



BOARD REPORT

January 10, 2011

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 baked 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 the boardsmanship endeavors which benefit USD 428 students.

ROSE Award: The Board of Education presented a ROSE (Recognizing Outstanding Support of Education) to Patty Vratil for fulfilling the responsibilities associated with the BOE (agendas, meeting attendance, Board Reports, minutes, and liaison and hospitality tasks). Patty, who was unaware the presentation had been planned, noted she enjoys being a part of USD 428 and assisting the Board.

Communications:

- Board Member Comments. Jean Cavanaugh said that a recent basketball game in Las Vegas drew her son Jones and his family to the city to support and cheer on the KU Jayhawks. The family, now Arizona residents, and many visiting Kansans wore team colors in Las Vegas and showed pride in Kansas. A local newspaper article relating to the athletic event and the presence of fans, focused on the Cavanaugh family, titling the message *Arizonans4KU*.

David Holste announced that his second USD 428 board term is ending and that he will not seek reelection. He indicated that boardsmanship has been a great learning experience for him and that he carries forward a deep appreciation for public education. Jean Cavanaugh added that she, too, will not seek reelection. Jean, who will be completing thirty-two years of Board of Education service, says she believes that over the years the local board has encouraged patrons to offer input and has shown them that their questions, concerns, and comments are seriously considered when decisions are made.

- USD 428 Education Foundation. The 2011-2012 Education Foundation mini grants are being accepted until 4:00 p.m., on 1/20/11. The next meeting of the trustees is 2/9/11.

Seventh Grade Athletics: At the meeting of 12/13/10, the BOE heard a patron's request for initiating competitive athletics for grade 7 students. Superintendent Vernon, David Meter, and Kathy Hafner subsequently spoke with other superintendents and athletic directors regarding the possibility of scheduling 7th grade games. The contacted schools included those who currently play the GBHS Panthers and 8th grade teams, neighboring schools, and other large and small schools in various Kansas

leagues. Having 7th grade competitive games would necessitate petitioning leagues, with inclusion dependent on their board's voting outcome. At this time it appears difficult to get any schedule locked in.

Consideration has been given to changing the 8th grade competitive teams to include 7th grade athletes through tryouts, or having A and B teams in the 8th grade, or having co-ed teams, or having two complete and separate 8th and 7th grade teams (would perhaps appeal to the smaller schools). Travel, distance, and budgets are major factors, although no definite costs can be stated since no single option has been found. Spending components would include coaches, fees, equipment, transportation, meals, referees, and uniforms. Facilities would also be a consideration. Although school funding levels are as yet unknown, there is the strong possibility that reduced school funding will require future cost reductions for USD 428. Initiating programs, therefore, would require forethought. The district administration will continue the study.

Approval of 2009-2010 Audit: On 12/13/10, Vickie Dreiling, CPA from Adams, Brown, Beran, and Ball, presented a first reading of the 2009-2010 business audit to BOE members. ABBB issued a clean audit opinion, having no reportable budgetary, statutory, or compliance violations, though recommending some procedural changes. The BOE accepted the 2009-2010 audit.

Approval of the BCCSE Cooperative Agreement: At the 12/13/10 meeting, BOE members discussed the proposed update of the Barton County Cooperative of Special Education agreement which formerly included Claflin, Ellinwood, Great Bend, Hoisington, and Otis-Bison school districts. Claflin recently joined the newly formed Central Plains school district and would, therefore, no longer be included. Ellinwood, Hoisington, and Otis-Bison boards have studied the new cooperative agreement. At this meeting the USD 428 Board of Education approved the agreement.

Approval of Plan and Design for Brass Name Plates: Many brass name plates were removed from Memorial Stadium during its recent demolition and reconstruction. The plates identified persons and businesses who contributed financially toward construction of the original stadium, with some given in memory of World War II soldiers.

There has been BOE discussion and public input regarding use of the brass plates. An option was to design and purchase a 4' x 8' wall hanging to be placed inside the Panther Athletic Center. On this would be listed the contributors and veterans. The original brass plates would then be returned to the individual and business contributors.

A wall hanging entitled *Contributors Help Build First Memorial Stadium* was designed. A brief history (below) and the contributor list will be printed. The BOE approved purchasing and installing the wall hanging at the PAC, with one change to the document, as noted below. The District Education Center will set a process and time frame for return of the brass plates.

The names listed here represent those individuals and businesses involved in a fund-raising effort to construct the original Memorial Stadium in 1949. Brass plaques noting their names were affixed to the stadium stair risers. One-hundred thirty-two names were also designated with a star. Those stars were in memory of fallen World War II soldiers for whom Memorial Stadium was named.

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010: The recently-enacted *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act* includes dietary regulations, meal prices, data reporting, and more. The pricing component is summarized below, though details for implementation are not yet in place. The costs must eventually be equal to the amount the district receives for free lunches, though this may be accomplished gradually with 10¢ annual price increases.

- Beginning 7/1/11, schools are required to charge students for paid meals at a price that is on average equal to the difference between free meal reimbursement and paid meal reimbursement. Schools that currently charge less are required to gradually increase their prices over time until they meet the requirement. Schools may choose to cover the difference in revenue with non-federal funds instead of raising paid meal prices.
- This establishes a maximum annual increase in the required paid increases of 10 cents annually, but allows schools to establish a higher increase at their discretion.

USD 428's 2010-2011 meal prices were provided for reference. USD 428 is currently 92¢ low on the elementary price, 62¢ low on the middle school price, and 57¢ low on the high school price. The BOE will have more information prior to June, when the annual approval of meal prices is scheduled.

LUNCH		BREAKFAST	
Elementary Schools	\$1.55	Students	\$.90
GBMS	1.85	Adults	2.10
GBHS	1.90	Reduced Prices	.30
Adults	3.20		
Reduced Prices	.40		
Milk	.30		

BOE Policy GAAD: Following a KASB recommendation, the administration presented *BOE Policy GAAD – Child Abuse* to the BOE for consideration. Following a review of the document and denying one suggested revision, the BOE approved *BOE Policy GAAD*.

Wellness Initiative – 428 Team Pounds or 428 Team Miles by 4/28: Plans are underway for a wellness initiative for USD 428 employees – and perhaps a stress reducer during State Assessments season. This process, entitled *Give Your Heart A Break*, will begin 2/14 (Valentine's Day) and end on 4/28 (the USD number). Participants, as team members, may focus on losing weight or on logging miles they walk (distances inside and outside buildings are being posted for reference). Plans include weight rooms being open to employees at the middle and high schools for the eleven weeks, on-site encouragement from a leader, classes, recipes, motivational tips, weigh-ins, and prizes. The BOE approved the activity as described.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- American College Testing (ACT) Data. Ruth Heinrichs presented data comparing ACT scores (English, math, social science, science, and summative) of GBHS students, the state, and the nation; and generally the local scores have been lower than state averages but higher than national averages. USD 428 is seeking ways to help students attain higher scores on the ACT. Such scores are important for securing scholarships for higher education.

A major endeavor now in place at GBHS is the Panther Prep, directed by Dr. Mary Misegadis. Through the encouragement of Dr. Misegadis, an estimated 30 students meet at school on Sunday afternoons for instruction and encouragement toward educational advancement. The ACT preparation is a major component for the group; and many students, through this program, have achieved admirably by responding quickly and accurately. Dr. Misegadis has facilitated students' visits to college campuses where students gain familiarity with the sites and determine how enrollment there could help them fulfill goals.

Mrs. Heinrichs will be visiting with teachers (individuals and departments) to learn ways to reach more students. There will be encouragement to increase both the number of students who take the test and the number of times the test is taken. There will be suggestions for students to take more core classes. There could be fun learning moments, such as a *Question of the Day* posed by

instructors. There can perhaps be better aligned college readiness standards. It is hopeful that at the end of another school year there will be increased participation and improved ACT scores at GBHS.

- Grant on Bullying. Bullying is a national topic of concern. At a recent KASB conference, Mrs. Heinrichs and Dwight Young learned of *BullySafe USA*, a program through which trained educators facilitate interactive bullying prevention and intervention sessions for K-12 students. This includes parent / guardians workshops, with an overall goal of ceasing this negative activity. Information was given regarding a grant to fund training the teachers and other professionals for their tasks relating to *BullySafe USA*. Mrs. Heinrichs submitted an application and was awarded one of the five available grants which involves a 2½ day training session for up to 35 persons in mid May of 2011. District counselors and principals will attend, and remaining openings up to the 35 allowable will be used by personnel of *The Center*, all with the goal of helping students.
- Virtual Program. On-line courses are becoming a common practice of educational entities, and Mrs. Heinrichs spoke of the *possibility* and *process* of USD 428 on-line courses in the future. She will submit to the state an Application of Intent, which will allow study of concept and yet will carry no commitment. This could perhaps lead to development and offering of one virtual course in the future as a model, and the district's teachers will be highly involved in the process. Students could gain much from participation in such a course since colleges regularly offer virtual classroom instruction. A follow-up report will be provided.

[Minutes were available for the 1/3/11 Professional Development Council (PDC) meeting as well as the 1/4/11 Curriculum Steering Committee meeting.]

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

- E-Rate. E-rate provides discounts to assist schools and libraries obtain 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 11/8/10 the BOE approved application for a 2010-2011 discount, which is based on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population serviced. Last year's rate was 76%.

Multiple-year bids are in place for three of the components listed below. The fourth, cellular service, was subject to rebid this year. Nex-Tech, who also holds the other bids, was recommended and BOE approved.

- POTS (plain old telephone service)
- Long Distance (district wide)
- Internet Access (food service; warehouse; special education)
- Cell Phone

- BOE Member on the Classified Personnel Handbook Review Committee. The administration requested that one BOE member become part of the committee currently reviewing the *Classified Personnel Handbook*. The initial meeting was held 1/3/11, and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled the afternoon of 3/11/11, at the DEC. Jean Cavanaugh will serve on the committee.
- Update on Capital Outlay Projects. The BOE previously approved window remodeling at Washington Early Childhood Center, and that project is progressing well. The existing glass blocks have been replaced with solid walls, and adjoining windows will soon be replaced for energy efficiency.

Seven doors in the district were identified as inadequate due to deterioration. Those doors and adjoining components have been ordered and will soon be replaced at Riley, the field house, and Washington.

- School Finance Update. Dan Brungardt spoke of budget balances, noting that Kansas statutes allow carryover for specific funds (i.e., food service, bond and interest, capital outlay, and special education), with definition in some funds of exactly what the money may be spent for. The budget balances are beneficial for overall operations stability. The approved carry-over balances can offset local, state, and federal changes that otherwise could undermine local education.

The administration has three goals relating to school finance, as noted below. Through goal fulfillment and with building cash reserves, changes in school finance will not be detrimental to the district in any one year.

- *Demonstrate fiscal stewardship.*
- *Comply with state and federal laws.*
- *Keep the mill levy as flat as possible through long-range planning and awareness.*

USD 428 is the 29th largest district in Kansas, and it ranks 49th in per-pupil money carry over in all fund balances and 77th in limited fund balances.

Major state school funding issues for 2010-2011 include replacement of revenue loss from 20 mills, a 5% increase in at-risk students, and an increase student count. These components could result in funding cuts. Additionally, with the projected \$500,000,000 shortfall in state revenue next year, base aid per pupil could be reduced or weightings could be changed. The reduction could be as high as \$300 on the base, which would equal a reduction of \$1,434,240 for USD 428. Special Education could also experience major cuts. The reductions in state funding could push districts to raise local funding.

In the short term the district can consider cost reductions that would do the least harm to the educational process. The district can also utilize reserve funds for one-time expenditures. Long term, without recovery of funding levels the district could consider increasing the Local Option Budget and could consider use of capital mill levy funds.

Superintendent's Report:

- Teacher Evaluation Committee Update. The committee recently met, studying two models (Danielson and Ulysses). Though the group will meet again on 1/24/11, they will make no recommendations until they have reviewed the new evaluation documents being developed by the state.
- District Calendar for 2011-2012. The Calendar Committee will soon formulate the district's 2011-2012 calendar options, and board members were encouraged to present their own calendar suggestions as well as input from patrons. Calendar choices will be provided to the BOE next month, with approval being requested in March.
- Schools for Fair Funding. SFFF has, on behalf of the district, submitted an intervening motion – an equity issue -- relating to the Blue Valley spending matter. Later this week the Kansas governor will release his budget. The budget, though subject to change, will provide a basis for financial planning.

- Receipt of Contribution. Referencing *Policy DFK (Gifts and Bequests)*, the BOE was notified that Michael and Margaret Sheppard wish to donate \$2,000 to the GBHS Activities Department. The BOE approved the generous gift.

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 after removing the Personnel Report to discuss details in executive session

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: December 13, 2010
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report None.

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

•**BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on January 25, 2011, at Park Elementary School.

•**KASB Governmental Relations Conference:** on February 16-17, 2011, in Topeka.

Executive Session: The BOE moved to executive session for the discussion of negotiations.

Executive Session: The BOE moved to executive session for the discussion of nonelected personnel.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

