

U.S.D. #354
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The U.S.D.#354 Board of Education met on November 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the district office. Board members present were Doug Hubbard, Bert Besthorn, Cherlyn Maier, Lee Bieberle, and Jim Vance.

The agenda for the November 2, 2009, meeting was approved. The minutes from the October meeting were approved along with the invoices, and the treasurer's report.

Under old business the board approved the girls' softball cooperative agreement contract between USD 431 Hoisington and USD 354 Claflin for 2010.

Under new business the board was addressed by Claflin patron Myra Prosser regarding the possibility of implementing a baseball cooperative agreement between USD 431 and USD 354 for spring 2010. After discussing, the board directed Claflin High School Principal Toby Holmes and Superintendent Jane Oeser to meet with USD 431 administrators and coaches regarding a baseball cooperative. Claflin Jr/Sr High School Principal Toby Holmes then reviewed with the board the 2008-2009 Kansas Assessment, Terra Nova, and ACT results. The board approved the following: Nicholl Weigel as an additional high school assistant girls' basketball coach for the 2009-2010 season at no additional cost to the district; implementing and developing a new policy on releasing information to the media; and participating in the Schools for Fair Funding, Inc. with the fee being paid by private sources.

Board members discussed the following: KASB Fall Regional Meeting update and viewed a powerpoint presentation developed by KASB regarding school funding and the state of Kansas cash budget crisis; 2010-2011 planning for the district and a possible joint meeting in the near future with USD 328 and USD 354 regarding current programs and future programs with both districts; American Education Week to be recognized on Wednesday, November 18 with a continental breakfast for the staff beginning at 7:45 AM at the elementary and jr/sr high school; upcoming KASB convention to be held in Overland Park December 4-6, 2009; holiday open house for USD 354 staff on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 beginning at 3:30 PM at the district office; upcoming legislative luncheon to be hosted by the Smoky Hill Education Service Center on December 11, 2009 beginning at 11:30 AM in Salina; review of 2009-2010 USD 354 Board of Education Goals; and an update from the USD 354 Education Foundation's recent meeting. Superintendent Jane Oeser presented a Governor's Achievement Award plaque from the Kansas State Department of Education to Claflin Jr/Sr High School Principal Toby Holmes. This award honors Claflin High School for being in the top 5% of Kansas Schools in both reading and mathematics on the 2009 state assessments. (Statewide only 17 high schools received this award in 2009.)

Principal Toby Holmes reported on the following: 1st 9 weeks have been completed; both the elementary and high school secretaries are reporting illnesses daily to the Barton County Health Department; Mrs. Jane Hoff's advanced computer applications class created and distributed Red Ribbon Week information recognizing drug awareness October 25-31; PowerSchool is still experiencing technical difficulties; parent/teacher conferences at the jr/sr high school only had 28.5% participation; junior high basketball practice has begun with 15 girls and 15 boys participating; high school basketball practice will start November 16th; and Mrs. Rita Stephens will have 15 students participate in the Fort Hays State University Math Relays to be held on November 12.

Superintendent Jane Oeser reported on the following: architect has reviewed the high school science lab and recommended minor updates; area superintendents' meeting update; will be applying for a grant through the Golden Belt Community Foundation for help in purchasing the William Allen White books for the library; will be speaking at the upcoming Claflin Lions Club meeting to be held on November 23rd about the school

finance and state budget crisis; parent/teacher conferences had 93% participation at the elementary school; and the elementary school will be hosting an open house on Tuesday, November 10th from 7:00 -8:00 PM for grades Preschool- 6th grade.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 8:30 p.m. in the district office due to the Clafin Elementary School Winter Music Program.