

Lyle School Board approves Dusso's resignation

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LYLE — The Lyle School Board unanimously approved the resignation of Superintendent Jim Dusso at its meeting Monday.

Board members will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday to discuss how to proceed with replacing Dusso, who also is the Lyle principal. Dusso previously had told board members he would be leaving at the end of the school year but has moved up his departure date to Feb. 29.

The time frame to get another superintendent "is short," said board chair Jerry Sampson, because the district now needs to be covered by March 1.

The board will look to find someone as an interim superintendent, Sampson said. "We want to take our time to find a (permanent) replacement."

While Dusso's resignation was approved without comment, a question from board member Dan King regarding legal bills caused a heated exchange between him and Dusso. A total of \$9,576 was spent for one month of legal bills.

"Is that right? Is that a misprint?" King asked. "Can I ask what that all was for?"

Dusso said it was related to King's "pending litigation against the district." King responded by saying he didn't have any pending litigation.

"Have you threatened district litigation, yes or no?" Dusso asked him. He repeated the question after King said he had sent a letter. King then answered Dusso's question with a "no."

"OK, well, we all know that that's not true," Dusso said.

About \$8,200 was related to King's threatened litigation against the district, Dusso said, which had to do with a 24-hour notice required for King being allowed in the school building and with King's wife not being allowed at board meetings.

King said there was no litigation or court claim in the letter; it was a lawyer's opinion and "a letter of legal rights," including legal rights of community members. King questioned the amount of money spent for what he said was defending a person's rights in a letter. "I think we wasted a lot of money," he said.

"I would respond by saying you've wasted a lot of money, specifically, Dan," Dusso said.

The board approved the bills by a 5-1 vote, with King voting against the motion.

After the meeting, King said his attorney had sent a letter to Dusso, but a "threat of litigation means you're going to go to court," it's not simply "a letter from a lawyer," he said.

Dusso declined to comment after the meeting.