



BOARD REPORT

March 9, 2009

5:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

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

- Barton County Spelling Bee Champion Allison Regehr

On 2/14/09 Allison Regehr outspelled the competitors to claim the title of champion in the Donald H. Humphreys 2009 Barton County Spelling Bee. Allison, a fourth grade student at Jefferson Elementary School, clinched the championship by spelling the word *realm*. She and a runner-up from Claflin will represent Barton County at the Sunflower Spelling Bee which will be held 3/14/09 at Barton Community College. Congratulations to Allison!

- State Wrestling Champion Aron Elsen

On 2/28/09 GBHS Senior Aron Elsen earned the title of *State Champion* in his weight range (189 pounds) at the state wrestling tournament held in Wichita. Aron and Wrestling Coach Norbert Muth attended the BOE meeting. During 2008-2009, Aaron was also named to the *Kansas Shrine Bowl* and was awarded the *Stephenson Sportsmanship Award*. Thanks to Coach Muth for his dedication to coaching, and congratulations to Aron for *bringing home the gold!*

Staff Presentation:

- Teachers' Attendance at Kansas Exemplary Educators Network (KEEN)

On February 19 and 20, 2009, three USD 428 teachers attended KEEN, an association comprised of current and former Kansas Teacher of the Year (KTOY) nominees and Horizon Award winners. Heidi Cabral (Horizon Award) and Kim Guesnier and Susan Young (KTOY) were among 300 teachers who collaborated on educational topics for the benefit of themselves and their school districts. Susan and Kim thanked the BOE for their support of their attendance through providing substitute teachers and transportation. Susan finds the KEEN conferences revitalizing. Kim noted that a team of KTOY peers will be visiting the Great Bend Schools on April 29, 2009.

Communications:

- Board Member Comments. Jean Cavanaugh noted that USD 428 students recently participated in soccer tournaments at Barton Community College. She expressed her

displeasure at recent graffiti found at GB High School and at Veterans Park. She stressed her continued interest in the International Baccalaureate Program for USD 428. Jean recently attended the Heartland Hispanic Conference in Colorado Springs, CO, and she told of inspiring messages expressed by students. She thanked all who worked to make the GBHS Hall of Fame celebration a delight to the school and community.

- USD 428 Education Foundation. The next meeting of the USD 428 Education Foundation trustees is scheduled for 4/16/09, following a reception for teachers who were awarded 2009-2010 mini-grants. The annual golf tournament, a major fund raiser for the Education Foundation, will be held on 5/1/09 at StoneRidge.

Approval to Renew Security Agreements: The district utilizes the services of Dayton Securities, Inc., to monitor the security of district sites. The service has been very satisfactory, and the cost of service has remained stable for the past ten years. The use of monitoring systems has reduced the district's insurance premiums. The Board approved the five-year agreements for the district locations.

First Readings of 2009-2010 Handbooks: Board members were presented a listing of proposed changes for 2009-2010 handbooks.

- Student handbooks for the elementary schools, middle school, and high school.
- Teacher handbooks for the elementary schools, middle school, and high school.
- Activities Handbook.
- Athletics Handbook.

Superintendent Vernon explained each proposed change, while accepting input and suggestions from Board members. This was a first reading. Approval will be requested at a subsequent meeting.

Approval of 2009 Purchase of New Computers: Classroom computers are updated according to a predetermined schedule. Dan Brungardt presented the 2008 proposed purchases of new Hewlett Packard computers, at a cost of \$300,182.50 through the state-approved bid program. Additionally, software was proposed for purchase @ 18,367.80 from Greenbush, with a combined purchase total of \$318,550.30. The district would subsequently follow a past practice to sell used computers (estimated total \$28,250.00). The Board approved the \$318,550.30 technology purchase as well as the resale of used computers.

Approval of Three-Year Technology Plan: Each three years USD 428 submits to the Kansas State Department of Education a technology plan that, when approved, allows USD 428 eligibility for e-rate. USD 428's curriculum and related classroom needs are core components to technology strategies, and the technology plan contents are guidelines for technology integration. Few changes were made to this updated plan. The Board approved the three-year plan.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- Update on 2008-2009 Curriculum Adoptions. Ruth Heinrichs presented an update on activities relating to the 2008-2009 textbook adoptions for *K-12 Social Studies* and for *Drama*. The BOE will hear first readings of the textbooks at the 4/13/09 meeting.
- Math / Science Partnership Grant. Mrs. Heinrichs submitted an application for continuation of the MSP Grant. This would be the third year of the three-year grant. The \$72,438 grant, which is a partnership with Emporia State University, would include a two-week summer Math Academy plus four follow-up sessions on Saturdays for twenty-eight teachers in grades 3 through 8. (KSDE has specified this is an elementary and middle school grant.)
- K-12 Curriculum Day on April 13, 2009. Mrs. Heinrichs previewed the day's activities, noting that the morning portion will be held at the GBHS Commons where teachers will attend two workshops and a session of *Five-Minute Table Talks* on numerous educational topics. The teachers will be in their buildings in the afternoon taking part in school improvement activities. Board members were invited to attend.

Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided for the following meetings: the 3/2/09 meeting of the Professional Development Council (PDC); and the 2/26/09 meeting of the Curriculum Steering Committee

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

- Update on 2009-2010 Budget. Dan Brungardt explained budget-related core components, as follows: property valuation; the Kansas Legislature; district reserves; student head count; the economic stimulus bill and federal programs; teaching supplies and textbooks; salaries; operating expenses; insurance; technology; professional development; and capital expenses. Additionally, he provided a history of the General Fund and Supplemental General Fund, a status report on reserve funds, and a worksheet previewing the 2009-2010 budget. He listed potential budgetary reductions in the event that the district's FTE for 2009-2010 would greatly decrease. Although the district has studied these ways to cut the budget in dire situations, the administration plans to utilize the district's cash reserves and cautious planning for steady operation in 2009-2010.
- Update on Capital Projects. Although at this time no new capital projects are scheduled to begin, the district will continue facilities maintenance, including roofing. Also, parking upgrades continue at Cavanaugh Field, with the focus on a rock surface, culverts, and proper drainage.

Superintendent's Report:

- Receipt of Contributions. According to Policy DFK (Gifts and Bequests), the BOE was notified of contributions. Board approval was given.
 - To the GBHS Drama Department: The Color Clinic at 700 Main in GB wishes to donate fifteen gallons of paint to the Drama Department for use in upcoming productions. The total value is \$496.00. The Color Clinic is a supporter of the GBHS Panther Card and some sports broadcasting.
 - To the GBHS Athletic Department: The Panther Booster Club wishes to donate \$15,000.00 to the GBHS Athletic Department. The funds will be utilized to purchase a new football scoreboard for

GBHS, an entrance sign to Cavanaugh Field, touch pads for swimming, field tarps for softball and baseball, and more.

- To the GB High School FFA: The family of Lois Marie Schneider suggested FFA for memorial contributions. The district has received an additional \$50.00 from this source.

Bills and Financial Reports: Dan Brungardt presented the warrants, financial report, travel summary, and health insurance status report to the Board members.

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

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

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: February 9 and 26, 2009
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report:

Certified Teacher Resignations

- Ms. Amanda Burress, Teacher of Social Studies at GB Middle School.
- Ms. Mikelle Dankert, School Psychologist for Barton County Cooperative of Special Services.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Board members were reminded of meetings.

- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on March 26, 2009, at Riley Elementary School.
- **IBB Sessions:** From 7:30 till 11:30 a.m., on March 11, 2005, at the DEC. Also from 8:30 a.m., until 3:30 p.m., on March 25, 2009.
- **USD 428 Education Foundation Reception for Grant Recipients:** at 4:00 p.m., on April 16, 2009, at the District Education Center.
- **KASB Spring Regional Meeting in Great Bend:** Region 8: April 21, 2009, at GB High School.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

