



2010-2011 Budget Process Begins

Committee Looks for Savings, Reductions

In the midst of one of the most challenging state budget environments in memory, the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools has begun the budgeting process for the next school year (2010/2011). **Dr. Jill Shackelford**, superintendent, has vowed that the process will be open and inclusive.

“It is very important to me that we develop this budget in as transparent a fashion as possible,” Shackelford said. “With such limited resources available from the state, we need to gather as much wisdom from district staff as possible, so that this budget makes the best use of every dollar we have.”

The budget development process will take place at several different levels. The Board of Education has already begun to meet, in order to learn about potential funding scenarios for the coming year, and to begin to consider potential areas for

reductions, if additional budget cuts from the state materialize.

In a new process this year, **Dr. Cynthia Lane**, assistant superintendent for instruction and business, has gathered a committee of school and department leaders, and asked them to look through the budget line by line, in order to find any potential areas for savings or reductions. That group has already met three times, with additional hours spent in between meetings, examining the massive budget document.

Committee members have found that process to be extremely challenging.

“It’s like asking yourself the question: ‘Do you want to cut off your right arm, or your left,’” said **Jean Ney**, coordinator of fine arts and physical education.

At the same time, committee members recognize the importance of the task set before them.

“We know what our goals are,” said **Jayson Strickland**, executive director of teaching for learning. “We know what’s important to us. The process that we take from now on will be all about assessing the impact on student achievement. We are unwavering on this, and the group is one hundred percent behind it.”

Committee members were also clear about the importance of getting district voices heard on legislative issues. “We’re at the point where what Topeka is doing has to be taken seriously,” said **Marcy Clay**, instructional
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Budget Updates Posted Online

Keep up with the latest news about the budget and legislative issues on the district’s website, at <http://www.kckps.org/communications/budget.php>.

Action Taken to Revoke Holman Charter

The KCK Board of Education has taken the first steps to revoke the charter petition of the Maurice Holman Academy of Excellence Charter School. The action took place at the Board meeting on February 9.

The action was taken because the Charter Advisory Board has not complied with fiscal accountability procedures as specified in the charter. In the application, the board was required to raise \$250,000 each year, but raised only \$70,000 total during a two-year period.

The Board will hold a hearing, in no less than 30 days, at which time a spokesman for the charter school may present information to refute the Board action.

There are no plans to close the school at this time.

Holman Academy opened to students August 2008 at the site of the former Parker Elementary School at 33rd and Haskell.

In other action, the Board:

- Recognized Students of the Month for February: Jordan Whytus, Stony Point South Elementary School; Mistica Lopez, Rosedale Middle School; and Justin Strickland, Sumner Academy of Arts and Science.

- Accepted an informational item on the Schlitterbahn Spring Reading Project. The Schlitterbahn Waterpark business team contacted Communities in Schools of KCK/ Wyandotte County last fall with the idea for the program. The school librarians developed a reading project using Schlitterbahn Waterpark tickets as reading incentives. Students in all KCKPS schools will have the opportunity to participate and win.
- Accepted as a first read, amended graduation requirements. The state of Kansas has amended the minimum graduation requirements needed for issuance of a high school diploma to include a requirement for satisfactory completion of a course in mathematics during the senior year of high school. The proposed course changes will be in effect for students graduating with the class of 2014. The sequence of courses shall include four units of mathematics. In addition, the proposed policy provides for changes in the requirements for science to include one unit of biology, as least one physical science course,

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There's Still Time to Attend a Free Health Screening

Don't forget to register to attend one of the FREE health screening events. The events are an opportunity for employees to "know their numbers" and gather the following information about their health:

- Cholesterol
- HDL
- Blood pressure
- BMI (body mass index)
- Height and weight

Employees will have an opportunity to discuss their numbers with a health care provider to understand how they impact their health. The screenings are available for all district employees.

By attending a health screening and completing the online Health Risk Appraisal, employees will get the \$300 prescription deductible waived, effective July 1, 2010.



Incoming Superintendent Dr. Cindy Lane at one of the Health Screening events.

There are still 7 screening events you can attend. Don't wait! There will also be a drawing for (1) \$100 PriceChopper gift card, and (1) \$100 Gas gift card per event.

Questions? Contact Kate Foster, wellness coordinator, (913) 279-2030 or kafoste@kckps.org.

Screening Dates and Locations

- Eisenhower Middle School, Feb. 11
- Coronado Middle School, Feb. 18
- West Middle School, Feb. 25
- Central Middle School, March 4
- Argentine Middle School, March 9
- Rosedale Middle School, March 11
- Education Center, April 6

To register for screening events, visit www.kckps.org and go to "News & Highlights" and click on Health Screenings. Click on pre-registration located on the left side of the screen. All sites will be listed. Choose your location and follow the directions to register.

Cerner Offers Internships to High School Seniors; Apply Now

High school juniors who are interested in gaining work-based learning in the field of information technology, healthcare and/or business should check out the Cerner Scholars program.

Cerner Scholars is an internship program that places students alongside industry professionals on teams responsible for developing, implementing and supporting Cerner solutions. Cerner is the leading U.S. supplier

of healthcare information technology solutions.

Students apply during their junior year, and fulfill their internship during their senior year. Students selected for the program will spend a half day at their home school and a half day at Cerner.

Cerner Scholars grow in their capabilities in the areas of independent learning, effective communications and leadership.

"It's an opportunity for our

students to experience a career they don't hear about on a daily basis," said **Lori Hewitt**, college and career specialist. "When most people think about healthcare they think of doctors and nurses, not information technology."

Students interested in the program may apply by submitting an application with the required essay questions, a current school transcript and documentation of attendance. Applications are available at

http://www.kckps.org/students/cerner_scholars.pdf. Students must return their applications to their school's college and career coordinator by March 8.

To answer questions about the program to students and their families, Cerner is hosting an "Information Night" at their headquarters, 2800 Rockcreek Pkwy, Kansas City, Mo., at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Board Action

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and one additional course from a series of rigorous course offerings.

- Accepted as an informational item, a draft of the request for proposal for a Compensation and Benefits Study for all district employee classifications. This would include an examination and, if necessary, a revision of the current job descriptions maintained by the district, and information gathering from comparable or designated school districts to obtain data on salary schedules.

Budget

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executive director.

The following district staff are part of the committee: **Melissa Allen, Jim Antos, Connie Brand, Shelly Beech, Marcy Clay, Bruce Haber, Cindy Lane, Kelli Mather, Linnie McCluney, Jean Ney, Freda Ogburn, Tom Petz, Jewell Ragsdale, Neadia Riley, David A. Smith, Jayson Strickland, Mary Stewart, Eva Tucker Nevels, Mary Ventura, Mary Viveros, Mary Welsh, and Kristen Woodbury.**



STAFF NOTEBOOK

is a weekly publication for employees of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools.

Submissions are welcome and are due by noon on Monday for the following edition. Direct them to:

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