



BOARD REPORT

September 12, 2011

5:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board Members: Wade Babcock; Doug Bender; Joyce Carter; Dr. Larry Kutina; Kevin Mauler; Cheryl Rugan; and Dwight Young.

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 recipient of this month's R.O.S.E. award was the *Kansas Wetlands Education Center*.

Curtis Wolf, Eric Giesing, and Pam Martin from the Wetlands Center have partnered with teachers in USD 428 in grades K-12 regarding Cheyenne Bottoms, a valuable natural resource in the community. Last year they spent numerous hours presenting science lessons in district classrooms and hosting field trips at the Wetlands. They provided an opportunity for all second graders to spend an entire day learning at the Wetlands Center. As a result of the student successes last year, the program has been expanded to insure that all students in USD 428 have the opportunity to experience hands-on science activities. This summer a calendar was developed for the elementary grades to provide sixty contacts with the Wetlands to bring hands-on activities into classrooms, including various field trips. Secondary lessons and field trips are also scheduled throughout the year. The second grade trip has been expanded to include all Barton County second graders.

Through the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, whose sponsoring agency is Fort Hays State University, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Giesing, and Mrs. Martin have worked tirelessly to provide lessons and field trips that align with the science objectives and standards of USD 428. The district would not be able to replicate the hands-on activities they provide for students without their resources and assistance. The BOE, representing the administration, teachers, and students, extended appreciation and recognition to Curtis Wolf, Eric Giesing, and Pam Martin through this ROSE Award. They have exceeded expectations in assisting student education and in encouraging the youths to treasure local natural resources.

- **2nd Grade Students at Kansas Wetlands Education Day on 9/1/11.** Jefferson Principal Art Baker spoke regarding *Kansas Wetlands Education Day*, the special day for second-grade students of Barton County. As guests at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center, the students learned about Barton County's unique natural wonders. Mr. Baker, through a photo presentation, identified the seven stations in which the students participated: night sounds, water center, scavenger hunt, wonderful wetlands, obstacle course, nature hike, and hands on. He extended appreciation to the Kansas Wetlands Education Center staff as well as the Friends of Cheyenne Bottoms for facilitating a thrilling learning experience for the students

- **Board Member Comments.** Kevin Mauler described the 9/1/11 *Kids' Ag Day*, an annual opportunity for all Barton County fourth grade students to learn about agriculture and its impact on their lives. Through knowledgeable volunteers' demonstrations, students learned about various grains and about horse shoeing, roping, bee keeping, and more. Students enjoyed "meeting" young farm animals in a petting area, and they were delighted with a hayrack ride. The event, held at 3M Farms, was a memorable event for those attending. Kevin expressed appreciation to the seventy-five community volunteers who served as planners and presenters, and to Karl Sprague and the USD 428 School Food Service staff for preparing and serving the lunches. The administration, in turn, thanked Kevin and 3M Farms for hosting the event.

Electronic Communication Policy: At the 8/8/11 meeting the administration introduced a draft policy entitled *Expectations for Communicating Electronically with Students*, and the administration subsequently shared the proposed policy with the district's instructional staff. Dr. Vernon provided two draft copies of the policy – one identifying input from the 8/8/11 BOE meeting, and a second one with suggested GB-NEA recommendations.

Superintendent Vernon believes that the *purpose* of the policy should be given serious thought. The first revision is projected in a format of what *should not be done*. Upon studying the format, relevant circumstances arose, including dual roles held by staff with students (i.e., parent-child; youth minister-church youth; etc.) wherein electronic communication seems reasonable. The second revision, therefore, with helpful input from GB-NEA, turns the focus away from negative rules to realistic communication guidelines into three levels of appropriateness: *acceptable, less acceptable, and least acceptable*. The guidelines stress the importance of having communication pass the **TAP** test wherein electronic communication with students should be **Transparent, Accessible, and Professional**.

There was BOE discussion regarding enforcement; utilization of the title *guidelines* instead of *expectations*; the method of communicating the guidelines to students, teachers; administrators, and support staff; and the possibility of having existing BOE policies under which this guideline could be placed. *Facebook* and *Fan Page* were discussed. Dr. Vernon indicated that USD 428 Attorney Mark Calcara is reviewing the two revisions, keeping in mind the many dual roles that exist. The topic will be further discussed following receipt of Mr. Calcara's information.

Potential Sale of Shady Grove Property: On 8/8/11 the BOE approved establishing the value of the Shady Grove site through appraisal and then proceeding toward offering the property for sale. The process was begun, and the district was recently notified of an \$86,000 property appraisal.

Following discussion, the BOE set the asking price at \$86,000, with the property to be sold *as is*. Buyers, in order to be eligible, would need to submit \$1,000 nonrefundable earnest money and would need a prequalified letter of credit. The property will go on open listing to local realtors. Any purchase offers must be presented at BOE meeting(s) for decisions.

A promotional flier which describes the Shady Grove property has been developed and will be posted on the district's web site, included in a Chamber of Commerce packet, and available at all school sites.

<p>Disposition of school district property is governed by Statute #72-8212: <i>The board of education shall have the title to and the care and keeping of all school buildings and other school property belonging to the district. School buildings and other school properties no longer needed by the school</i></p>

district may be disposed of by the board upon the affirmative recorded vote of not less than a majority of the members of the board at a regular meeting. The board may dispose of the property in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as the board deems to be in the best interest of the school district. Conveyances of school buildings and other school properties shall be executed by the president of the board and attested by the clerk.

Approval of Site Council Members: The BOE approved the 2011-2012 Site Council members listed below. They did, however, ask that, at some sites, principals seek persons in community and business positions as additional site council members. Names of those persons will be subsequently presented to the BOE for approval.

Eisenhower Elementary School

Parents: Rena Mayhan; Maria Martinez; Stacy Tatkenhorst; Darla Abbott; Travis and Melinda Kurth.
Community Reps / Parents: Mark Hestand
Community Rep / Staff: Laurie Harwood
Staff / Parents: Linda Basye; Stephanie Muth.
Staff: Vicki McCulley
Principal: Tricia Reiser

Jefferson Elementary School

Parents: Mike Dunekack; Wendy Popp; Crystal Boxberger.
Business Reps: Shane Spurlock; Kristi Sciacca; Stephanie Boone.
Community Reps: Sandy McMullen; Matt Penka; Ryan Streck.
Teachers: Becky Demel; Nancy Craig; Melanie Moeder; Leann Miller; Angie Webb.
Noncertified Rep: Theresa LeRoy
Principal: Art Baker

Lincoln Elementary School

Parents: Chad Barton; Kim Wheeler
Community Rep: Kelly Johnson
Staff: Jenni Miller; Colleen Newman; Janet Schremmer.
Principal: Laura Blevins

Park Elementary School

Parents: Charlotte Hall; Lisa Mohr; Leticia Rodriguez.
Community Members: Michele Connor; Chassity or Kyle Roberts.
Business Member: Rodrigo Razo
School Personnel: Alana Blessing
D.I. Coordinator: Ginger Herrman
Principal: Phil Heeke

Riley Elementary School

Parents: Angelica Garcia; Claudia Garcia Zola Weber.
Staff: Trish Berger; Michelle Daniel; Jenna Dreiling; Jared Grillot; Mira Hammond; Amy Karst; Tandi Mai; Rachel McCaulley; Shawna Noller; Lisa Starr; Tony Velasco; Aimee Wutka.
Principal: JoAnn Blevins

GB Middle School

Community: Krystall Barnes (BCC); Julie Kramp (BCC); Andrew Murphy (Innovative Livestock Services); Renee Richmeier.
Parents: Alicia Keenan; Maria Sanchez.
Booster Club / Parents: Jennifer Morgan; Jennifer Vratil.
Staff: Ken Harton; Judy Johnson; Terri Sinclair.
Principal: David Reiser
Assistant Principal: Kathy Hafner

GB High School

Community (BCC): Elaine Simmons
Community / Parent: Matt Penka

<u>Parents:</u>	Anna Gallagher; Matt Hoisington
<u>Teacher:</u>	Kim Heath
<u>Migrant Liaison / Parent:</u>	Gui Burley
<u>Other School Personnel:</u>	Stacey Adams (secretary)
<u>Assistant Principal:</u>	John Popp
<u>Principal:</u>	Tim Friess

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- 2011-2012 District Curriculum Committees. Teachers have been selected to serve on the District Curriculum Steering Committee and the District Content Area committees. Approximately one-third of the curriculum Steering Committee members are new each year. Vacancies in the Content Area Committees have been filled to represent departments, grade levels, and buildings. Especially busy this year will be the English 7-12 Curriculum Committee whose members will continue their text-adoption focus and also the Math 1-6 Curriculum Committee as those members begin an adoption study.
- Mentor Program. There will be no 2011-2012 KSDE grant funding to compensate the district's mentors. Payment will be fulfilled by the district according to the negotiated agreement. Currently USD 428 has seventeen mentors for first-year teachers, six for second-year teachers, and four for transitional-licensed teachers. There is ongoing discussion with GB-NEA regarding payment options.
- ACT. The ACT, which consists of curriculum-based tests of educational development in English, math, reading, and science, is designed to measure skills needed for success in first-year college coursework. Summarized ACT data for USD 428 was presented. A district goal is to help students acquire high test scores, to increase the number of students taking the ACT test, and to encourage students to repeat ACT testing and perhaps increase scores each time. GBHS Principal Tim Friess told board members he has discussed these goals with the staff. Teachers are going to begin addressing ACT in their classrooms, stressing its personal importance to students; and ACT objectives will be included in lesson presentations. Likewise, guidance counselors will encourage the students. Later this month Tim Friess and Ruth Heinrichs will attend a conference relating to ACT.
- Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided for the following meetings: Curriculum Steering Committee: 9/6/11 and Professional Development Council (PDC): 8/11/11.

Business / Operations Report:

- Paperless BOE Meeting. As initiation toward paperless meetings, the 9/12/11 meeting was facilitated through both paper documentation and iPads. A suggestion was made to project the iPad screen onto the wall for the benefit of media and other meeting guests. Implementation of a software entitled *Good Reader* would allow the BOE and administration to write notes on or highlight the drop box items. Pages scanned in color would provide clarity and interest.
- District Projects. Mr. Brungardt reported on current and future projects.
 - ✓ Roofing. Park and GBMS are sites for major roofing work in 2011-2012. The architect is developing a tentative schedule. This includes plan development this fall, bidding in December, bid approvals in January, and roofing May through August.
 - ✓ Carpet. The architect is developing a carpet replacement schedule for BOE consideration. Initial carpet replacement will take place at GB Middle School and Jefferson Elementary School.
 - ✓ HVAC at the DEC. HVAC plans for the DEC are in process. Potentially there will be duct realignment and dual units installation, providing both comfort and reduced utility costs.

- ✓ Other. A board member inquired if there are plans for paint and graphics on the newly installed press box.
- KASB School Finance Seminar. KASB is facilitating a seminar (9/29/11 in Topeka) at which board members and administrators may learn about school finance, budgets, fund balances, revenues, expenditures, and more. Those planning to attend are Cheryl Rukan, Dan Brungardt, and Tom Vernon.
- Bond Refinancing. Mr. Brungardt recently met with Dave Arteberry of George K. Baum & Company. In the coming months the district's Series 2002-A Bonds will be eligible for refinancing, according to the tentative schedule noted below. Interest rates are unknown at this time, but potential savings could be up to \$60,000 per year *total*, with an estimated \$40,000 per year for the *district*.
 - 3/2012 BOE Meeting: Formally introduce the bond refinancing plan to the BOE.
 - Bond legal and offering documents prepared.
 - 4/2012 BOE Meeting: BOE adopts resolution authorizing sale of new bonds.
 - Bond rating received from Moody's.
 - Bonds sold.
 - 5/2012 BOE Meeting: Sale results presented to the BOE, and final bond resolution adopted.
 - Bond issue closes in early 6/2012.

Superintendent's Report:

- Approval of Contributions. The BOE approved the following contributions.
 - ✓ Great Bend's Elks Lodge 1127 recently conducted a project to assist the elementary school art department of USD 248. Through that effort, art supplies in the amount of \$600 were recently distributed to all elementary schools for use in art instruction.
 - ✓ Dr. Patrick Stang donated to GB High School a set of 24 history-based DVDs entitled *Ancient Civilizations* (value \$150). GBHS Librarian Emily Mulch and Social Studies Department Chairperson Dan Eyestone recommended acceptance of this instructional set, for after reviewing the items they assured that the DVDs will be utilized in social studies settings.
 - ✓ Gary Pinkall and Mike Perry requested approval to accept for their GBMS science students a \$500 TGIF grant from Credit Union of America. The money will be spent for materials for their new after-school science club, "Young Kilby's Science Club". Purchases will include lumber for nest boxes and bird feeders as well as an aquarium, nets, and seines. The classroom aquarium will be started by collecting fish and other organisms from Cheyenne Bottoms, thereby bringing Cheyenne Bottoms to the classroom.
 - ✓ Mark and Krista Ball donated \$2,500 to GBHS Athletics and Activities to pay for student meals.
- GBHS Drop-Out Report. Dr. Vernon provided GBHS dropout data for 2007-08 through 2010-11, noting a dropout decrease in 2010-2011. The reasons for students to drop out are not always clear. Students are given much support and many options prior to their decision to drop out. Counselors, teachers, principals, and support personnel encourage graduation and success.
- Enrollment Report. A tentative analysis of the 2011-2012 student headcount indicates a slight increase in student head count over the prior year. Official details will not be known until the state audit of enrollment.

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

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

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: August 8, 2011.
- Bills and Financial Reports: Approved as presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report: None.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Board members were reminded of upcoming meetings.

- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at Eisenhower Elementary School.
- **KASB School Finance Seminar:** 8:30 a.m., until 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 29, 2011, at KASB in Topeka.
- **Fall Education Summit:** (KASB / USA Kansas / KSDE / KBOR) on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at Dodge City.
- **Education Foundation Dinner:** at 6:30 p.m., on November 22, 2011 at the Highland Hotel and Convention Center
- **Annual KASB Convention:** on December 2-4, 2011, at Overland Park.

Adjournment: The Board of Education meeting was adjourned.

