



# BOARD REPORT

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December 14, 2009

5:00 p.m.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

### Recognitions / Communications:

- **Board Member Comments.** Dr. Larry Kutina noted that Vespers, a high school musical performance of 12/13/09, was a tremendous show of talent and planning. He also said that student behavior at the Hays City Shoot Out was admirable, and he thanked the high school administration for their presence and their encouragement of the courteous demeanor.

Jean Cavanaugh attended a musical performance by Riley School fourth grade students at the Senior Center as well as concerts by the district's orchestra students and by the Youth Choir. Other topics included educational articles, name calling at the high school, a math competition, the personal finance class at GBHS, and holiday shopping sprees with students.

- **USD 428 Education Foundation.** The Education Foundation's annual dinner was well received. The auction items at the event were made by high school vocational and art students, and compliments were extended to the students and their instructors. Application forms for the 2010-2011 Education Foundation minigrants were recently released to teachers. Completed applications will be received at the District Education Center until 4:00 p.m., on January 21, 2010.

**Notification 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 \$1,015,665 for Title VI B pass-through funds and \$40,408 for ECH. During the past thirty days, the budget application has been available for public review at the Barton County Cooperative of Special Services. The Board approved the application.

**Presentation of 2008-2009 Business Audit:** Board members received the 2008-2009 business audit report and management letter of Adams, Brown, Beran, and Ball, Chtd. Vickie Dreiling, CPA, provided an overview of the various summaries and financial statements. She noted that overall financial stability of the district is good. Auditors issued a clean audit opinion, having found no reportable budgetary, statutory, or compliance violations. The management letter extends some procedural suggestions for consideration. Following Mrs. Dreiling's presentation, Board members approved the 2008-2009 audit and extended appreciation to the ABBB staff.

**Approval of HS Yearbook Quote:** At the 6/8/09 meeting, the BOE was provided a 2009-2010 GBHS yearbook quote from Jostens. Although the quote was approved, there was interest in requesting additional quotes for future yearbook services. Journalism Instructor Sherry Pruter secured 2010-2011 quotes, as shown below, and the Board approved the low quote from Friesen Yearbooks.

*Eagle* \$54.00 per book

*Friesen Yearbooks* \$47.93 per book

*Jostens* \$69.81 per book

**First Reading of 2010 Program of Studies:** The 2010-2011 Program of Studies was presented as a first reading. As noted at a prior meeting, course numbers, titles, and descriptions are being standardized throughout Kansas. With this change, the presentation of the Program of Studies is following a different sequence, with the first BOE reading on 12/14/09, presentation to the Curriculum Steering Committee on 1/5/10, and the second BOE reading on 1/11/10. Approval at that time would allow GBHS students, guidance counselors, staff, and parents to begin planning students' educational courses for 2010-2011. Board members having questions regarding the Program of Studies were encouraged to contact administrators prior to the 1/11/10 meeting.

**Approval of Supplemental Salary Change:** On 9/2/09, the Supplemental Salary Committee approved recommending to the BOE increased compensation for the KAY sponsor at GBHS [exposure factor of 2.5 plus an increase in points from 5 to 7 equals \$1,125 (formerly \$594)]. Substantiating information included increased KAY membership and activities. The BOE approved the KAY sponsorship change on the Supplemental Salary Schedule, effective with the 2009-2010 year.

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

- K-12 Science Adoption Update. The Board was provided an update on the selection process for K-12 science resources for 2010-2011. Science resources have been received, and HS and MS Science Department teachers have been previewing materials in relation to indicators and concepts taught in science courses. Fifteen elementary science teachers are preparing for the FOSS materials they will pilot. Independent researchers are being sought to provide professional input on science resources.

Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided for the following meetings: Professional Development Council (PDC) on 12/7/09; and Curriculum Steering Committee on 12/1/09.

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

- Update on Capital Outlay Projects. Personnel from Horst, Terrill, and Karst, PA, are proceeding with plans for USD 428 projects as follows: *Backstage Construction and Auditorium Enhancement* and *Press Box and Bleachers*. Bids have been let. Tentatively, the bid response summaries will be available for BOE consideration at their meeting of 1/26/10.
- Cox Technology Grant. Becky Hill, teacher of grade 1 at Riley Elementary School, has submitted a 2009 Cox Technology for \$1,110. The grant, if awarded, would fund the purchase of an interwrite tablet (@ \$370) for each of the three first grade classrooms at Riley, thereby bringing digital resources into the classrooms. The Board approved the grant application.
- Financial Update. USD 428, like other Kansas school districts, faces funding challenges. Dan Brungardt provided information on the district's reserve funds, KSDE payments, the governor allotment, and potential budget cuts.

December and June are critical months for school districts' cash flow since they are the ending periods for tax collections. KSDE has agreed to provide early school funding to some schools which are totally dependent on this money to their fulfill December payrolls. Although an immediate crisis is being allayed, the future cash shortages are imminent for many districts.

A comparison of USD 428's 2009-2010 governor allotment was provided. Even considering an increase in FTE for the current year, the district expects an overall funding reduction of approximately \$1,150,000, so strategic planning continues.

Throughout the potential budget cuts process, three goals are foremost: (1) demonstrate fiscal stewardship; (2) comply with state and federal laws; and (3) maintain as flat a mill levy as possible.

Minimally for 2010-2011 USD 428 will need to reduce its budget by \$200,000 to \$300,000 if expenditures and state funding remain unchanged. In 2011-2012, if the federal ARRA money goes away and is not funded by another source, there will be a loss of \$1,500,000 for the district and \$500,000 for the special education co-op. Over the years there have been increases in the number of staff members and in the benefits. In future planning, personnel, building supplies budgets, athletics, activities, extra days, and other topics will be reviewed and considered for cost reductions. Details will regularly be brought to the BOE.

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

- **Schools for Fair Funding.** Schools for Fair Funding (currently consisting of 67 Kansas districts and representing 166,148 students) focuses on equitable distribution of existing Kansas school funds as well as fulfillment of the constitutional duty to "suitably provide" for its public schools. The current budget crisis, though impacted by the national recession, has been building for a long time and is a result of increased state spending without sufficient tax revenue to support the spending and of decreased state revenues due to numerous tax cuts.

Superintendent Vernon noted that there are opponents to future litigation which SFFF may consider. Those entities oppose using tax money to sue the state, having one branch of government tell another branch how to fulfill their obligations, and raising taxes during a recession. Additionally, some opponents mistakenly believe schools are sufficiently funded, and they demand proficient education within current funding levels.

The BOE passed a resolution calling for the following actions.

**Section 1:** That USD 428 join Schools for Fair Funding, Inc., pay its annual assessments as they come due in an amount not to exceed \$5.00 per FTE pupil for FY 2010, and support its efforts to re-open the *Montoy* litigation and/or initiate new litigation against the State of Kansas, and any other parties deemed necessary, to require the State of Kansas to suitably fund its schools according to the mandates of the Kansas Constitution and the Orders of the Kansas Supreme Court.

**Section 2:** This resolution is subject to SFFF's gaining school district membership and financial support from school districts representing at least 100,000 Kansas students.

Rationale for the resolution is as follows.

- The present funding level of \$4,012 BBPP is unacceptable to do the job educators are asked to do.
- The new lower funding levels are in direct violation of the Kansas Supreme Court's order in the *Montoy* case.
- The legislature, by past actions, has shown disdain for public education and disrespect for the Court.

The next meeting of SFFF is at 10:00 a.m., on December 18, 2009, in Salina.

**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 9, 19, and 23, 2009.
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report: None.

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

- **Schools for Fair Funding Meeting:** at 10:00 a.m., on December 18, 2009, at Salina, KS.
- **Quarterly IBB Meeting:** at 3:30 p.m., on January 25, 2010, at the DEC.
- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on January 26, 2010, at Park Elementary School. (There is no BOE luncheon meeting during December of 2009.)
- **KASB Governmental Relations Conference:** on February 17 and 18, 2010, in Topeka.

**Executive Session:** The BOE met in executive session, as authorized by KSA 75-4319, paragraph 1, for the discussion of negotiations. There was no action resulting from the executive session.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

