

# Appointment to Whitney board voided

By Lori Newman

Staff reporter

A week after accepting a seat on the Whitney Benefits board, Cissy Dillon has admitted "the appointment (is) null and void" because she



Cissy Dillon

is not a resident of Sheridan County School District 2.

Her home at 124 Upper Road near Big Horn — where she has lived since 1977 — is on the boundary between School Districts 1 and

2. However, as Dillon found out this week, she resides on the District 1 side.

She explained what she called "the resulting confusion" in a letter to the District 2 board of trustees Wednesday.

That board had appointed Dillon to fill the last of its 10 seats on the Whitney board Monday.

"I made an error when I did not further explore this issue when asked to apply (for the Whitney board seat)," Dillon wrote.

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However, she explained, she had apparently "been incorrectly designated in HD 51 for 25 years."

Dillon is a Democrat and a social studies teacher at the Wyoming State Girls School. She ran in 2002 for the seat held by Jack Landon Jr., the Republican representative for state House District 30.

At that time, according to her letter, she was told that she had been voting incorrectly in HD 51 for 25 years and that she was a resident of District 2.

Sheridan County Elections Clerk Brenda Miech confirmed this morning that, according to her records, Dillon does indeed live in HD 30 but in School District 1.

Miech said school boundaries are determined by the school districts, and District 2 School Board Chairman David DeBolt confirmed the school districts have not changed boundaries in the five years he's served on the board.

District 2 trustees are set to discuss a new appointment to the Whitney board at their school board meeting Monday, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Central Middle School cafeteria.

They will probably discuss the issue in a closed session following the regular meeting, DeBolt said. The decision to appoint Dillon was made following a closed session Monday.

The board could decide Monday to appoint someone who has already submitted a letter of interest in the Whitney board, DeBolt said. "Or we

could re-advertise it, and people can submit their letters of interest or resumé or whatever they want us to consider."

Although a Whitney board appointment is not really a "personnel matter," according to District 2 Superintendent Craig Dougherty, that school board meeting was closed to the press.

The reason he gave was that the school board's attorney would be present to discuss the decision to appoint Dillon to the vacant Whitney board seat.

Dougherty said, as the Dec. 1 meeting was getting under way, he believed having the board's attorney present exempted this meeting from the Wyoming Open Meetings Law.

Dillon is out of town today and could not be reached for comment.