

RIDGWAY SCHOOLS

New science curriculum debuts for k-12

BY CAROLINA KING
news@ouraynews.com

At the combined work session and regular meeting of the Ridgway School Board Thursday, June 21, incoming superintendent Susan Lacey gave a report on the k-12 STEM (science technology, engineering and math) curriculum that will start in the upcoming school year and be fully implemented next school year. She said it is the “next generation science standards.”

The curriculum, Lacey said, will focus more on “assessing the behavior of a scientist rather than just content standards which is the way Colorado science standards have been implemented in the past. It was driven very much by content, not by scientific and engineering practices.”

Lacey added that the curriculum will fill some holes noticed in the previous year’s lower elementary science classes.

Discussion was had about disposal of surplus equipment, particularly an old bus. Board member Tim Taplin used the discussion as an opportunity to mention the interest in repeating an electric vehicle project that was done four years ago in the Secondary School. It was determined by other board members that this bus was not the right fit, but the project could be pursued in the future, especially with the newly focused science curriculum.

During the meeting, board members welcomed Lacey, and President Greg Lawler shared his appreciation of departing Superintendent Steve Smith.

The budget was discussed briefly, with Smith stating it was at a surplus. The budget includes funds for a tractor to help with snow removal. The board could decide in November, based on enrollment, if they would be able to


give out bonuses. Smith was happy to point out the teacher end result showed a typical teacher had a salary increase of 25 percent from the 2014/2015 to the 2018/2019 school year.

An opinion survey by secondary students in the gifted and talented program was discussed, with Smith stating the results were overly positive.

The board briefly discussed a Colorado law stating the school district must designate one staff member to be a liaison for students in foster care. It was agreed that person would be the school counselor.

The regular meeting was over in fewer than five minutes, as the board quickly approved all of the items on the agenda discussed during the work session. The board will met again for a retreat on Aug. 9 and a regular meeting on Aug. 23.

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RIDGWAY SCHOOLS

Local students receive Chang-Chavkin scholarships

BY DALTON CARVER
dalton@ouraynews.com

Several Ridgway students have received funding to further their education, thanks the Telluride Foundation and the Chang-Chavkin Scholars Program. In the scholarships first year, the program offers financial assistance to five school districts in the region, including Ouray, Ridgway, Norwood, Telluride and West End. Ridgway Secondary School students Colin Kraft, James Northey and Johnathan Bruss were selected this year.

A new program at the Telluride Foundation, the scholarship program is made possible by Laura Chang and Arnive Chavkin. The main goal of the program is to increase the success of first-generation college students. The scholarship program helps selected students by working with high school guidance counselors to provide support to students and their families, award four-year college scholarships that will bridge the gap after financial aid is determined and provide support while students are in college to help ensure the student walks across the stage. Kraft, a senior planning to attend the University of Denver, will receive those benefits. Kraft was one of four students selected to receive the funding.

The Chang-Chavkin program also selects students in their junior year to receive support and counseling while considering post-secondary education. These stu-

dents will also receive the gap-bridging aid and support through their collegiate career. Northey and Bruss were two of four students selected for the junior award. In the future, the junior award will be the only assistance provided by the Chang-Chavkin Scholars Program.

Valene Baskfield, Ridgway Secondary School counselor, will direct college counseling resources in each of the eligible districts to ensure first-generation families have access to college-planning resources. Baskfield will also provide the scholarship program’s support to students as they go through college.

“The Chang-Chavkin Scholars Program is much more than just a scholarship, it is a comprehensive program providing support and counseling to students and families,” said Baskfield. “Before accepting scholarship funding, students must be receptive to receiving counseling and support both in high school and college, as well as be committed to successfully graduating from college.”

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