



BOARD REPORT

November 10, 2008

5:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

Presentations / Recognitions / Communications:

- **R.O.S.E. Award.** In the Board of Education's continuing efforts to recognize individuals or groups for their services to the school district, the R.O.S.E. (**R**ecognizing **O**utstanding **S**upport of **E**ducation) Award was created. The recipients of this month's R.O.S.E. awards are *Marmie Ford, Inc.*, and *Marmie Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep*.

The Marmie family and their agencies are avid supporters of GB Panther Athletics and have been for many years. Just since the 2000 football season, David and Jerry, representing the two Marmie agencies, have sponsored the following statement: "As a result of that Panther touchdown, Marmies of Great Bend will contribute \$50 to Panther athletics." Through this generous offer, they have contributed more than \$10,000 to support high school athletics. Desa Marmie Behr, sales manager and a third generation Marmie in the business, accepted the ROSE Award. The business was founded in 1960 by her grandfather, Eustace.

- **USD 428 Education Foundation.** The USD 428 Education Foundation is hosting a dinner on 11/25/08 at the Club at StoneRidge. The event will feature student art.
- **Correspondence.** The BOE received *thank you* messages from the Jefferson, Park, and Lincoln staffs and from Myrna Holthaus for providing a BBQ luncheon on 10/20/08 as the district celebrated successes.

Consideration of Bid for Construction of Press Box: Horst, Terrill, and Karst, PA, coordinated the bids for construction of a new press box at Memorial Stadium. Although one bid was received, no bid was accepted by the BOE.

Board members discussed two options. One was to expand the scope of the proposed project to include construction of both a new press box and new stands, replacing the 58-year-old (est.) stands which by today's standards are small and not easily accessed. The stadium is a well used facility, with a minimum of four varsity games a year as well as track meets, soccer games, traveling team football games, and graduation. The district would work with HTK and leading

bleacher companies to bid this project generically so all companies could bid. Drawings would be approved by HTK before construction to check for structural integrity, and the bid would be released in February of 2009.

The other option would be to rebid the press box more generically. Once again, the district would work with HTK and leading bleacher companies to build the new bid proposal, and all shop drawings would be approved by HTK to verify structural integrity. There would be a separate press box demolition bid.

The administration will gather information to present to the Board at a subsequent meeting.

Approval to Implement Automated External Defibrillators: At the 10/13/08 meeting, the BOE discussed possible placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) within the district. At this meeting Superintendent Vernon provided details from a survey of Kansas schools regarding AEDs, including implementation, specific placement, and operator training guidelines. Dr. Vernon then presented estimated costs for three levels of AED implementation: limited, partial, and extensive. Following discussion the Board approved the limited implementation proposal (five AEDs @ \$1,850 as well as CPR/AED training for ten persons, equaling \$9,885 est.). Additionally, five alarm boxes may be purchased. At the 12/8/08 meeting, the administration will inform the Board of exact costs.

Update on Beverage Contract: The district's beverage contract with Pepsi Cola will expire 1/1/09, and the administration has requested bids from Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola. Vendors will follow current product guidelines in their proposals. As in the past, income from the beverage contract will be utilized for such groups as athletics, activities, and student councils. USD 428 will receive the bids in early December, and the Beverage Committee members will review the submitted proposals before presenting a recommendation to the Board.

Review of Procedures for Calling Substitutes: Roger Ringer, by prior request, addressed the Board of Education regarding substitute teaching in USD 428. The Board took no action.

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 2008-2009 application amounts to \$985,937 for Title VI B pass-through funds and \$46,545 for ECH. The overall total is slightly lower than last year's amount. For the next thirty days, the budget application will be available for public review at the office of Barton County Cooperative of Special Services.

E-Rate Discount Approval: The 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. Discounts range from 20% to 90% of the costs of eligible services, depending on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served. USD 428's 2007-2008 rate was 76% for internet access, cell phones, regular telephones, long distance service, and internet filtering software. The Board approved the administration's request to apply to receive a 2008-2009 discount. Subsequently the specific discount data will be reported.

Approval of *TotalNotify* from Nex-Tech: The administration requested entering into an agreement with Nex-Tech to purchase a service called *TotalNotify*, a program through which parents can enroll to receive alerts through text messaging, e-mail, text-to-voice, and instant messenger. The administration has reviewed similar programs but, until receiving this proposal, considered the program too expensive.

Nex-Tech's proposal costs \$900 dollars per year for which the district would purchase five alert types. An *alert type* is a *title* for a message. An example of an alert type would be "School Canceled". If school were to be canceled, the administration would choose that option, and messages would be sent with information about the closing. The five alerts proposed for purchase are: (1) School Canceled; (2) Activity Canceled; (3) Parent Conferences; (4) Community Alert; and (5) School Alert. Following discussion, the BOE approved a five year contract with Nex-Tech for *TotalNotify*.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- Update on 2008-2009 Curriculum Adoptions. Mrs. Heinrichs reported on 2008-2009 textbook adoptions for *K-12 Social Studies* and for *Drama*. Activities to date include teacher surveys and textbook / material previews. Members of the Social Studies Committee plan to attend the National Social Studies Conference to study characteristics of available texts and materials and to ensure alignment with Kansas Standards.
- Discovery Education United Streaming. Through a video demonstration, Mrs. Heinrichs previewed the web-based resource of *Discover Education Streaming Plus*. She explained the library of videos and content-specific clips as well as articles, photos, lesson ideas, and professional development for use by teachers. USD 428 teachers have had opportunities to view the website, and the topic was presented to the Curriculum Steering Committee. Costs for a five-year agreement with *Discovery Education* would be: year one \$18,210; year two \$15,967; year three \$16,907; year four \$17,846; and year five \$18,785. An additional server (\$10,571) would be recommended to prevent overloading the existing band width. Mrs. Heinrichs will bring the topic to the Board at the meeting of 11/20/08 for consideration.
- Report on USD 428 Curriculum Day. On 10/20/08, the staff focused on curriculum work, utilizing the morning for in-building sessions coordinated by the principals. Following a catered luncheon, the staff worked throughout the afternoon on curriculum guides. Much was accomplished, and Mrs. Heinrichs thanked the teachers and principals for their diligence.
- Kansas Assessments. The KSDE Fall Assessment Conference was held 10/20/08 and 10/21/08, and attending teachers and principals learned that minor changes are expected in forthcoming state assessments. The changes, which include more organized manuals as well as standardization of the testing process, are favorable.
- Cox Grants. Three USD 428 teachers are submitting Cox Communications grant applications. If successful in this effort, they would utilize the dollars for technology in the classrooms.

- Meeting Information. Minutes were provided, as follows: the 11/3/08 meeting of the Professional Development Council (PDC); and the 11/4/08 meeting of the Curriculum Steering Committee.

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

- Update on Morrison Demolition. Mr. Brungardt gave a slide presentation of the Morrison building demolition. He noted that much of the debris will be recycled. The property ownership will subsequently be transferred to the Great Bend Recreation Commission, and GBRC's facility plans will begin according to their schedule.

Superintendent's Report:

- Special Education Funding. There may be a change forthcoming in state funding of special education. To date the funding has been *categorical* (per teacher and per para) and paid a percentage of excess costs. This strategy looks at the entire state in regard to the total amount to be spent and then prorates per teacher. The commissioner suggests a change so the state aid is *census based*, with the state payment multi-tiered and distributed on a total FTE basis. Superintendent Vernon will keep the Board aware of the proposed change in funding.

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: October 13 and 30, 2008
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report: None

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

Executive Session: The Board met in Executive Session for preliminary discussion relating to the acquisition of real property. No action resulted from the executive session.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Board members were reminded of meetings.

- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on November 20, 2008, at GB Middle School.
- **USD 428 Education Foundation Dinner:** on November 25, 2008, at the Club at StoneRidge.
- **Annual KASB Convention:** on December 5-7, 2008, in Wichita.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

