

Goodland School District proposes annexation into Grant School District

By Amber Hanneken
Staff Writer

GOODLAND — In separate meetings Thursday afternoon, Grant and Goodland school boards agreed to propose the annexation of Goodland Dependent School District No. 13 into Grant Dependent School District No. 3.

Residents within Goodland School District will have the opportunity to vote on the issue March 2, 2010. Community meetings will be scheduled in January

and February so electors and parents will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed annexation.

Steve Allred, superintendent of Goodland Public School, said cuts in education funding by the state of Oklahoma are the main reason for the move, which won't take effect until the next school year. Goodland will remain open for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year.

There has been a "perfect storm" of funding shortfalls this year, Allred said, which

includes allocation cuts to state aid, cuts in factors determining state aid, cuts in insurance for teachers and non-certified staff and no midyear adjustment for student growth.

"When we did the budget and looked at teacher needs, we were going to be OK, until these cuts started hitting," Allred said.

Goodland currently has 127 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students and employs eight certified teachers and four parents.

Allred, who has been with Goodland Public School for 24 years, said Goodland and Grant school districts are similar in makeup. They are approximately the same size in student population, assessed values on property are at the same rate and neither district has any outstanding indebtedness. He said Grant has large enough facilities to accommodate the move. Goodland's facilities will be taken by the private school, Goodland Academy.

"Grant's a small school,

we're a small school," Allred said, adding that families in the two areas live similar lifestyles.

Students were being notified Friday morning of the decision. Goodland teachers have been told that there are no guarantees if the district votes against the annexation. If the annexation goes through, teachers' contracts will be reviewed in June for Grant School.

"We may crash and burn but we're going to rise up out of this," Allred said.

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