

# USD 377

# Board News



## *Measuring Success One Student at a Time!*

### **Board Highlights**

#### ***Monday, January 9, 2012***

The USD 377 Board of Education met in regular session Monday evening at the Central Office, 306 Main Street, Effingham, KS. Jeff Martin, Board President presided over the meeting that began promptly at 6:30 PM.

Other board members in attendance: Cindy Ladd – VP, Mike Lee, Brian Jolly, Steve Meeks and Pat Kearney. Absent was Kurt Dieckmann.

Also in attendance: Ruth Dillon – Board Clerk, Steve Wiseman – Superintendent, Mrs. Scherer – JSH Principal, Lisa Brookover – ES Principal, Katie Blair – Globe Reporter, Steve Caplinger, Alison Ostertag and Elementary PTO officers: Amelia Cluck and Courtney Caplinger.

The following highlights and briefs are from last Monday night's meeting.

### **Presentations**

The Board recognized the Elementary PTO for their continued support of the elementary school and for the new sign located on the southwest corner of the elementary front lawn.

As part of KASB Board Recognition month, Mr. Wiseman presented certificates of appreciation to each board member. The Food Service Department honored the board by providing special refreshments.

Board member Lee asked about district newsletters and other publications. Mr. Wiseman explained that currently a paper copy of the district newsletter only goes out to USD 377 patrons who have requested a copy be delivered by mail.

**Board Reports** – Mrs. Ladd informed the board that Infinetec recognized a special student with Cerebral Palsy as an outstanding technology user. Keystone is currently serving 748 students. Ladd also discussed the Legislative meeting she attended at Sabetha recently.

### **Leadership Reports**

Mrs. Scherer:

- Reported on events at the JSH including the upcoming teacher inservice on January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Senator Jerry Moran will be visiting the Junior-Senior High on the morning of Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- A Highland CC representative will be talking to parents about preparing for college on the evening of January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The JSH will also be hosting the County Spelling Bee on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Brookover:

- Working with Keystone on professional Development for staff and the framework for common core standards.
- A group of teachers will go to Blue Springs, Mo., district on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> to view the Pathways for Reading program.

Mr. Wiseman:

- There is a KSHSAA board of directors position opening if any board member has an interest in running for the one open position.
- A meeting is scheduled with several Big 7 and northern DVL schools on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Little League Wrestling Club wants to use 7 school laptops and three printers for their tournament on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

**Goal 3, Community Schools** – Suggestions: work on reaching out and making stronger connections with the parents and patrons of the district. Some ideas included placing copies of newsletters in public places, sending out a request sheet for people to sign up for a hard copy of the newsletter, making sure the web site is updated.

**The Board declined an offer to purchase the old Central Office** for \$30,000 that was received from Dallas and Chelsie Todd and decided to pull the building off the market for the time being.

## **The board reviewed Section F of the Board Policy Manual – Facility Expansion Program**

**College Hours Reimbursement for Jenna Taliaferro and Charles Watkins** – Mr. Wiseman presented advanced studies reimbursement agreements for college hours obtained by Charles Watkins and Jenna Taliaferro to complete their Masters' Programs in Counseling. The agreement is for reimbursement of the college hours on the condition they complete their advanced studies program and work a minimum of three years for the district after obtaining certification. Cost to complete the program is estimated at \$18,000 each.

### **Personnel Recommendations Approved:**

- Accepted the resignations of Danny Davis, custodian, effective 12-23-2011 and Cherri Preut, 3rd grade teacher, effective the end of the current school term;
- Terminated Richard Fox, custodian,
- Contracts: Lilly Davis, 12 month custodian at \$9 per hour for a 40 hour week, Chad Cave, 12 month custodial contract at \$9 per hour for 45 hour week; Barb Jacobson, regular route bus driver at level 3, and approved all substitute teacher applications.

**Mold in Preschool** - Mr. Wiseman updated the board about the mold in the pre-school building and how it has spread from the ceiling area to the plywood roof sheathing which lies under the shingles. Until the mold issue has been resolved, preschool will be held at the Central Office building located on Main Street.

Mr. Wiseman was instructed by the board to get a cost estimate on what it would take to fix the problem and to solicit input from the site council and elementary staff before bringing a final recommendation to the board.

### **In other board action:**

- Approved six non-resident applications.
- Approved gift of \$145.50 collected from a group of senior citizens attending the Senior Citizens Annual Christmas dinner.

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### **Legislative Update (Source: KASB)**

The second week of the 2012 Session began today following Monday's Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The focus continues to be Governor Sam Brownback's tax policy proposals. The Governor's proposal would (1) eliminate most income tax credits and deductions, (2) lower the individual income tax rates, (3) extend the 0.6 percent state sales tax scheduled to expire June 30, 2013, and (4) cap state spending increases at 2 percent with

revenue above that level going to further reduce individual income tax rates until that tax is eliminated.

The plan has major implications for school finance. State funding for K-12 education has averaged significantly more than 2 percent for at least 40 years. The plan would either mean very constrained school budgets or shift more funding to local property tax revenue.

### **Immunizations exemption proposed**

The [House Health and Human Services Committee](#) will hold a hearing Wednesday in Docking Room 784 on [HB 2094](#), which would allow parents or guardians to exempt children from vaccinations before entering school or day care facilities for reasons of personal belief. State law already provides exceptions for medical and religious reasons.

### **Education hearings this week**

The [House](#) and [Senate](#) Education committees will receive their annual visit from the Kansas Teacher of the Year team today. The committees will hold their first hearings on bills later this week.

**House Education:** Hearing Wednesday morning on [HB 2430](#), which would extend the maximum contingency fund amount at 10 percent for three additional years. Without legislative action, the maximum will revert to 6 percent on July 1. KASB will testify as a proponent. On Thursday, KASB Associate Executive Director Mark Tallman will appear on a panel to address "Progress in Education." Presentations on public school reform efforts will also be given. These meetings are scheduled for 9 a.m. in Docking Room 784.

**Senate Education:** Hearings Thursday on [SB 257](#), which allows school districts to maintain a local option budget based on their special education state aid in 2008-09, and [SB 260](#), which repeals a pending state law that would set maximum and minimum levels of special education aid. This change to the special education aid formula was passed several years ago, but has never taken effect. This meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in Room 159-S.

### **New bills on bullying, seclusion and restraint**

The two bills listed below have significant implications for school districts and were introduced Friday. Neither has been scheduled for hearings, but likely will be. School leaders are strongly encouraged to review these bills and share your perspectives with KASB and other organizations, as well as the committee and your legislators.

[SB 278](#) – concerns school district bullying policies. This was introduced at the request of the Kansas State Board of Education member Walt Chappell, R-Wichita, and assigned to the [Senate Education Committee](#). This bill would significantly increase reporting and intervention requirements for school districts.

[HB 2444](#) – concerns seclusion and restraint of special education students. This was referred to the [House Committee on Children and Families](#). The bill puts into statute a number of restriction, prohibitions and requirements dealing with restraint or seclusion of students with disabilities.