



BOARD REPORT

April 13, 2009

5:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board Members: Dr. Marjorie Beebe; Mrs. Jean Cavanaugh; Mr. David Holste (absent); Mr. Kevin Mauler; Mrs. Barbara McPherson; and Mr. Dwight Young.

Congratulations: The Board recognized recent achievements by USD 428 staff.

- Special Recognition – Teacher of the Year Candidates and Applicants
Following final selection of the Election Committee, **Linda Gotsche and Robert Johnson will represent USD 428 in the 2009-2010 Kansas Teacher of the Year program!** Other USD 428 teachers who were nominated by their peers as exemplary educators in our district and who completed applications were Linda Basye, Holly Tittel, Sherri Brack, Traci Miller, and Eric Dowson. Certainly all candidates were well qualified to represent USD 428. The Board extended appreciation to Mrs. Gotsche, Mr. Johnson, and all nominees for their achievements in the teaching profession.
- Above and Beyond Award: Andrew Wirtz
Some Park Elementary School students joined orchestra late this year; and throughout the year Orchestra Director Andrew Wirtz has made many before-school trips to Park to provide extra help so those who joined late could gain the skills of their peers. Mr. Wirtz then, of course, made all the scheduled trips back to Park for the orchestra classes. He also allowed Toni Rice, Park teacher (and beginning violin player), to attend class with the orchestra students. The Park musicians – and Mrs. Rice – are grateful to Mr. Wirtz for the instruction and encouragement.

Staff Presentation:

- GBHS Star 9
Kim Heath, GBHS instructor, presented a short review of Star 9, which is a program to help at-risk freshmen become active school participants and experience academic growth in all core subjects. Instructors and paras from various academic areas work closely with Star 9 students during this first year at GBHS as the students set and realize realistic academic goals. The social support, which is important to the students' successes, includes parent involvement, teacher support, cultural affirmation, and college and technical school visits.

Recognizing that the district faces financial challenges, Mrs. Heath expressed concern that the high schools' Student Assistance position will apparently not be filled for 2009-2010. Kim desires that

ample certified and classified staff will be employed so that class sizes remain small, since small class sizes positively impact student learning. She encourages continued allowance of field trips to colleges and technical schools for Star 9 students, noting that these activities support goal setting and career awareness and also provide cultural experiences.

Communications:

- Board Member Comments. Dwight Young congratulated Joyce Carter, Dr. Larry Kutina, and Kevin Mauler for having been elected Board of Education members for four-year terms, beginning in July of 2009. Board members will be appointing someone to complete the Board vacancy created by the resignation of Homer Kruckenberg, and Dwight expressed interest in being considered for that position.

Jean Cavanaugh noted that some graduating students find it difficult to pay cap and gown fees for their GBHS graduation. She referred to a website through which students may review career opportunities. She stressed that career goals should be discussed often with students. Mrs. Cavanaugh recently returned from a trip to Costa Rica where she watched her grandson, who is a high school freshman and member of the high school soccer team, play soccer against Costa Rica athletes. Mrs. Cavanaugh briefly discussed students' *name calling* and indicated that such demeaning practices relate to bullying.

- USD 428 Education Foundation. The USD 428 Education Foundation's annual golf tournament, a major fund raiser for the Education Foundation, will be held on 5/1/09 at StoneRidge.

Approval of 2009-2010 Handbooks: On 3/9/09 Board members heard a first reading of 2009-2010 handbooks listed below. At this meeting, there was Board disapproval of the proposed revision to the GB Middle School's honor roll levels relating to Platinum, Gold, and Silver Honor Roll Levels. GBMS Principal David Reiser responded that the proposal was a recommendation by students on the Student Leadership Team in order to recognize more student academic achievements. Other handbook clarifications were made regarding electronic communication devices (approved locations for the items at the school site as well as consequences for misuse), shoes with wheels, and dress code enforcement.

Following discussion, the Board approved the 2009-2010 handbooks listed below, with the exception of the GBMS honor roll item, which will be reworked and presented to the BOE at a subsequent meeting.

- Student handbooks for the elementary schools, middle school, and high school.
- Teacher handbooks for the elementary schools, middle school, and high school.
- Activities Handbook.
- Athletics Handbook.

First Reading of K-12 Social Studies Textbook Adoption: A new K-12 social studies textbook adoption was recommended for 2009-2010. The recommendation was approved by the District Social Studies Department and the Curriculum Steering Committee, and vendor presentations were held. District teachers have used the materials in their classrooms and have provided input.

<i>Social Studies</i>	McMillan/McGraw-Hill	2009
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<i>KS History – Kansas Journey 7</i>	Gibbs & Smith Publishers	2005
<i>World Studies of Western Hemisphere 7</i>	Pearson	2008
<i>American History of our Nation 8</i>	Pearson	2009
<i>Geography Alive 9</i>	Teachers’ Curriculum Institute	2006
<i>Civics 9</i>	Glencoe	2010
<i>World History 10</i>	Glencoe	2010
<i>Economics 10</i>	Teachers’ Curriculum Institute	2010
<i>US History Modern America 11</i>	Pearson	2010
<i>American Government 12</i>	Pearson	2008
<i>Am Government – ESL 12</i>	Pearson	2008

The K-6 social studies texts were described by Dottie Dozier. Karl McCulley presented the Kansas History and World Geography texts (grade 7) and Studies of the Western Hemisphere (grade 8). Dan Eyestone described the high school texts (Geography, Civics, Economics, World History, U.S. History, and Government). The various texts incorporate technology, and reading is grade-level appropriate. The texts are user friendly and are appealing to students and teachers. Publishing company representatives will come to USD 428 for professional inservice relating to implementation of the curriculum materials. The recommendation will be returned to the BOE at the 5/11/09 meeting for Board action.

First Reading of GBHS Drama Textbook Adoption: A new textbook adoption for Drama was recommended for the 2009-2010 school year. The materials had been approved by the Drama Department and the Curriculum Steering Committee.

<i>Plays in One Act</i>	Harper / Perennial	1991
<i>Basic Drama Projects</i>	Perfection Learning	2009
<i>Theatre Alive</i>	Meriwether	1991
<i>Lighting Design DVD ROM</i>	Interactive Educational Video LLC	2003
<i>Audio for Theatre DVD ROM</i>	Interactive Educational Video LLC	2003
<i>Business and House Mgmt. DVD ROM</i>	Interactive Educational Video LLC	2003
<i>Stage Management DVD ROM</i>	Interactive Educational Video LLC	2003
<i>Set Design DVD ROM</i>	Interactive Educational Video LLC	2003
<i>Lighting for Theatre DVD ROM</i>	Interactive Educational Video LLC	2003

Drama instructor Dan Heath presented the recommendation to the Board. Adoption of the curriculum items would enhance learning opportunities for the drama students. The recommendation will be returned to the BOE at the 5/11/09 meeting for action.

Approval of Changes to GBHS Course of Study: On 1/12/09 the BOE approved the 2009-2010 Course of Study to enable 2009-2010 student enrollment. At this time Ruth Heinrichs described Social Studies recommendations and clarifications, and the Board approved the changes.

- 1) GBHS graduation requirements include three units of Social Studies, with *U.S. History* and *U.S. Government* being two required courses. (This fact remains unchanged.)
- 2) Change the course name from *Social Studies I* to *Geography-Civics*. Change the course name from *Social Studies II* to *World History-Economics*. (The name changes would be

descriptive and would remove the perception that the first course is a prerequisite to the second course.)

- 3) *Recommend* (rather than require) successful completion of *Geography-Civics* and *World History-Economics*.
- 4) The third required Social Studies unit (see Item 1, above) would be the student's choice of *Geography-Civics* or *World History-Economics*.

Approval of KASB Membership for 2009-2010: 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 KASB Board of Directors recently voted to freeze KASB membership dues at the 2008-2009 level for 2009-2010. The total membership dues for 2009-2010, therefore, remained at \$10,825. The 2009-2010 budget plan includes dollars for this expenditure. The administration approved 2009-2010 membership, as well as the Legal Assistance Fund @ \$1,100 (no change from prior year). The total cost of renewal is \$11,925.

First Reading of Administrator Cell Phones: At this first reading, the administration recommends approval to provide to twenty contracted persons a \$40 monthly stipend in return for their providing the cell phone and consistent service, beginning in July of 2009.

The district policy of providing cell phones to district employees has been reviewed due to recent revisions to Internal Revenue Service Code Section 274, which labels cell phones as *listed property* with accountability requirements. Unless adequate documentation (each expenditure, date, and business purpose) is available to prove that the employee's cell phone use is for business purposes, the IRS can consider all cell phone costs to be personal and thus taxable compensation to employees. Current district policy allows no personal use, but it is not monitored. The administrative burden of enforcing the accountability plan may be too much. The alternative plan, printed below, was presented 1/27/09. Board action will be requested at a subsequent meeting.

ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

Policy: District-provided cell phones are for business use only.

Administrators: Designated district-level administrators will be provided a stipend toward their salary (amount to be determined) to help cover the cost of monthly basic service. In order to maintain the stipend, the administrator must provide the number and must maintain consistent phone service.

District Phone User: Designated staff members required to carry a phone will only make business calls on the phone. These phones will not be taken home and will only be used during the employee's duty day. A call log will be kept by the employee and verified by the supervisor each month. Any undocumented calls will be considered personal and reimbursed.

Building Cell Phones and Bus Cell Phones: The district will provide cell phones to each building for emergency use only. A call log will be kept by the school secretary and will be verified by the building principal each month. Any undocumented calls will be considered personal and reimbursed.

Other District Staff: No cell phone/cellular service will be provided to any other staff member.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- Update on Curriculum Day of 4/13/09. Ruth Heinrichs indicated that Curriculum Day was a beneficial event for district teachers and administrators. She projected a series of photographs showing presenters and participants.
- Professional Development Update. The following professional development opportunities are scheduled during the 2009 summer.

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| • Summer Math Academy | The weeks of June 8-12 and June 15-19, 2009 |
| • K-2 Math Workshop | June 9, 10, 11, 15, and 16, 2009 |
| • Kagan Structures | The week of July 20-24, 2009 |
| • Best Practices for Beginning Teachers | July 27-30, 2009 |
| • New Teacher Orientation | August 3-7, 2009 |

Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided for the following meetings: the 4/6/09 meeting of the Professional Development Council (PDC); and the 4/7/09 meeting of the Curriculum Steering Committee

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

- School Finance Update. An update of the Kansas financial status is forthcoming 4/17/09, and Kansas lawmakers will utilize the figures to develop spending patterns and needed revenues.
- District's Health Insurance Update. The district's self-funded health insurance plan is experiencing a bad year which statistically happens every four years. Members of the Insurance Committee are reevaluating the plan and looking at options to reduce costs. Mr. Brungardt provided a summary document for review. Insurance Committee members recommended the administration's surveying all plan participants, asking input regarding the topics listed below. Board members were invited to suggest additional survey topics.
 - Add coverage for a routine colonoscopy once every ten years for employees who are age 50 or older, with a maximum amount of \$900 covered, subject to copay.
 - Increase Emergency Room visit costs from \$30 to \$150, but waive the fee if the patient is admitted.
 - Increase the cost of maintenance prescription drugs.
 - Double the deductible and copay for medical bills occurring from out-of-network providers.
 - Consider the "Step Up Plan" (relates to generic prescription drugs).
 - Secure premium quotes and coverage details for a fully funded plan.

Superintendent's Report:

- Student Transfer Requests. As Kindergarten Roundup occurs, the administration receives inquiries about allowing students to attend USD 428 schools outside the students' home areas. Parents will be directed to enroll their kindergarten child(ren) in the schools designated for their home sites. Dr. Vernon will accept written requests for relocation but will not freely grant the requests. Adhering to boundaries may prevent having crowded classrooms at some schools.
- Process for Filling Vacant BOE Membership. (Mr. Young left the meeting during this agenda item., and Mr. Mauler chaired.) Four patrons as well Dwight Young have expressed consideration as the Board chooses a person to complete the remainder of Homer Kruckenberg's BOE term. Although there was a suggestion to appoint Mr. Young to the post, the Board decided to reopen the time during which persons could submit their applications.

The Board will accept letters of interest and resumes from persons seeking the Board member seat vacated by Homer Kruckenberg. Documentation will be accepted at the District Education Center until 5:00 p.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2009. Interviews will be conducted beginning at 5:00 p.m., on April 20, 2009.

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

Executive Session: The Board met in Executive Session for the discussion of nonelected personnel. No action resulted from the executive session.

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

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: March 9 and 26, 2009
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report:

Certified Teacher Resignations

- Mr. Jeff Langrehr, Teacher of Language Arts at GB High School.
- Ms. Kimberly Pfanenstiel, Teacher of Special Education at GB Middle School.
- Mrs. Laura Schlessiger, Teacher of Math at GB High School.
- Mr. Andrew Wirtz, Teacher of Orchestra.

Certified Teacher Appointments

- Mrs. Cindy Beck, Teacher of Math at GB Middle School.
- Mrs. Stefanie Black, Teacher of Physical Education at Jefferson Elementary School.

Executive Session: The Board met in Executive Session for the discussion of negotiations. No action resulted from the executive session.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Board members were reminded of meetings.

- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on April 28, 2009, at Lincoln Elementary School.
- **USD 428 Education Foundation Reception for Grant Recipients:** at 4:00 p.m., on April 16, 2009, at the District Education Center.
- **KASB Spring Regional Meeting in Great Bend:** Region 8: April 21, 2009, at GB High School.
- **USD 428 Education Foundation Golf Tournament:** on May 1, 2009, at StoneRidge.
- **Retirees' Reception:** at 6:30 p.m., on May 6, 2009, at the Highland Hotel and Convention Center.
- **GBHS Senior Honor Awards Assembly:** at 7:00 p.m., on May 13, 2009, at the GBHS Auditorium.
- **GBHS Commencement:** at 5:00 p.m., on May 17, 2009, at GBHS Memorial Stadium.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

