

USD 208

Trego County Schools



January Issue

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USD 208
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Board Of Education Members

Mrs. Linda Crossland
Mrs. Renae Denning, Pres.
Mrs. Deb Locke
Mr. Doug Malay
Mr. Doug Minson
Mr. John Reeder
Mrs. Tammy Riedel

A Small Window of Opportunity

Mr. Mark Bejot, Superintendent of Schools

Congress and the U.S. Department of Education are attempting to save education jobs at the building level by providing Kansans 92.3 million dollars in funding through the Education Jobs Bill. The goal of these funds is to save Kansas's teaching jobs by adding funds to state and local budgets. The question will be how the Kansas Legislature elects to use their portion of the state education dollars. Governor-elect Sam Brownback has a critical decision whether to use a majority of the funds to supplant state dollars ear-marked for education or use state funds in addition to federal education jobs funds to support Kansas education.

According to U. S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan's remarks at the American Enterprise Institute, "last year's stimulus funding saved the jobs of more than 325,000 educators and this year's education jobs bill is saving tens of thousands more." Governor-elect Brownback has the option of redirecting state education appropriations to other areas of budgetary needs by supplanting up to 85.9 million dollars of the Education Jobs Bill towards other state budgetary needs. Deputy Commissioner of Education Dale Dennis reports the state is 50.1 million dollars short of meeting the state adopted budget for this year.

Kansas will also lose an additional 16.7 million dollars in special education funding from the federal government due to last year's state budget cuts that resulted in a failure to meet the "maintenance of effort" requirements under the Individual Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Failure to fund this area will either cause a reduction in special education services across the state or result in local districts paying the difference. Should Governor-elect Brownback choose to backfill our current budget and spend state funds in other areas, the current student base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) will reduce another \$66 to \$3,946, which is at the 1998-99 level.

A small window of opportunity exists for patrons, staff, and parents to affect this situation. I am asking you to take a moment during this holiday season and email Governor-elect Brownback, Representative Don Hineman, Representative Eber Phelps (Education Committee), and Senator Ralph Ostmeyer to ask them not to cut Kansas state aid to education by backfilling the state education budget with Federal Education Jobs Funds.

Please email your comments to these officials prior to them convening the legislature while they are building the budget. Governor-elect Brownback's email address is transition.team@ks.gov. 118th House Representative Don Hineman's email address is dhineman@st-tel.net, and 40th District Senator Ralph Ostmeyer's email address is Ralph.Ostmeyer@senate.ks.gov. I have also included Eber Phelps, 114th House Representative, since he is on the House Education Committee. His email address is eber.phelps@house.ks.gov.

Help all Kansas schools by encouraging our legislators to use the Federal funds as intended - to keep Kansas educators teaching our future workforce. Backfilling the state budget with education jobs monies, which leaves a larger state education deficit, will hurt learning opportunities for our children. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated, "The alternative to simply end up doing less with less - that is fundamentally unacceptable."

Bullying: It's Not OK!

Mandie Kinderknecht, RN



*"Play for more than you can afford to lose and you will learn the game."
--Winston Churchill*

Bullying is when a person or group repeatedly tries to harm someone who is weaker or whom he or she thinks is weaker. Both boys and girls can be bullies and will target children who cry, get mad, or easily give in to them. There are 3 types of bullying: physical - hitting, kicking, pushing, choking, punching; verbal - threatening, taunting, teasing; social - excluding victims from activities or starting rumors about them.

Bullying happens at school - in the halls, at lunch, or in the bathroom, when teachers are not there to see what is going on; when adults are not watching - going to and from school, on the playground, or in your neighborhood; through email or texting - rumors are spread or nasty notes are sent. Bullying is different from fighting or teasing. A bully has power over another child and will try to control their victims by scaring them. Bullying usually happens when other children are watching.

Talk with your child about bullying. Even if you don't think your child is bullied, a bully, or a bystander, you will be helping to protect your child just by asking these questions: "How are things going at school?" "What do you think of the other kids in your class?" "Does anyone get picked on or bullied?"

You can help your child learn how to respond to bullying by teaching him/her how to look the bully in the eye and stand tall and stay calm during a difficult situation. Tell them it's okay to walk away. Teach them to say in a firm voice, "I don't like what you're doing" and "please don't talk to me like that." Your child should not be afraid to ask an adult

for help when bullying happens. Since some children are embarrassed about being bullied, parents need to let their children know that being bullied is not their fault.

However, just telling your child to do and say these things is not enough. For many children, these skills don't come naturally. It's like learning a new language; a lot of practice is needed. Practice with your child so that, in the heat of the moment, these skills will come to your child naturally.

If you know that your child is bullying others, take it very seriously. Now is the time when you can change your child's behavior. In the long run, bullies continue to have problems that only get worse. If the bullying behavior is allowed to continue, then when these children become adults, they are much less successful in their work and family lives and may even get in trouble with the law.

Set firm and consistent limits on your child's aggressive behavior. Be sure your child knows that bullying is NEVER okay. Be a positive role model and help your child develop new and constructive strategies for getting what they want. Show them that treating others with respect will get them farther than teasing, threatening, or hurting someone.

As difficult and frustrating as it can be to help kids stop bullying, remember that bad behavior won't just stop on its own. Think about the success and happiness you want your kids to find in school, work, and relationships throughout life, and know that curbing bullying now is progress toward those goals.

New Years' Word Search

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| BALL | HOLIDAY |
| CALENDAR | JANUARY |
| CELEBRATE | KISSES |
| CLOCK | MIDNIGHT |
| COUNTDOWN | NEW |
| CRYSTAL | PARTY |
| FIREWORKS | RESOLUTIONS |
| FIRST | YEAR |
| HAPPY | YEARS |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | X | D | J | E | V | T | R | Y | F | M | G | L | Y | O | Z | C | W | C | K |
| A | U | V | I | L | N | O | F | A | V | I | L | I | H | P | E | R | L | O | C |
| U | T | S | R | I | F | Y | K | D | D | A | R | K | W | L | P | A | X | U | O |
| J | A | N | U | A | R | Y | M | I | B | N | F | E | E | I | T | A | P | N | L |
| T | H | G | I | N | D | I | M | L | S | D | E | B | W | S | I | A | H | T | C |
| R | E | S | O | L | U | T | I | O | N | S | R | L | Y | O | R | N | F | D | Y |
| Y | E | A | R | G | A | J | A | H | X | A | E | R | A | T | R | V | Y | O | E |
| N | T | R | B | Y | V | K | D | B | T | T | C | S | Y | C | A | K | L | W | A |
| U | E | S | G | Y | H | N | U | E | K | X | Z | U | M | L | C | L | S | N | R |
| U | C | W | Y | W | A | I | P | D | U | H | F | Z | G | E | T | B | J | D | S |

Board Highlights

Regular Meeting – December 13, 2010

Guests:

Tavis Desormiers, John Luhrs, Lance Ziegler, Tom Bayuk

Administrative Report – Tavis Desormiers, TGS Principal:

- MAP test results were reviewed at the December inservice.
- Results are back on the ACT Explorer test given to all 8th graders.
- Caring & Sharing Drive was a success again this year.
- New schedule for the Christmas program seemed to work well.

Administrative Report – John Luhrs, TCHS Principal:

- Purple & Gold Tournament went well. The high school activities fund received 30% of the net proceeds.
- TCHS music concert is tonight.
- MAP testing tracking results were shared.
- A book selection committee of students was formed for library books at the high school.
- St. Francis has invited Trego to join the Northwest Kansas League.

Superintendent's Report – Mark Bejot:

- Gym floor has been touched up.
- Presented information gathered from other districts on transportation facilities.

Governmental Relations Report – John Reeder:

- Lots of speculation at the KASB Convention on what will happen with school finance when the legislature gets started.
- Very few changes were made in the bylaws.
- Bullying in schools is still a huge topic for schools.

Action Items:

- Accepted the donation of \$855.20 from the Knights of Columbus to be used in the high school interrelated classrooms.
- Accepted the donation from Lorraine Walsh to be used to help needy children at TGS with supplies or trips.
- Accepted the donation of \$250 from the Anna Bergquist Memorial for the TCHS Cheerleaders Activity Fund.
- Approved to keep the current existing policy GACC on Recruitment and Hiring.
- Approved USD 208 entering into a cooperative boys golf agreement with Western Plains High School for the 2010-11 school year.
- Approved replacing the tile in the TCHS art room at an estimated cost of \$2,100.
- Approved the bilingual teacher aide job description. Approved that the starting salary for the bilingual teach aide start at \$8.00 per hour.
- Accepted the bid from Precision Data Products to replace computers in the TJHS computer lab at a cost of \$16,975.
- Accepted the Semi-Annual Budget Report for 2010-11.
- Appointed Sara Dunn and Joe Wolf to the Technology Committee for 2010-11.
- Accepted the district technology plan.
- Accepted to enter into a contract with Dr. Kent Stewart to conduct a district strategic plan at an approximate cost of \$2,750.
- Approved the resignation of Josh Eberle, head custodian.
- Approved the nominations of Mark Pfannenstiel, TCHS Head Boys Golf 2010-11; Daryl Kesler, TCHS Assistant Boys Golf 2010-11; Aprilynn Rush, TCHS Library Aide.

Non-Action Items:

- Tabled the TCHS water softener replacement item until next month for more information.
- An updated five-year capital outlay plan was presented.
- The 2009-10 Superintendent's Annual Report was presented.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for January 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office.



Trego Schools Need Your Help Turning Trash Into Cash \$\$

We are asking for your help in earning free money for our Trego Eagle Schools, teachers, and students. Take a few seconds to look at empty food boxes, empty soup cans, etc. Many of these items have labels on them that we can redeem for cash. **All community members** can save the following items:



- **Boxtops:** found on many boxed items like cereals, cake mixes, pasta, Kleenex, plastic storage bags, and on many other food items like Pillsbury crescent rolls, Go-Gurts, etc.
- **Labels for Education:** found on Campbell's soups, Swanson broths, Spaghetti-Os, Goldfish crackers, Post cereals, Pop Secret popcorn, etc.
- **Pop tabs:** need to be placed in plastic storage bags and dropped in the collection boxes. The pop tabs are sent to the Ronald McDonald House in Wichita and given to Coca-Cola Enterprises who in turn provide financial assistance for families to stay at the Ronald McDonald House at no charge.
- **McDonald's receipts:** (WaKeeney, Russell, and Hays locations only) redeemed for classroom supplies.

All of these items are redeemed for free money. The teachers get to use this "free money" to buy classroom supplies that make learning fun and easier. Items purchased in the past include white boards, classroom projectors, library books, digital cameras, etc.

When you are ready to turn in the collected items, you can bring them to one of the schools, or to the USD 208 office. When you are out running errands or shopping, you will see collection boxes in many of our local businesses to make drop-off easy. Please take a few minutes to turn your trash into cash for our Trego Eagle Schools.

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