



# BOARD REPORT

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January 11, 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.

**School Board Recognition Month:** January is *School Board Recognition Month*. In celebration of the special month, each Board member was presented a cherry pie. The administration, faculty, and staff of USD 428 extended thanks to the USD 428 Board of Education members for their generous volunteer public service and for their encouragement in educational endeavors.

### Recognitions / Communications:

- **Board Member Comments.** Jean Cavanaugh noted that Rigo Ramirez, GBHS graduate and current medical student, recently visited her. Jean invited Rigo and twenty-seven local young men to a restaurant meal at which Rigo addressed the boys regarding studying, earning good grades, taking responsibility for their actions and their lives, and setting and reaching higher education goals. Additionally, Jean thanked the Hall of Fame Committee members, administrators, and other planners who facilitated the *2010 GBHS Hall of Fame* induction, noting that it was a grand event for honorees *Jack Bowman, Shawn Murphy, and Tim Weiser* and for the Great Bend community. Also Jean complimented Jennifer Schartz for the recent awards she received for school journalism and creativity. Jean spoke of the travels and volunteer activities of her family members.
- **USD 428 Education Foundation.** The Education Foundation trustees encouraged teachers to submit 2010-2011 mini-grant applications to the District Education Center until 4:00 p.m., on January 21, 2010.

**Approval of 2010 Program of Studies:** Curriculum Director Ruth Heinrichs presented to the BOE an updated draft of the 2010-2011 GBHS Program of Studies, which includes Kansas-wide standardized course numbers, titles, and descriptions. The document was presented as a first reading to the BOE on 12/14/09 and to the Curriculum Steering Committee on 1/5/10. Minor amendments were made following reviews by the high school departments and the Curriculum Steering Committee; and the steering committee, at their recent meeting, approved the document. The Board approved the 2010-2011 GBHS Program of Studies.

**BOE Policies:** The following policies were being presented to the Board for first readings. After a review, the Board approved the three policies, with recommended revisions.

Revision	GBN	Nonrenewal and Termination
Revision	GBO	Resignation
Revision	GBQA	Reduction of Teaching Staff

**Approval of Driver Education Fees:** Since 2007, the USD 428 enrollment fee for Driver Education has been \$100 for full-pay enrollees and \$50 for enrollees qualifying for free and reduced lunches. Program costs continue to rise, and state funding decreases. The administration had surveyed other Kansas schools regarding fees and projected enrollment numbers. Following discussion, the BOE approved recommended changes, as noted below.

**Effective with the 2010 Summer Onward**

- Require a nonrefundable \$50 deposit from each participant at the time of Driver Education enrollment.

**2010 Summer Fees**

- \$125 Full-pay enrollees
- \$ 75 Enrollees qualifying for free and reduced lunches

**2011 Summer Fees**

- \$150 Full-pay enrollees
- \$100 Enrollees qualifying for free and reduced lunches

**Curriculum and Instruction Report:**

- Parent Booklets -- Kansas Assessments: Ruth Heinrichs provided copies of the grade-level booklets she prepared for district parents, teachers, and patrons in regard to Kansas Assessments. The booklets explain testing expectations; provide definitions of standards, benchmarks, and indicators; and show sample test questions and answers.
- K-12 Science Adoption Update. The Board was provided an update on the selection process for K-12 science resources for 2010-2011. District Science Committee members continue to preview and pilot science resources while involving other teachers at their buildings and grade levels. Science teachers of grades 8 and 9 are clarifying state indicators to assure that the focus of new materials covers necessary indicators. The district has requested vendors' quotes on possible purchases.

Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided for the following meetings: Professional Development Council (PDC) on 1/4/10; and Curriculum Steering Committee on 1/5/10.

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

- E-Rate. E-rate provides discounts to assist schools and libraries in obtaining affordable telecommunications and internet access, and USD 428 participates in this opportunity. Three service categories are funded: telecommunications services, internet access, and internal connections. On 11/9/09 the BOE approved application for a 2009-2010 discount, which is based on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served. Last year's rate was 76%. One service provider quote was received, and details are provided below. The BOE approved Nex-Tech as the district's vendor.

	<u>Provider</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Cost After Discount</u>
POTS (plain old telephone service)	Nex-Tech	\$ 847.00	\$10,164.00	\$2,439.36
Long Distance	Nex-Tech	\$1,769.65	\$21,235.80	\$5,096.59
Cell Phone	Nex-Tech	\$ 103.50	\$ 1,242.00	\$ 298.08

- Financial Update – Budget Cuts. USD 428, like other Kansas school districts, faces funding challenges. Dan Brungardt noted that, minimally for 2010-2011, the district must reduce its budget by \$200,000 to \$300,000 if expenditures stay flat. In 2011-2012 the Federal ARRA money (\$1,500,000 for the district and \$500,000 for the special education co-op) goes away. It is important to maintain district balances to offset cuts and expenditures. The goal for each year is to plan and to make necessary cuts after having studied equitable options.

Mr. Brungardt shared a list of potential budget cuts entitled *District Proposal in Case of Fund Reduction*. The document, designed as a plan / work / revise document, was presented in a format of three circles, beginning with least-impacting cuts and progressing as appropriate. The outside (least-impacting) circle listed 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. Items listed within the two inner circles (\$172,830.00 and \$541,453.57) included additional staff reductions, athletics / activities spending, and product purchases as well as the elimination of student insurance.

Amid the discussion of potential budget cuts, there are items considered important.

- The number of student contact days and teacher contract days.
- Teacher salary schedule.
- Safety.
- Technology.
- Avoiding future district liabilities.
- Mandated programs (compliance).
- Effective research-based programs.
- Neighborhood attendance centers.
- Cuts through attrition, if possible.
- Athletics and activities.

BOE members made additional suggestions for this list of important items, including after-school programs, quality instruction for students, class size, and more. They suggested that health insurance be monitored. An updated list will be shared with BOE members at their 2/8/10 meeting. The Board will be the final arbiter in the plan.

The DEC administration has invited all staff to meetings on 1/12/10 to discuss cost-cutting which could occur if state funding reductions make necessary.

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

- District Calendar for 2010-2011. The Calendar Committee will soon formulate the district's 2010-2011 Calendar. Board members were encouraged to present their own calendar suggestions and to provide input from patrons.
- Schools for Fair Funding. Schools for Fair Funding (currently 74 Kansas districts representing 168,018 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. Participating schools recently authorized reopening the 2006 *Montoy vs. State of Kansas* lawsuit regarding public school funding. A 1/11/10 news release confirmed that SFFF filed a motion with the Kansas Supreme Court asking that the Court reopen the suit. The next meeting of SFFF is at 1:00 p.m., on January 29, 2010, in Wichita.

Dr. Vernon shared an informative 1/9/10 *Hutchinson News* article which presents a well balanced view of school funding through a series of *Questions and Answers*. He encouraged the Board members and others to read the article to gain understanding of the dilemma of school funding.

- Receipt of Contributions. Referencing Policy DFK (Gifts and Bequests), the BOE was notified of a contribution, and Board approval was given for the contribution noted below.
  - To USD 428 Activities Department: Michael and Margaret Sheppard wish to donate \$2,000.00 to the GBHS Activities Department.

**Bills and Financial Reports:** Dan Brungardt presented the warrants, financial report, travel summary, and health insurance status report to the Board members. Following Board members' references to prudent spending, a patron, Edwin Piland, expressed thanks to the BOE for serving USD 428 as decision makers in financial matters.

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

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: December 14, 2009.
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report: *Certified Teacher Resignations*
  - Mrs. Dottie Dozier, Teacher of Grade 5 at Riley Elementary School. (end of 2009-2010 year)
  - Mrs. Jill Lane, Special Education Teacher. (effective 1/15/10) Liquidated damages for the mid-year resignation were imposed, in accordance with the negotiated agreement.

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

- **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.
- **Schools for Fair Funding:** at 1:00 p.m., on January 29, 2010, in Wichita, KS.
- **Education Foundation Trustee Meeting:** at 5:00 p.m., on February 4, 2010, at the DEC.
- **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.

