

# **USD 311 BOARD BRIEFS**

Notes from the February 11, March 17, and April 14, 2008 meetings of the USD 311 Board of Education:

- ❖ The Board voted to continue participation in the Kansas Joint Utility Management Program (KJUMP), a natural gas purchasing cooperative sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Boards. Since joining KJUMP in November 2005, USD 311 has saved approximately \$14,000 on natural gas.
- ❖ The Board voted to improve the district's computer network by creating a VLAN for the high school and middle school, and by adding an additional T1 line for internet access. The upgrade was accomplished over Spring Break and has significantly improved the speed of the internet, which is used on a daily basis in classrooms and administrative offices.
- ❖ The Board accepted a bid from T & M Stage Supply to replace the back and side curtains on the grade school stage. The curtain will be installed before the Grade School Spring Music Concert on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ The Board approved the purchase of a new 2008 59-passenger Blue Bird bus from Kansas Truck Equipment of Wichita. The bus has been delivered and is already on a bus route. One of USD 311's older buses will be sold by sealed bid after school is out in May.
- ❖ The Board approved the final agreement with Independent Spectrum Harvests LLC to sell the 2.5 spectrum licensed to USD 311.
- ❖ The Board extended the contracts of administrators Brad Wade and Randy Hendrickson through the end of the 2009-2010 year.
- ❖ The following supplemental contracts for the 2007-2008 school year were approved: Dana Smith, assistant HS track coach; Steven Stucky, head MS track coach; and Curt Minner, assistant HS boys golf coach.
- ❖ The Board accepted the following resignations (effective at the end of the 2007-2008 school year): Steve Sell, High School art teacher athletic director, assistant track coach, and assistant cross country coach; and Bob Brace, custodian.
- ❖ Superintendent Brad Wade informed the Board about the following grant applications in progress or under consideration:
  - a. The Carol White Physical Education Program grant would provide funding for additional fitness and physical education equipment for the District.
  - b. The Wind for Schools grant would fund a small wind turbine to be used for educational purposes.

- c. Picturing America, in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association, would provide high-quality reproductions of American art and artifacts, along with educational materials and lesson plans for use by teachers.
  - d. The Small and Rural Schools grant provides funding that USD 311 normally uses to operate the After-School program.
  - e. The ITV Equipment grant would provide funding to replace the aging equipment in the ITV room.
  - f. The Pre-K classroom grant would fund the third year of the Pre-Kindergarten program at Pretty Prairie Elementary School.
- ❖ The Board approved early dismissal of classes (1:15 p.m.): on May 9, 2008 to allow the District technology committee to conduct technology in-service training for all USD 311 staff; and on May 16, 2008, to allow USD 311 employees to help with the 2A Regional Track Meet at Pretty Prairie that day. Sixteen schools are expected to participate in the 2A Regional Track Meet. Field events start at 3:00 p.m., prelims at 4:00 p.m., and finals at 6:30 p.m.
  - ❖ The Board approved the purchase of new Social Studies textbooks and resource materials for 2008-2009 for Grades 3-8 and for High School World History and Government. Prior to approval, the textbooks and resource materials were reviewed by the USD 311 teaching staff, were on display at the Pretty Prairie Public Library, and were reviewed and recommended by the Curriculum Council and Site Councils.
  - ❖ Mrs. Jeanie Dougan, chair of the District Wellness Committee, informed the Board that the annual health fair will be held in the fall of 2008 (instead of the spring), to coincide with the visit of a traveling educational exhibit (*Body Venture*) sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education. *Body Venture* will be in Reno County in mid-November, and USD 311 has applied to be one of the sites where it will be displayed.
  - ❖ High School Principal Randy Hendrickson informed the Board about the Scholarship Golf Tournament scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008, at The Links in Pretty Prairie, to raise money for the Community Scholarship Fund.
  - ❖ High School Commencement will be Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Eighth Grade Promotion ceremonies will be Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.
  - ❖ The May Board of Education meeting will be May 12th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Middle School Teachers Workroom. The public is welcome to attend. Patrons wishing to speak to the Board should notify the superintendent seven days prior to the Board meeting.