

# Les Cheneaux School Board Gives Superintendent 'Commendable' Evaluation

By Amy Polk

Les Cheneaux Community Schools Board of Education ranked Superintendent Rod Goehmann slightly higher than last year on his annual evaluation, awarding him an average score of 7.14 out of a possible 9. Last year he earned an average score of 7.

An overall score of seven to nine is considered "commendable," a score between four and six is "satisfactory," and a score between one and three is "unsatisfactory."

A quorum of four out of the seven trustees met Monday, March 24, and accepted the evaluation of Mr. Goehmann's performance.

They discussed the evaluation in closed session, at Mr. Goehmann's

request.

Before closing the meeting, the board elected to seek staff opinion on the school to guide future improvements and identify needs. The superintendent evaluation committee will develop an evaluation form for that and bring it to the next regular meeting Monday, April 21.

The special meeting was scheduled because not all of the trustees had turned in their evaluations by the March regular meeting. Meeting with little more than half the board, however, those at the March 24 meeting decided they wanted further discussion with the entire board present, especially since three of the four present are mem-

bers of the superintendent evaluation committee. They plan another closed discussion of the superintendent evaluation at the April meeting.

Mr. Goehmann improved his scores in two categories: personal qualities, and business and finance. His community relations score dropped from 7 to 6 this year. All other scores remained the same as last year.

Mr. Goehmann is in his second year as dual superintendent of Les Cheneaux and DeTour Area Schools, but trustees do not consider the dual position when evaluating his performance for this district.

The evaluation format used by trustees this year is similar to last

year's.

In the first category, relationships with the board, trustees gave Mr. Goehmann an average "commendable" score of 7 on such qualities as keeping the board informed on the issues, needs, and operation of the school system, supporting board policy and actions to the public and staff, administration of board policy, offering professional advice, assisting the board with developing policy, and going directly to the board to resolve conflicts between himself and any or all trustees.

He scored a "satisfactory" 6 in community relations, where Mr. Goehmann was rated on projecting a positive image when speaking to education and non-education groups, encouraging community involvement with the school, providing a vehicle for public communication, making productive use of the media to communicate school issues and activities to the public, and whether the public freely discusses problems and concerns with the superintendent.

The board gave an average score of 7 in the staff and personnel relationships category. This rates development of sound personnel procedures and practices, developing staff morale and loyalty, fair treatment of personnel, proper delegation, encouraging staff participation in procedure and policy development, and regular classroom visits.

He earned a 7 for educational leadership, which includes understanding the instruction program, whether he informs the board of educational issues, work with administrators, how he applies principles of sound leadership through

knowledge of state and federal laws, and keeping the board aware of changes to materials and technology, and what they will cost.

Trustees gave an average 8 score for business and finance, which includes informing the board of school needs, recommending appropriate budgets, seeking alternative funding sources, grants, and donations for the district, and planning maintenance of school facilities.

Mr. Goehmann's personal qualities earned an average 8. These include maintaining poise and composure in crisis, listening carefully to issues, remaining calm in heated situations, and standards of ethics, honesty, integrity, and judgment.

Respect in the community and schools among professional colleagues, clear writing skills, his ability to work well with individuals and groups, and maintaining professional development were also rated.

Trustees gave Mr. Goehmann a 7 for management of board goals, including whether he adopts the goals as his own, involves administrators in developing and imple-

menting the goals, and shows evidence of significant board accomplishments with the district goals.

In the past, a staff evaluation has sometimes accompanied the board evaluation to compare perceptions. This year, trustees at the March 24 meeting elected to make the evaluation a "state of the school" questionnaire "to give them an outlet to express needs and any concerns," said evaluation committee member Kate Ter Haar.

"I'm not looking at it as a negative. I'm looking at it as a positive, or at least I hope so," she added. "We're evaluating Rod. He's evaluating the principals. They're evaluating the teachers. It's the evaluation time of year."

Trustees agreed the school evaluation should be performed and reviewed this spring so any suggested improvements be made before next school year.

Ronda McGreevy's suggestion to perform a board "self-evaluation" was welcomed, and trustees will continue discussion at the next meeting.

## Hospital: New Facility Plans Available at Library

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The eight conditions listed now include falls, mediastinitis (an infection that can develop after heart surgery); urinary tract infections that result from improper use of catheters; pressure ulcers; vascular infections from improper use of catheters; objects accidentally left in the body during surgery; air embolisms, and blood incompatibility. Medicare's new policy is supposed to be effective October 2008.

### Long Term Care, Acute Care, Employee Safety Incidents Reported by Human Resources

Medical errors in the Long Term Care Unit were down in 2007 by 48%, from 172 in 2006, Human Resources Manager Karen Cheeseman reported. There were 90 errors in 2007. Total resident occurrences, which include things like fracture, physical aggression, and property damage by residents, decreased by 25%, with 642 in 2006 and 482 in 2007. Falls increased from 197 in 2006 to 230 in 2007. Comparing the days of the week that most occurrences and medical errors took place, Fridays had the most, and Mondays had the second most. Sundays had the fewest.

In the acute care unit, occurrences decreased from 52 to 44 between 2006 and 2007.

In summary, 2007 was a good year for employee incidents, Mrs. Cheeseman said, with fewer workers compensation claims and reported incidents.

Employee occurrences, including accidents like sprains, bruises, burns, or pain, decreased 28%, from 165 to 119, between 2006 to 2007. Workers compensation claims dropped from 51 to 48, from 2006 to 2007. Thursdays had the fewest incidents and Friday had the most, Mrs. Cheeseman reported. The hospital celebrated the low incident rate with an Employee Safety Day November 27, when 16 prizes were awarded to staff members.

### New Hospital Construction Update

The new hospital site plan is close to completion, Mr. Nelson said, and now staff are picking out a color scheme for the new facility.

"We're trying to reduce the cost of the project to fit within our budget," he said.

The budget is \$26 million, and the project was originally to include 140,000 square feet of facility space, but is now being scaled back by 30,000 square feet, to 110,000. The facility will be built on State Street in St. Ignace, and is expected to be finished in 2009.

"We're focusing on the most reimbursable spaces right now," Mr. Nelson said, explaining that the most money will be spent on dedicated space that will earn more revenue for the hospital.

The new facility will have an emergency department, radiology and laboratory services, acute care,

oncology, and dialysis services. Future assisted living services have also been discussed.

The United States Department of Agriculture has approved \$37 million in loans for the new hospital project, which includes the \$26 million cost of construction and \$2.4 million to pay off the Mackinac Island Medical Center's construction debt. The balance of the loans will pay the financing costs. The loans will be repaid over time using hospital revenue.

June 4 is the anticipated closing date on the bonds, Mr. Nelson told the authority.

### Long Term Care Survey

Asked by authority members what corrective action has been taken on three citations at the Long Term Care unit, Mr. Nelson described staff efforts to correct those problems. Overall, he said, the Long Term Care survey was positive, and the citations were not about patient care or staffing.

Staff corrected the citation that 15 room separation curtains were too short by replacing seven and lengthening eight of them, he said.

Catheter drainage bags are now hidden discreetly, after a second citation noted they were sometimes visible.

The third citation was that patient trust funds were not being returned to patients or their families quickly enough. Trust funds are small accounts held at the hospital for a patient's personal expenses like trips, telephone bills, or haircuts.

The facility used to hold accounts to cover bills that may come after the patient leaves the facility. The policy is now to refund the account

balance upon discharge, and any bills that come will be forwarded to the patient or family.

### Hospital Auxiliary Geranium Sale May 16

Kay Hoppenrath of Mackinac Island won a quilt raffled off as a fundraiser for the Mackinac Straits Hospital Auxiliary, hospital secretary Shannon Doran announced. Linda Lozen of St. Ignace donated the quilt, and the drawing was March 20. The auxiliary made \$136 from the sale of raffle tickets.

A Karen's Uniform Sale will be Thursday, April 3, in the hospital's education room. Hospital staff can buy uniforms, shoes, and other apparel there, and Mrs. Doran said the event has saved time and money for hospital staff, who can make purchases there rather than having to drive elsewhere to get apparel.

The auxiliary's annual geranium sale will be May 16, and details will be announced closer to the event. The 2007 sale raised \$1,432 for the hospital auxiliary.

Money raised by the auxiliary is used to buy equipment for Mackinac Straits Hospital. The auxiliary also plans to give \$1,000 this year to the new hospital project.

### New Hospital Documents at Library

Mackinac Straits Hospital has placed a number of documents related to the new hospital at the St. Ignace Public Library, which are available to the public. The documents include the feasibility study, the hospital asset transfer agreement, Public Act 47, biographies of the new hospital's architect and engineer, the USDA funding approval, and a question and answer sheet about the new hospital.

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