



BOARD REPORT

August 10, 2009

5:00 p.m.

BUDGET HEARING

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

Budget Hearing: Board members reviewed USD 428's published 2009-2010 budget, showing a proposed levy of 44.913 mills. Dan Brungardt noted that the district will spend approximately \$1,000,000 less during 2009-2010 than during the prior fiscal year and that the levied amount is \$80,362 less. There was reference to the General Fund, Local Option Budget, Bond and Interest, and ARRA funds. Budget development goals include state and federal funding guideline compliance and fiscal stewardship. The Board approved the district's 2009-2010 budget, as published.

Adjournment: The Budget Hearing was adjourned.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Communications:

- Board Member Comments. Jean Cavanaugh requested that there be an emphasis at GB High School in 2009-2010 on career awareness and counseling. A recent soccer camp at Barton Community College provided an enjoyable experience for participants. Additionally, Jean questioned how money received from the recent Panther Card fund raising event would be spent.

Mrs. Cavanaugh recently accompanied eight students on a Colorado trip which was offered through Prudent Tours. She was proud that the students befriended other travelers. The students also assisted in rescuing a lady who fell from a boat in rapid waters.

Dr. Larry Kutina noted that the recent Shrine Bowl was a major event which featured two Great Bend persons – player Aron Elsen and coach Bo Black. Such achievement and participation reflect well on the entire community of Great Bend.

- USD 428 Education Foundation. The next meeting of USD 428 Education Foundation trustees is scheduled on 8/20/09.

Approval to Lease Copier: The Risograph duplicator in the Copy Center is in need of replacement. This machine, which was purchased in 1999, is used for envelope printing as well as specialty items since it has the capability to print in three colors. The Board approved securing a new Risograph through a five-year lease with Office Products, Inc., at \$135 per month. This amount includes 20,000 copies per month as well as maintenance service.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- Summer 2009 Professional Development. Ruth Heinrichs reported on the district's 2009 summer professional development accomplishments including the Math Academy, the Kagan Workshop, a best-practices seminar for teachers new to the profession, and the orientation session for all teachers who are newly hired for 2009-2010.
- 2009-2010 Professional Development Conferences. Curriculum Director Ruth Heinrichs provided a list of 2009-2010 professional development conferences which the district staff and administration plan to attend. The conferences support textbook adoptions and programs which the district has implemented.

Migrant Education National Identification and Recruitment Forum

T + L Conference (Technology and Learning)

National Title I Conference

Success for All Experienced Sites Conference

Heartland Hispanic Conference

National Migrant Conference

Direct Instruction Conference

Summer 2010 (if students qualify): FBLA Nationals; DECA Nationals; Speech / Debate Nationals

- Kansas Assessment Scores for Spring 2009. Mrs. Heinrichs distributed a booklet showing 2009-2010 Kansas Assessment scores across the district, with charts specific to all USD 428 schools. She reviewed test results and noted that all but one subgroup accomplished adequate yearly progress (AYP), though some attained AYP through Safe Harbor and Confidence Interval rather than through actual numbers. Scores are considered preliminary, but changes are not expected.

Data shows some downturns in scores from prior years. The new year will bring higher test score targets, and principals and teachers have developed growth models for implementation to meet the challenges as the 2009-2010 year begins. Strategies including data analysis, formative testing, focused teaching and learning, and more.

Meeting Minutes. The next meeting of the Professional Development Council (PDC) will be 8/11/09. The next meeting of the Curriculum Steering Committee will be 9/8/09.

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

- Project at Washington Early Childhood Center. The administration previously had apprised the BOE of a leaking boiler situation at Washington Early Childhood Center involving extensive repairs. The Board approved a plan to discontinue use of the boiler and to provide a new unit to heat and cool the main area including the office, the parent teacher research center, and the adjoining area. For remaining rooms of the building, individual heating and cooling units would be installed through an ongoing improvement process. The newly approved plan could bring energy savings since the heating and cooling units would be utilized only when the specific areas are in use. Within the plan, the boiler being discontinued could eventually be repaired and used at another district site, if determined appropriate.
- 2009 Summer Projects Update. Dan Brungardt facilitated a PowerPoint™ presentation showing details of building, grounds, and transportation tasks which were accomplished during the 2009 summer. These included tutor stations, special education classroom improvements, sidewalks, stairway, mowing, cleaning, supplies deliveries, and moving classroom contents. A new storage building was provided at Jefferson, and signage and sprinklers were added at Cavanaugh Field. A cover was built at the Central Kitchen loading area. Appreciation was extended to those who helped make these accomplishments happen.

Superintendent's Report:

- Schools for Fair Funding. Dan Brungardt, David Holste, Dwight Young, and Dr. Tom Vernon recently attended a SFFF meeting in Newton. Persons representing unified school districts met with attorneys to discuss the inadequate funding for Kansas schools and the accompanying challenges which relate to offering the best education possible for Kansas students. Dr. Vernon explained legislative actions and economic situations which have created both the reduced base state aid per pupil and the funding crisis. High educational standards are difficult to reach when schools experience declining enrollment along with unfulfilled state aid. In order to show the status of 2009-2010 school finance, Dr. Vernon reviewed the history of Kansas legislative actions and state and federal litigation since 1997.

Board members individually supported SFFF's lobbying efforts toward legislative responsiveness as well as adequate and fair school finance for the benefit of Kansas students. The next meeting of Schools For Fair Funding is August 25, 2009.

- 2009-2010 Enrollment. Superintendent Vernon shared preliminary enrollment numbers for the 2009-2010 year, noting a slight decline from 9/20/08. Data will be made available when numbers become certain.
- District Planning. Although the decreased school funding at this time means no elimination of academic or activities processes, the topic is being studied in the event major reductions would occur. Many existing education components have been adopted through state and federal mandates, the school improvement process, or public input; and these are intended to remain. Some potential cost savers, however, are being reviewed. These include studying class sizes and substitute needs. Reductions could be made in extra helpers (i.e., lunch, etc.)

and in building budgets. Some processes, however, should not be reduced, including those herein noted.

- ✓ Federal expenditures (professional development, after-school activities, tutors, and facilitators)
 - ✓ ESL college classes
 - ✓ Summer school
 - ✓ Driver education
 - ✓ Textbook rotation
 - ✓ Facilities maintenance
 - ✓ Computer rotation
 - ✓ Federal and state mandates
- District Goals. USD 428 administrators agree that the major USD 428 goal is to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in real numbers at all schools and in all subgroups. The AYP goal makes the teachers, students, and administrators focus on instruction more than ever has been done in the past. It is a challenge that includes all schools participating in all students' proficiency. Such an attainment can occur only through hard work and motivation as well as through a focus on increasingly high state standards and formative data.

The AYP goal will be a part of monthly administrator meetings. Strategies will be shared, and a unified effort will go forward.

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: July 13 and 21, 2009
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report:

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

- **Continental Breakfast and School-Year Kickoff:** at 7:30 – 8:30 a.m., on August 12, 2009, at the GBHS Commons Area.
- **First Day of School for Students:** August 17, 2009 (full day for elementary, GBMS, and GBHS freshmen).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

