



BOARD REPORT

April 11, 2011

5:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board Members: Wade Babcock; Joyce Carter; Jean Cavanaugh; David Holste (absent); Dr. Larry Kutina; Kevin Mauler; and Dwight Young.

Achievements / Communications:

- Congratulations to GBHS's 5A State Wrestling Champion! Eleven GBHS wrestlers qualified for wrestling tournament competition, and sophomore Chris Burley holds the 2011 5A State Championship for his weight class! His two brothers Louis and Greg earned 5th and 6th places respectively in their weight classes, and HS senior Jake Schridde earned 4th place. Others competed admirably. Place winning wrestlers and Assistant Coach Justin Schwartz, attended the meeting. Congratulations from the Board of Education to the students and to Coach Norbert Muth and the assistant coaches!!
- Special Recognition – Teacher of the Year Candidates. Following final selection by the Kansas Teacher of the Year Nominating Committee, **Tandi Mai and Cody Lee will represent USD 428 in the 2011-2012 Kansas Teacher of the Year program at the elementary and secondary levels!** Tandi and Cody were present at the meeting, and the Board extended congratulations and appreciation to Tandi and Cody for their achievements in the teaching profession.
- Board Member Comments. Jean Cavanaugh told of a dinner she recently hosted for thirty-five soccer players. Oliver Twelvetrees and Marty Keenan spoke to the students with motivation and encouragement. Jean sees benefits from the governor's recent request that school districts ask questions and seek definitions relating to, "What is a suitable education?" Additional topics included prom costs and envelope-addressing instruction.

Kevin Mauler extended congratulations to the recently elected Board of Education members: Wade Babcock, Doug Bender, Cheryl Rugan, and Dwight Young.

Dr. Larry Kutina, who recently traveled to Washington, DC, with the GBHS vocal students, complimented the students, Instructor Susan Stambaugh, and other sponsors and planners. The ninety-eight travelers enjoyed a tremendous educational trip. Students, through their actions and performances, represented USD 428 well. Additionally, Dr. Kutina also noted that the GBHS girls' basketball team members were recently recognized nationally as a top group in raising *cancer awareness funds* through their *Pink Out* initiative.

- USD 428 Education Foundation. The Education Foundation trustees will host a reception for 2011-2012 mini-grant recipients at 3:45 p.m., on April 19, 2011, at the District Education Center.

Approval of 2011-2012 Handbooks: On 3/14/11 the administration presented first readings of the 2011-2012 handbooks listed below. Proposed changes were reviewed, with an additional topic (consequences for violations involving alcohol, tobacco, and drugs at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels) being discussed at the 3/31/11 meeting. Following a review, the BOE approved the handbooks as presented on 3/14/11.

- Student Handbooks (elementary, middle school, and high school)
- Teacher Handbooks (elementary, middle school, and high school)
- Activities Handbook
- Athletics Handbook

Approval of KASB Membership for 2011-2012: The BOE has utilized the services of the Kansas Association of School Boards during the past year receiving assistance in such areas as policy development, personnel, negotiations school improvement, and legal services. The membership cost for 2011-2012 is \$10,848, an increase of \$9 over the previous year's rate of \$10,839. The district's 2011-2012 budget includes dollars for this expenditure. The BOE approved KASB membership as well as the Legal Assistance Fund @ \$1,400 (same as last year). The total cost for renewal is \$12,248.

Certificate of Resolution Approval: USD 428 maintains one credit card, and Barton County Cooperative of Special Education has one credit card. The DEC utilizes this method of payment only for approved purchases (products unavailable otherwise, and services such as hotel reservations, registration fees, etc.) from sites which do not accept purchase orders. Full payments are made promptly, thereby avoiding charges. *INTRUST* Bank, issuer of the commercial card, requires BOE documentation of the commercial card, and the Board approved the resolution.

Parents as Teachers Program: USD 428 has shared a Parents as Teachers (PAT) Grant with Ellinwood since the Area Resource Center of Central Kansas (ARCCK) closed over 10 years ago. Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a parent education program serving families throughout pregnancy until their child is age 3. The program, which is supplemented by the state, provides parents with support and information for their developing children and is designed to foster strong, loving relationships between parents and their children.

Of the two current PAT employees, one works with parents in Ellinwood and Great Bend and the other works just with Great Bend parents. The Grant originally was designed for working with 12 Ellinwood families and 68 Great Bend families. The number of participating families has dropped in the Ellinwood program, with four families there this year. The BOE approved decreasing the program from two individuals to one individual, effective 6/30/11.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- Kansas Assessments. The process of Kansas Assessments for district students is 80 to 85% completed. Next month the administration will provide some preliminary information on test scores.
- Financial Literacy. A Financial Literacy Committee, comprised of some GBHS department chairperson and administrators, has begun gathering information and developing options for the proposed class. Members will pose various possibilities (required vs. optional class; facts and processes to be taught; teaching methods; advantages and disadvantages; grade level and time frame

for implementation; number of teachers needed; district costs; and more). The committee's goal is to present information in May of 2011 to both the Curriculum Steering Committee and the Board of Education.

- ACT Tests. Mrs. Heinrichs indicated that teachers and administrators are seeking ways to help students raise ACT test scores. Counselors, GBHS Assistant Principal John Popp, and Mrs. Heinrichs will attend an ACT conference in Topeka later this month. Through implementation of strategies, the district hopes to have increased student scores by the spring of 2012.
- Curriculum Day – April 25, 2011. Mrs. Heinrichs invited Board members to attend the upcoming Curriculum Day. The day will begin with grade-level and department meetings, followed by teachers' break-out sessions on various educational topics. Dan Brungardt will then present a general session on school finance. Within his presentation, Mr. Brungardt will advocate ways in which educators can understand and promote sound school finance.

Minutes were provided from the 4/4/11 Professional Development Council (PDC) and the 4/5/11 Curriculum Steering Committee meeting

Board Member Comments -- Teaching and Learning: Joyce Carter realizes that the district has many dedicated educators who work earnestly to help students learn, though many challenges remain. She indicated that strategies for at-risk students are good for all, and she urged that the district would *expand what is good* and develop a reform – not a program.

Joyce described a program of central office transformation, entitled “BOE and Central Office Transformation for District-Wide Teaching and Learning Improvement”. Within this framework, central office / principal relationships would be strengthened through presence and support, with the focus on teaching and learning. Instruction would have uniform, consistent patterns of growth and development through the school levels. Basically *what works well* in the district would be identified and enhanced. There will be further discussion at a subsequent meeting.

Business / Operations / Clerk / State and Federal Programs Report:

- HVAC Software and Thermostats. At their meeting of 3/14/11 the BOE approved the purchase of network-automation software and thermostats for rooftops at Riley and GB High School. The vendor subsequently countered with an offer to add the software at GB Middle School for an additional \$4,546.00, which would save \$6,701.00 when compared with a later purchase. Following discussion, the administration approved the purchase of GBMS software and the subsequent purchase thermostats as needed.
- Updates on Projects
 - ✓ Doors. A project of doors, jambs, and hardware at Washington, the field house, and Riley School is in process. Doors have been purchased by C.V. Cale, Inc., and grouting has been ordered. Installation will occur within the next few weeks.
 - ✓ Roofing. Reroofing of the district's maintenance building (a 13 to 20 day project, depending on weather) is scheduled to begin soon. In mid-May, the roofing at Jefferson and Riley Elementary Schools is scheduled to begin.
 - ✓ Roof Warranties. The administration is working with HTK to get a response on roof warranties for the high school (specifically the main part of the building plus the auditorium).
- District Cost Savings. The administration and staff strive to reduce operating costs, and reduced paper usage has brought about desirable savings. As of 4/7/11 USD 482 has 14 full pallets of white copy paper left. This is twice as much paper as the district usually has this time of year. The cost of

a pallet of paper is \$1,090.00. Paper saving has been accomplished through technology presentations rather than paper documents, as the examples below show.

Electronic Printing of Publications

- *Negotiated Agreement
- *Panther Tales
- *GBHS Newsletter
- *Relay
- *Other too numerous to list.

Electronic Instruction Instead of Worksheets

- * Education City
- *Study Island
- *Accounting Software
- *Accelerated Reader
- *Others too numerous to list.

- School Finance Update. Mr. Brungardt described HB 2193 which, if ever passed, would negatively impact USD 428. The bill, which has been proposed at various times, proposes changing the current school funding mechanism of *students' free-lunch status* to a funding mechanism based on *nonproficiency on the previous year's test scores*. Law passage would have severe implications to USD 428 and to every high-poverty district, greatly reducing school funding. USD 428, for example, would be unable to fund extended-day and extended-year programs, and class sizes would necessarily increase.

Superintendent's Report:

- Teacher Evaluation Committee Update. Teacher Evaluation Committee members have developed a proposed teacher-evaluation document which IBB team members, at their meeting of 4/27/11, will receive. Details in the document are research-based, and the evaluation components encourage effective instruction. Descriptive rubrics clearly identify the teacher's status and also serve as encouragement, identifying characteristics of excellence which the teacher should strive to attain. The finalized teacher evaluation then contains the same language as the rubric details. In June the teachers and administrators on the Teacher Evaluation Committee will receive implementation training.

Bills and Financial Reports: Dan Brungardt presented the warrants, financial report, travel summary, and health insurance status report to the Board members.

Consent Agenda: Board members, by consent, approved the following details.

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: March 14 and 31, 2011
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report
 - Certified Teacher Appointment
 - Mr. Christopher Orlando, Teacher of Social Studies at GB Middle School.
 - Certified Teacher Resignations
 - Mr. Shelby Huddleston, Orchestra Director and Assistant High School Band Director.
 - Ms. Emma Smith, Teacher of Kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary School (and supplemental athletic coaching)
 - Mrs. Judy Sneath, Teacher for Barton County Cooperative of Special Education.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Board members were reminded of meetings / events.

- **Anti-Bullying Workshop:** on April 13-15, 2011, at the DEC.
- **USD 428 Education Foundation Reception for Grant Recipients:** at 3:45 p.m., on April 19, 2011, at the District Education Center.
- **KASB New Board Member Workshop:** on April 21, 2011, at McPherson, KS.
- **Curriculum Day in USD 428:** on April 25, 2011.
- **IBB Session:** beginning at 8:30 a.m., on April 27, 2011, at the District Education Center.

- BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on April 28, 2011, at GB High School.
- Education Foundation Golf Tournament:** April 29, 2011, at StoneRidge.
- Employee Recognition Dinner:** at 6:30 p.m., on May 4, 2011, at Perkins Restaurant (Kansas Room).

Executive Session: The BOE moved to executive session for the discussion of negotiations.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

