



BOARD REPORT

February 8, 2010

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:

- Volunteers in USD 428 Learning Centers. USD 428 appreciates the many persons who generously volunteer to assist in various capacities in the schools. A summary indicates that volunteers provide an estimated 165 hours each week across the district, with many additional hours relating to special events. Thanks to all who volunteer their time for the benefit of kids!
- AESOP (Automated Educational Substitute Operator). Substitute Teacher Don Learned expressed his appreciation for the district's AESOP method of securing substitute teachers. The program allows substitutes to review and accept substitute teaching positions on line. Jobs, as they are accepted, are immediately posted on the substitute teacher's schedule. Additionally, Mr. Learned complimented DEC secretary Donna Gales for facilitating the program efficiently.
- Board Member Comments. Jean Cavanaugh served as a judge at the recent Barton County Spelling Bee. She encourages schools to place more emphasis on students' spelling skills. Jean asked questions on the district's student drop-out rate and on AP test results, inquiring about the AP scores which GBHS students generally achieve. Barton Community College Soccer Coach Oliver Twelvetrees recently facilitated a soccer tournament for youth, and a BCC bus transported Great Bend students to the soccer site. One college soccer player was on each youth team, and the winning team played the BCC soccer team. Good sportsmanship was a key focus.
- USD 428 Education Foundation. The Education Foundation trustees met 2/4/10. Results will be forthcoming regarding the minigrants awarded for 2010-2011.

First Reading of K-6 Science Resources Adoption: The K-6 Science resources adoption was recommended for the 2010-2011 school year. The recommendation has been presented to and approved by the District Science Department and the Curriculum Steering Committee. District teachers have used the materials in their classrooms.

K-6 Science Resources

Publisher: FOSS (Full Option Science System)

Updated Version

At this first reading, Science Committee members Casey Gatton, Cheryl Muth, Jodi Schumacher, Deena Smith, and Laura Blevins presented the recommendation to the Board. The FOSS resources are *inquiry*

based, wherein students use the specific science vocabulary and they learn by *doing*. FOSS would provide free ongoing staff development, including training for effective use of the science kits. The books are cross-curricular, and students journal their experiments and projects.

FOSS science kits have been utilized in USD 428 for some time, and existing kits will continue to be used and enhanced. On April 5, 2010, the upcoming Curriculum Day, Casey, Cheryl, Jodi, Deena, and Laura will serve as leaders to further explain to teachers the K-6 science resources. The K-6 science resources recommendation, along with a cost estimate, will be presented to the BOE at the 3/8/10 meeting for action.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- Science Adoption Update: Ruth Heinrichs provided an update on the selection process for science resources for 2010-2011. Secondary science teachers continue to preview and pilot materials. Eighth grade teachers have met with ninth grade teachers to ensure curriculum alignment. The science resources recommendation for middle school and high school levels will be presented for first readings at the BOE meeting of 3/8/10.
- Kansas Assessments Update. Originally the Kansas State Department of Education planned monitoring 2010 state assessments at schools that volunteered to be visited. The plan, however, changed; and KSDE has named their monitoring sites, including Lincoln Elementary School and Great Bend High School. The monitors will verify that all testing guidelines are being followed. Findings will be compiled to assist all schools in the process.

Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided for the following meetings: Professional Development Council (PDC) on 2/1/10; and Curriculum Steering Committee on 2/2/10.

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

- Stadium Demolition. On 1/26/10 the BOE approved the bid for the GBHS stadium / bleacher / pressbox project; and demolition of the existing stadium and bleachers was not within the construction bid. At this time the BOE approved hiring Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates to facilitate quotes to tear down the current GBHS stadium and bleachers. Work is intended to begin following the 2010 high school commencement.
- Financial Update – Budget Cuts. As USD 428 faces funding challenges, the administration is planning cost cutting options for 2010-2011, even though legislative action is not yet known. The district's overall plan, with three levels of reductions, has previously been presented to the Board and the district employees. At this time the administration recommended Board approval to implement the least impacting circle of cuts for the 2010-2011 year.

Items include a decrease in building budgets by 20%; a decrease in athletics and activities; a study of extra duty days; possible restructure of class sizes and programs; *Student Agenda* availability only through school budgets at the principals' discretion; a reduction of nine teacher assistant / paraprofessional positions; and a reduction of three other classified positions. The total for this first series is \$789,520.72.

The following actions are planned reductions for certified staff.

- Fill the two open positions at Great Bend Middle School with two instructors from Great Bend High School.

- Do not fill the one open position at Riley Elementary School.
- Eliminate two part-time elementary positions (certified teachers who are not working under the negotiated agreement), utilizing other current staff instead.

Each spring a letter is sent to all nine- and ten-month classified employees to learn whether or not they intend to return to their position the subsequent year. If some choose not to return, no new employees would be sought. Attrition may or may not facilitate the necessary reductions of classified employees. Principals are currently studying contracts outside regular contracts.

Following discussion, the Board approved implementing the initial level of cost reductions.

- **Insurance.** On 7/13/09 the BOE approved rebidding the district's 2010-2011 insurance through the services of Charlesworth and Associates. Bob Charlesworth's initial visit to USD 428 will be on 2/25/10. The process will include analysis of insurance needs, preparation of specifications, release of bids to vendors, and receipt and summarization of responses. Mr. Brungardt requested that, following determination of the two lowest bids, two BOE members would meet with vendors to analyze the benefits.

Superintendent's Report:

- **District Calendar for 2010-2011.** The Calendar Committee, with employee input, prepared five 2010-2011 school calendar options. A survey is available on the district's web site at www.usd428.net for employees and patrons to respond with their choices and comments. Board members will make final determination of the 2010-2011 school calendar at a March 2010 meeting.
- **Schools for Fair Funding.** Superintendent Vernon distributed Schools for Fair Funding bylaws, indicating potential governance changes. Board members were asked to review the articles relating to membership classifications, quorums, officers, and steering committee. Bylaws approval will be sought at the BOE luncheon meeting on 1/25/10.

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:** January 11 and 26, 2010.
- **Bills and Financial Reports:** As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- **Personnel Report:** *Certified Teacher Retirement*

➤ Mr. Shannon Schartz, Teacher of Social Studies at GB Middle School.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Board members were reminded of meetings / events.

- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on February 25, 2010, at Jefferson Elementary School.
- **IBB Sessions:** Dates to be determined.

Executive Session:

The BOE met in executive session, as authorized by KSA 75-4319, paragraph 1, for the discussion of nonelected personnel. There was no action resulting from the executive session.

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.

