



# BOARD REPORT

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December 8, 2008

5:00 p.m.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**Board Members:** Dr. Marjorie Beebe; Mrs. Jean Cavanaugh; Mr. David Holste; Mr. Homer Kruckenberg; Mr. Kevin Mauler; Mrs. Barbara McPherson; and Mr. Dwight Young.

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

- The GBHS girls' and boys' basketball teams each earned first place championship in the Hays City Shootout.
- The 2008-2009 district calendar prepared by Public Information Director Jennifer Schartz was awarded a *Certificate of Merit* at the Kansas Association of School Boards Annual Meeting.
- GBHS soccer player Daniel Lujan was named All Conference in the WAC. Tyler Saucedo and Auden Galindo received Honorable Mention.

**Patrons' Messages:** Anna Gallagher encouraged the Board of Education to approve competitive soccer at GB Middle School, indicating the tremendous benefits which the sport could provide to youth and also noting that district expenditures would be worthy. She recently contacted several persons, including an Athletic Director and a KSHSAA representative, about game scheduling possibilities and other details. She emphasized the correlation between students' participation in competitive athletics and their academic achievement.

Barton County College Soccer Coach Oliver Twelvetrees noted there are BCC scholarships available each year for soccer players. An additional two years of competitive soccer competition for GBMS students could increase the possibilities of local students' qualifying for scholarships.

### **Presentations / Recognitions / Communications:**

- Board Member Comments. Jean Cavanaugh told of roadside signs in New Zealand proclaiming the message: *Kids in sports stay out of courts!*"

Mrs. Cavanagh and others recently attended the annual meeting of the Kansas Association of School Boards. Jean attended sessions regarding school funding difficulties, green schools, keeping kids healthy, and the No Child Left Behind Act.

- USD 428 Education Foundation. The USD 428 Education Foundation hosted a fundraising dinner on 11/25/08 at the Club at StoneRidge, and the event featured an auction student art. Money raised will help fund 2009-2010 teacher mini-grants for the benefit of district students.

**Approval of Title VI B and Early Childhood Flow-Through Budget Application:** The public must be notified of the Title VI B and ECH budget, which covers salaries for school psychologists, ECH staff, speech therapists, and other certified staff. The 2009-2010 application amounts to \$985,937 for Title VI B pass-through funds and \$46,545 for ECH. The overall total is slightly lower than last year's amount. The BOE approved the budget application which, for the past thirty days, has been available for public review at the Barton County Cooperative of Special Services.

**Approval of Beverage Contract:** Beverage contract bids were received from Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola. The Beverage Committee members reviewed the bid documents and subsequently recommended approval of the five-year contract from Pepsi-Cola contract which included fountain drinks. The Board approved the Pepsi-Cola contract, effective 1/1/09.

**Competitive Soccer at GB Middle School:** At the 10/13/08 meeting, BOE members were provided details relating to competitive soccer at the GB Middle School. This included names of other schools with MS competitive soccer, projected annual costs, pros and cons for implementing the sport, and existing soccer programs within the community. Subsequently the administration spoke with representatives of schools having the middle school sport, and they reviewed facilities, busing, and availability of games, coaches and officials. One option would be to table the proposal for a few years until soccer becomes a more established sport with the middle schools which compete with GBMS.

The Board discussed the need to be proactive with other schools in expressing the desire for middle school competitive soccer. If steps would be taken to establish teams, perhaps other schools would respond similarly.

The Board approved making a commitment to implement competitive soccer at GB Middle School *if and when* the district can locate four or five schools, within reasonable travel distances, that will participate in a full game schedule for boys and girls. The motion, which has no timeline, has the expectation that the district will communicate with other schools with similar interests.

**Approval to Transfer Title and Deed of Morrison Facility:** The Morrison facility at 2715 – 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Great Bend has been partially demolished at district expense. According to plans, the Board expressed the intent to transfer ownership of the former Morrison Elementary School site to the Great Bend Recreation Commission Foundation. At a recent meeting, the GB Recreation Commission Foundation passed a resolution requesting the title and deed transfer of the Morrison site from USD 428 for the GBRCF's purpose of facilitating additional public recreation programs in the facility. The USD 428 Board of Education, through a resolution, conveyed the Morrison site to the Great Bend Recreation Commission Foundation for the purpose described above.

**First Reading of 2009-2010 GBHS Program of Studies:** The 2009-2010 Program of Studies was presented as a first reading. Superintendent Vernon reviewed each proposed change with the Board members. The topic will be returned to the BOE for action at the 1/12/08 meeting.

**Approval of Early Dismissal at Eisenhower and Jefferson Elementary Schools for Inservice:** Staff members of Eisenhower and Jefferson Elementary Schools requested dismissal of students at 11:30 a.m., on April 24, 2009. Under the direction of a Scott Foresman presenter, teachers would attend inservice that day on the new reading series for Eisenhower and Jefferson. The Board approved the request for the early dismissal on April 24, 2009.

**Approval of 403(b) Plan:** The district has been working with CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Inc., to establish a 403(b) plan that meets the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service. The Board approved the proposed 403 (b) plan and also approved the resolution for facilitation of the plan by CPI.

**Recruitment of Licensed Personnel:** *Policy GBA* gives the administration the authority to offer signing bonuses for relocation expenses to prospective teachers who apply for specific positions. Superintendent Vernon noted that basically all teacher vacancies are difficult to fill and that the ability to offer signing bonuses would keep USD 428 competitive in attracting teachers. Following discussion, the BOE authorized the administration to offer a \$2,000 bonus to each licensed teacher who accepts a 2009-2010 position in USD 428 and relocates to the Great Bend district.

**Approval to Apply for Grant:** Midwest Energy accepts applications for grants to nonprofit agencies, such as schools. The grants, which may range from \$50 to \$500, require no matching dollars from the recipients. The Board approved a request from GB Middle School to apply for the Midwest Energy grants. Money, if awarded to GBMS, would be used to purchase learning incentives for students.

#### **Curriculum and Instruction Report:**

- Update on 2008-2009 Curriculum Adoptions. Board members received an update on activities relating to the 2008-2009 textbook adoptions for *K-12 Social Studies* and for *Drama*.

Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided, as follows: the 12/1/08 meeting of the Professional Development Council (PDC); and the 12/2/08 meeting of the Curriculum

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

Capital Projects Timeline. The Board reviewed a summary and timeline for 2008-2009 capital outlay projects, including: (1) GBHS press box; (2) GBHS auditorium remodeling and additional space; (3) relocation of special services office; (4) improved parking at the soccer field; (5) reproofing of Washington ECCC; (6) completion of miscellaneous roof issues across the district; (7) technology instructional tools for teachers; and (8) demolition of Morrison.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

- Superintendent Evaluation. The BOE will meet in special session at 5:00 p.m., on January 5, 2009, for the purpose of conducting the superintendent's evaluation, per BOE policy.
- State's Financial Crisis. Superintendent Vernon provided details of an impending crisis relating to school funding and the state budget. Considering the decreased revenues and future spending commitments, the state faces a \$1 billion difference between revenues and expenditures over the next two years – a deficit of 15.6 percent. The state's major commitments include legislative approval of \$59 base budget per pupil increase for FY 2010, special education funding, KPERs funding, capital improvement aid, and more. Funding decreases could occur in schools during the current fiscal year (based on weighted FTE), with even greater reductions projected for 2009-2010.

**Update on 2009 Vocal Music Travel:** On 8/11/08 the BOE approved a GB High School vocal music trip to Washington DC, on March 17-22, 2009. The HS vocal music director, at this meeting, provided to Board members an update regarding planned activities for the 154 travelers (95 students and 59 parents/siblings). Fundraising is on schedule, and transportation and lodging details are confirmed.

**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: November 10 and 20, 2008
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report:

*Certified Teacher Leave Request*

Mrs. Kiley Klug, 1.0 teacher of English at GBMS, was granted temporary leave according to Article XX, Section 3 of the *Certified Employees' Agreement*.

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

**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 January 27, 2009, at Jefferson Elementary School. (There is no BOE luncheon meeting during December of 2008).
- **2008-2009 Quarterly IBB Meeting:** on January 5, 2009, at the District Education Center.
- **KASB Governmental Relations Conference:** on February 18 and 19, 2009, in Topeka.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

