

New USD 415 board president elected for 2020-21

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha School Board has elected new officers for the 2020-21 school year.

Elected as board president Monday evening was Tom Simmer.

Ian Schuetz, who had served as board president, was elected as vice-president.

In other business, District Level Director Mary Clary went over the three food service bids received.

The board voted to approve the low bid from Taher, Inc. to oversee the district's food service program for the 2020-21 school year at a cost of \$372,030.

The district's current food service provider, Thrive Nutrition, informed the district earlier this year they would no longer be providing the service after this school year.

Hiawatha Police Chief John Defore was present to explain the next steps following the awarding of a \$125,000 federal grant last week to add a school resource officer in Hiawatha schools.

The grant will pay 75 percent of the salary and benefits of an officer over a three-year period, but requires a 4-year commitment.

The school district's share of the cost over the 4-year period will be around \$71,000, and the city of Hiawatha's share will be around \$30,000.

The Board voted to accept the grant, with the stipulation that should schools be closed again due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city will take on all financial responsibility. Should a closure occur, the officer will work full-time for the city.

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