

March 1, 2005

## **Spring is busy time for recruitment**

Last night the board of education received an update on the search for a new assistant superintendent/business manager to fill the vacancy created when Dr. Ron Ballard was appointed as superintendent of schools beginning July 1. He will succeed Dr. Perry L. Perkins, who announced his retirement in November, effective June 30.

Last week all materials were prepared and employment centers were contacted regarding the vacancy. About 65 brochures announcing the vacancy were mailed to various school districts and attendance centers. The vacancy is listed on United School Administrators, Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas State Department of Education and similar administrative employment listings across the state.

The deadline for application is March 11, and a candidate should be selected March 21 or 22.

Dr. Ballard said the right candidate would be achievement oriented. Board member Daren Reese said the brochure was impressive and looks very nice.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Jan Voss reported on the third annual Teacher Recruitment Fair, which is Thursday, March 3, at Arkansas City High School. Teacher recruitment creates a pool of candidates from which to make a “best match” selection for a position, she said. Supporting a best match addresses the district’s Strategic Plan in several areas.

To date, 35 people have signed up for screening interviews. About 40 candidates interviewed at last year’s fair. All administrators will be interviewing candidates during the four-hour event. Last year a total of 142 candidates were interviewed over several months for 37 positions. Dr. Voss said administrators met yesterday afternoon to discuss recruitment and ways to make a positive impression about the district for candidates.

Dr. Voss said the new recruitment materials including a folder with inserts containing information about the district and the new tabletop displays are “very impressive, professional and eye-catching.” She said the materials send the message that student achievement and professional development are important to the district. Administrators also will be traveling to 10 or 11 colleges and universities to recruit for new teachers.

### **C-4 Elementary students, staff actively working on setting goals for increasing achievement**

C-4 Principal Nancy Haas and staff members discussed the school’s goal setting. She said the staff has been actively working on setting goals for increasing student achievement. Teachers and students have been striving to reach personal, class and school-wide goals.

Student Council students and teachers presented information to the board concerning goal setting, ways to stay on task, achievement, learning styles and Student Council activities. Fifth grade teacher Jennifer Wright said students raised \$300 for Safe Homes and \$300 for Pennies for Patients.

Wright said the students come up with ideas for activities to benefit the school and the community. She said they currently are raising money for a sign outside the school.

## **PALS staff serves students wide variety of students**

PALS staff members serve a wide variety of students who have many types of educational needs, Haas told the board. Staff members discussed the various types of students, including developmentally delayed, emotionally disturbed, speech and language, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, English as a second language, cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities.

Currently 88 students are served in the Preschool and Language Stimulation program at Lincoln and C-4 sites. Students ages 3-5 are screened and recommended for enrollment in the program. Students with various developmental concerns are served within the PALS setting, in addition to the peer model students who have age appropriate skills.

PALS staff commented on how much they enjoy working with the students and seeing them make gains. Board members Dr. Pat Simmons and Reese complimented the staff on their work and said the program is so important for students. Reese said it's important for people to realize how expensive special education programs are and that funding for them is in jeopardy at the state level.

### **In other business the board:**

- Approved the resignations of Beverly Cannon, high school custodian; Sarena Mantz, noon aide at Frances Willard; Susan MacMillan, accompanist at the high school; and Patty Wright, at-risk aide at the middle school.
- Approved the hiring of Holly Higbee, noon aide at Frances Willard; Merla Greer, Title I aide at Jefferson; and Martha Brandenburg, accompanist at the high school.
- Awarded the bid to Galaxie Business Equipment of Winfield for two copiers at Adams and Jefferson Elementary Schools.
- Adopted Chapter G – Personnel of the Board Policy Manual as presented.
- Ratified the contract with Dr. Ron Ballard as superintendent of schools beginning July 1.
- Had an executive session to discuss negotiations and non-elected personnel. The board voted to approve administrative contracts as presented by administration.

The next regular meeting of the board will be March 14, at 7 p.m., at Arkansas City High School. All meetings of the board are open to the public.