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Picher-Cardin school board votes to join class-action lawsuit

By Patrick Richardson
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PICHER — The Picher-Cardin Board of Education voted to reaffirm the action taken at an April 23 special meeting to join a class-action lawsuit against the federal government over contamination in the 40-square-mile Tar Creek Superfund site.

An attorney with the Kansas City firm of Payne and Jones told school board members in February his firm plans to bring personal injury suits on behalf of about a half-dozen Picher residents.

“I think the main concern of the board is not knowing the future of the district. (We need to) find a way to acquire compensation for assets,” Superintendent Bob Walker said. “I think the board’s position on this is it doesn’t hurt to have an oar in the water.”

The board also voted to reduce a cook position to half-time and eliminate four teacher’s assistant positions and one literacy resource specialist position.

In other business, the board:

- Hired personnel for summer programs.
- Approved coaching assignments.
- Approved the student hand book for the 2003-2004 school year.