participate in extra-curricular athletic activities and will support the skills of team work, responsibility, self-worth and pride.

- **013.05 (4) – Copy of the local improvement plan.** An excerpt from the local school improvement plan is attached. The plan documents efforts of the district to work toward school improvement based on local data and student needs. The extra-curricular activities will also support opportunities for student success.
- **013.05 (5) – Procedures for annually reporting to the Commissioner.** The school district will annually report to the Commissioner relative to the implementation of this modification of Rule 10.

Goals and Objectives to Improve Performance of Low Areas

District Goals: All students will demonstrate an increase in reading comprehension across the curriculum.

Building Goals: All students will demonstrate growth in academic vocabulary.

<p>Support Data (used to select the goal) NWEA MAPs Test of Reading and Language Usage ESU #13 Consortium STARS tests in reading</p>	<p>Standardized Assessments NWEA MAPs Test of Reading and Language Usage, ACT, PSAT, ASVAB, PLAN DAR (Developmental Assess of Reading) 7-12 NRT DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) K-8 CRT NeSA</p>	<p>Local Assessments ESU #13 Consortium STARS tests in reading</p>			
<p>Interventions: 1. Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction 2. Direct comprehension instruction 3. FAME 4. Barton 5. Sonday</p>	<p>6. LiPs 7. Quick Reads 8. 6 Minute Solution</p>	<p>RESEARCH SUPPORT McRel Balanced Leadership 90/90/90 Research- Doug Reeves Effective Schools Research-Lezotte</p>			
Activities to implement the intervention:	Person(s) responsible	Timeline		Resources	Staff Development
		Begin	End		
Identifying students below proficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWEA MAPs Test of Reading and Language Usage, • ACT, PSAT, ASVAB, PLAN • DAR (Developmental Assess of Reading) 7-12 NRT • DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) k-8 CRT 	Staff	2009		Test Scores and Class Grades	Assessment Literacy Training
Developing K-12 Comprehension Strategies	K-12 Staff	2009		Reading teachers and ESU Support	Lynette Block Reading Training Kevin Feldman Literacy Training
Developing K-12 reading and math academic vocabulary lists and routines to teach them	K-12 Staff	2009		Staff and ESU	Academic Vocab training Kevin Feldman Literacy Training

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2011

- I. **Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Matthews.**
- II. **Posting for Open Meeting Law was pointed out.**
- III. **Roll Call**

Present – Miriam Kearns, Jolene Kuhn, Jerry Matthews, Lesa Parker, and Marilyn Reed. Superintendent Pummel was also present.
- IV. **Excuse Board Absences** – A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Reed to excuse the absence of board member Everette Langford. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*
- V. **Open Forum**
 - A. **Superintendent Concerns**
 1. **Legislative Update** – Mr. Pummel met with state legislators in Lincoln. LB235 was passed which cuts our state aid \$252,632.27. State retirement contribution requirements will be increasing.
 2. **Staff Appreciation Breakfast** – The staff appreciation breakfast will be held May 20th.
 3. **2011-2012 School Calendar** – Graduation and parent-teacher conference dates were added to the school year calendar.
 - B. **Principal Concerns**- Summer School for remediation is set to begin June 6. We will also be implementing fun summer day camps. The camps will run in weeklong sessions, June 6-July 1. Our students scored an average of 25 on the ACT. The Terminators Robotics Club attended the International competition in St. Louis. Video footage is linked to www.hshawks.com . NOTE: Ass't Principal Marx arrived at 7:15 p.m.
 - C. **Public Concerns** – ToiLyn Flick hopes the district will continue school plays even if an outside sponsor is necessary.
 - D. **Board Concerns** – Matthews gave the Lister-Sage report; a lift will need to be rented to replace light bulbs and the Lister-Sage board would like the ventilation filters cleaned at the same time. The building has been rekeyed.
- VI. **Approval of the Minutes from the April 11, 2011 Meeting**
- VII. A motion was made by Kearns and seconded by Kuhn to approve the regular minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*
- VII. **Approval of the Agenda for the May 9, 2011 Meeting**
- VIII. A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Kearns to approve the agenda of the May 9, 2011 meeting. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*
- VIII. **Old Business**
- IX. **New Business**
 - A. **2011 Summer Maintenance Plan**

A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Kearns to approve the 2011 Summer Maintenance Plan as presented. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*
 - B. **2011-2012 Fee Schedule**

A motion was made by Reed and seconded by Parker to approve the 2011-2012 Fee Schedule with a \$1 increase in admission prices. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*

C. Sixth Grade Athletic Waiver

A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Kearns to request a waiver that will allow 6th grade to participate in Junior High athletics. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*

D. School Board Retreat

The board discussed setting a board retreat for July 25th with further discussion to be held at the June board meeting. No action taken.

NOTE: Langford arrived at 7:47 p.m.

E. Approval of Bills and Payroll

A motion was made by Parker and seconded by Kearns to approve the bills and payroll as presented. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Langford, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*

F. Release from Contract Request

A motion was made by Reed and seconded by Parker to approve Amber Wilkins' request for release from her 2011-2012 teaching contract. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Langford, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*

G. Approval of Teaching Contracts

A motion was made by Kearns and seconded by Langford to approve the 2011-2012 teaching contracts for Val Bila and Jana Binger. *VOTE: Y-Kearns, Y-Kuhn, Y-Langford, Y-Matthews, Y-Parker, Y-Reed*

Items for the Next Meeting – None

Executive Session – None

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.