

## A message from Superintendent Chris King - *Challenging fiscal times ahead for K-12 education*

December 8, 2009

As I have said several times over the past year, K-12 education in Colorado is entering into very challenging fiscal times. In order to help Boulder Valley School District navigate through these rough waters, I am convening a Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee next month.

The primary purpose of this new advisory committee will be to provide me with input and ideas regarding BVSD's annual operating budget, as well as short and long term budget planning. I will look to the BAC for problem solving strategies for tackling the complex financial issues facing our district.

The committee will hold its first meeting January 6, 2010. Interested individuals may apply online or call my office to request a paper application. **The application deadline is 4:00 p.m. Monday, December 14.** Appointees will be notified December 18.

The committee will be made up of 30 people, half of whom will be "at large" members representing local business, civic organizations, non-profit organizations, parents, and interested community residents. The other 15 members will be drawn from local government, higher education, BVSD employee associations or working groups and Impact on Education.

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## Construction moves forward at Louisville Elementary and Arapahoe Ridge



Students at Louisville Elementary started the school year amidst a flurry of Bond construction activity which will provide two new classrooms, a new administration addition, two additional classrooms where the administration was located and other systems improvements such as fire sprinklers and new intercom wiring. Students already have been able to enjoy benefits of the Bond program in the form of an upgraded playground. The playground renovation was constructed last summer and was augmented by a GOCO grant. Construction at the school will continue through the school year and is anticipated to be complete by the start of the 2010-11 school year.



At Arapahoe Ridge, students will be able to enjoy the benefits of their construction project as soon as January when the new student commons and kitchen will be completed. The other major part of the project, the Teen Parenting wing, is taking shape. The foundation has been completed and walls are going up. Construction on the project began last spring and will continue until August 2010.

Construction for many Phase 2a projects will begin in December and January, including Birch, Eisenhower, Emerald, Heatherwood, Kohl, University Hill and Whittier. Phase 2b projects at Bear Creek, Creekside, Nederland Middle/Sr. High School, Mesa, Pioneer, Ryan, Sanchez and Superior began the DAT process this fall.

## Boulder Valley closes the recycling loop on old furniture

Early last week, 22 pallets of old school furniture parts began the final leg of their journey to become new chairs, tables and desks. Boulder Valley School District is working with Virco Manufacturing Corporation through its Take-Back Program to recycle old furniture that has been pulled out of BVSD schools through Phase I of the district's \$296.8 million capital improvement bond program.

In an effort to divert waste from landfills the district has committed to recycle these materials. Since last summer, district staff has worked to dismantle approximately 250 chairs and 400 chair/desk combos. Metal legs from the furniture were sold to Western Metals Recycling. The pallets of other parts, including plastic bucket seats and wood composite desk tops, will be shipped to Virco which will convert these materials into new furniture at its manufacturing facility in Arkansas. BVSD's discarded chairs and desks will find a new home in another school setting as new environmentally friendly furniture. The new furniture will include a tag indicating that the product contains recycled materials from Boulder Valley School District.

## Board Approvals

The board approved a \$35,000 donation of teaching supplies from Build With Precision to the Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Department. The \$35,000 donation will be used throughout the schools.

A \$10,000 donation to Nutrition Services from the Food Family Farming Foundation as well as a \$10,000 donation from Cynthia Scott to Nutrition Services were both approved by the board. Both of the \$10,000 donations will go towards the School Food Project.

The board approved the cancellation of the December 22, 2009, board meeting due to winter break and the holidays.

The Certification of Mill Levies was ratified by the board. District staff has calculated the mill levies for the coming year based on Colorado Department of Education requirements, estimated debt service payments for the coming year, and the certified assessed valuations from each county.

The following courses were approved by the board for the 2010-2011 school year.

- Advanced Anatomy and Physiology - *Grades 11-12*
- Forensic Technology - *Grades 11-12*
- Health Science Technology Education - *Grades 11-12*

The following courses were approved by the board for the 2010-2011 school year: Trial Status Implementation.

- College Accounting - *Grades 11-12*
- Comic and Graphic Novel Literature - *Grades 9-12*
- Geometry/Algebra 2 Course 1 and Course 2 - *Grades 11-12*

The following courses were approved by the board for the 2010-2011 school year: Credit Change due to Course Description Change.

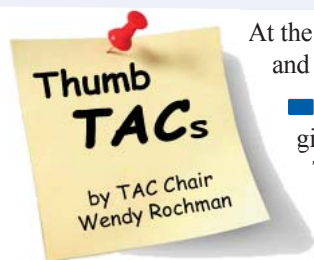
- Principals of Marketing- *Grades 10-12*

Final Acceptance of Bond Program Project Southern Hills Middle School Additions and Renovations were approved by the board.

The board gave final acceptance to the Summit Middle Charter School Gymnasium Addition Construction Project.

The board ratified the negotiated Agreement between the school district and the Boulder Valley Paraeducator Association (BVPA) for a new contract to go into effect July 1, 2009. The settlement is within the parameters established by the board. The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education discuss the tentative agreement and adopt Resolution 09-30.

The board voted unanimously (Jennie Belval abstained) to deny the application for the proposed charter school: Boulder Valley Academy of Gifted and Exceptionally Motivated Students.



At the December 8 Teacher Advisory Council meeting, we discussed the following topics with Superintendent Chris King and other Central Office Administrators:

■ **Principal Feedback Procedures:** Teachers have asked TAC if BVSD has a yearly, standardized procedure to give their building principals constructive suggestions regarding the principal's effectiveness in a variety of areas. The yearly climate survey is your opportunity to offer confidential comments to your administrator. Dr. Ellen Miller Brown suggests teachers "take the opportunity to write what you want to write about your administrators on the back" of the survey answer sheet. All comments are typed before being shared with the principals and their supervisors. There is a very specific survey procedure that building administrators are supposed to follow to ensure the confidentiality of your comments. If you have confidentiality concerns regarding how the survey is conducted in your building, please let TAC know. We will be revisiting this issue at the January TAC meeting.

■ **Building Maintenance:** All work order requests for maintenance are funneled through the building liaisons who report them to BVSD maintenance. Liaisons are usually the head secretary or the custodian in each building. Teachers continuously report to TAC that their maintenance requests are not resolved until weeks or months after being reported, and are often not resolved at all. Somewhere in the process, things are falling through the cracks. TAC is advocating for an online work request system that tracks a request from the time the teacher put it in to the time it is resolved. Joe Sleeper, Executive Director of Operations, and Mike Cuskelly, Director of Maintenance, said they are working to clean up the current maintenance work order system. TAC will follow up on their progress in a month or two.

■ **HVAC:** In order to effectively manage the learning environment, teachers want to be able to have some control over the temperature in their classrooms. The centralized BVSD HVAC system continues to perform inconsistently, and the results of Bond project demolition and construction have created numerous additional problems. Keep reporting issues to your building liaison, document your concerns and actions, and let your TAC representative know if your situation is not being resolved.

■ **Your Turn:** TAC serves as a direct voice for teachers with Superintendent Chris King and the BVSD central administration on issues that affect you, your students, and the learning environment. TAC works on items that are not directly spelled out in the negotiated agreement. Let us know if you have a topic you would like us to bring up with Superintendent Chris King.

## K-CARE is now Kindergarten Enrichment!

As of December 1st the K-CARE Program is returning to the name Kindergarten Enrichment. Susan Riederer, Community School Program Director, explains: "Because of our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of our program as well as the need to market it in these difficult economic times, we have determined that the name Kindergarten Enrichment more accurately reflects the goals we are striving for in our classrooms." Look for a new program brochure and an updated website coming soon. **December 8, 2009**



Boulder Valley School District is continually examining methods of improving the quality of your savings plan choices. One gap that we recently identified was a limited selection of index funds. Working with Gallagher Retirement Services, we were able to identify five quality index fund additions that are now available in our Great-West 457 Plan and Great-West 403(b) Plan. Below is a description of index funds in general and of each new option and their objectives. If you should have any questions regarding these alternatives, please contact our plan consultant, Matt Annalora with Gallagher Retirement Services, at 303-889-2774 or [matt\\_annalora@ajg.com](mailto:matt_annalora@ajg.com) or our Great-West representative, Todd Dunning, at 303-737-7710 or [todd.dunning@gwrs.com](mailto:todd.dunning@gwrs.com).

Information about all of BVSD's savings plans is available at: <http://bvsd.org/benefits/Pages/retirement.aspx>. In addition, the district provides information sessions with all savings plan providers. **The next information session is scheduled for February 1, 2010 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the Ed. Center (Aspen Room).**

## Index Funds

Index funds are a classification of mutual fund designed to mirror the performance of a specific index (i.e. S&P 500). This is achieved by maintaining a representative portfolio of securities (stocks and bonds) that attempt to emulate the securities held in the index. The main advantage of an index fund is its relatively low operating expense structure. The quality of an index fund is generally measured by how close its performance matches that of its objective index. Unlike actively managed mutual funds, index funds are not designed or managed to outperform the "market," merely to match it as closely as possible.

### Vanguard Total International Stock Index

The investment seeks to track the performance of a benchmark index that measures the investment return of stocks issued by companies located in Europe, the Pacific region, and emerging markets countries. The Fund employs a "passive management" investment approach designed to track the performance of the Total International Composite Index, which includes the MSCI Europe Index, the MSCI Pacific Index, and the MSCI Emerging Market Index. It invests substantially all assets in the common stocks included in its target index, while employing a form of sampling to reduce risk.

### Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index

The investment seeks to track the performance of a benchmark index that measures the investment return of small capitalization growth stocks. The fund employs a passive management investment approach designed to track the performance of the MSCI US Small Cap Growth index, a broadly diversified index of growth stocks of smaller U.S. companies. It attempts to replicate the target index by investing all, or substantially all, assets in the stocks that make up the index, holding each stock in approximately the same proportion as its weighting in the index.

### Vanguard Intermediate-Term Bond Index

The investment seeks to track the performance of a market-weighted bond index with an intermediate-term dollar-weighted average maturity. The fund invests by sampling the index. It invests at least 80 percent of assets in bonds held in the index. The fund maintains a dollar-weighted average maturity consistent with that of the index ranging between five and 10 years.

### DWS S&P 500 Plus S

The investment seeks long-term growth and income. The fund normally invests at least 80 percent of total assets, determined at the time of purchase, in stocks of companies included in the S&P 500 index. It's primary strategy seeks to replicate the performance of S&P 500 index while it also employs a global tactical asset allocation overlay component, which seeks to enhance the returns provided by the index Strategy. The fund may lend investment securities in an amount up to 33⅓ percent of total assets to approved institutional borrowers who need to borrow securities in order to complete certain transactions.

### Columbia Mid-Cap Index

The investment seeks total return before fees and expenses that correspond to the total return of the Standard & Poor's (S&P) MidCap 400® Index. The fund normally invests at least 80 percent of net assets in common stocks that comprise the S&P MidCap 400® index. It may invest in derivatives, consisting of stock index futures or options, as substitutes for the underlying securities in the S&P MidCap 400® Index.

# Hats off!

Congratulations to this week's  
**Superintendent's Honor Roll** recipients:

BVSD fall state champions were honored during the December 8 board meeting.

*Broomfield High - Class 4A Colorado Boys Soccer Player of the Year* - Senior **Cole Chapleski** is an All-American (Named by National Soccer Coaches Association of America and Adidas to its first team All-American Squad) and 2009 Colorado High School boys' soccer Player of the Year. Cole is the third Broomfield boy to receive the distinction of All-American. Head Coach of Broomfield Boys Soccer is **Jim Davidson**.

*Broomfield High - Class 4A Boys Tennis State Champion* - Senior **Andrew Flora** won the Boys #1 Singles state title with a perfect record of 13 wins and 0 losses. Head Coach of Broomfield Boys Tennis is **Jim Vogel**.

*Broomfield High - Class 5A Girls Gymnastic Champion* - Senior **JoJo Hayden** won the state gymnastics championship by earning first place on the vault with a score of 9.85. She placed third overall in the state meet. Head Coach of Broomfield Girls Gymnastics is **Diane Clark** who will be retiring this year after an amazing 28-year career that has taken Broomfield High gymnastics to new heights.

*Fairview High - Class 5A Boys Tennis State Champion* - Senior **Blake Wetherbee** – Blake won the number 3 singles state championship this year in 5A. Blake has been a tennis participant at Fairview for the past four years. Fairview Boys Tennis Coach is **Chad Tsuda**.

*Nederland Middle/Senior High - Class 2A Girls' Cross Country State Champions* - Senior **Shaylee Sigg**, first time running cross country and a great addition to the team. Senior **Kat Robinson**, team captain, won the prestigious Liberty Bell invitational, the Snow Mountain Ranch Invitational, and the Conference Championships. Kat was awarded the Most Valuable Runner award for 2009. Sophomore **Jess Ousley**, earned All-Conference and All-Region honors, and was awarded the Most Improved Runner for 2009. Sophomore **Mackenzie Belden**, was the alternate on this years' State Championship team. Sophomore **Dyani Chapman**, won All-Region honors. Sophomore **Rebecca Hermann**, earned All-Conference honors, All-Region honors, and All-State Honorable mention and received the school's coveted Panther Award. Sophomore **Kelley Robinson** is the individual 2008 cross country champion and 2009 state runner-up. She also earned All-Conference honors, All-Region honors, and All-State honors. She was also awarded Most Valuable Runner Award for 2009. Head coaches **Sabrina** and **Ken Robinson** were each named Mile Hi League Coaches of the Year. Assistant Coaches are **David Femmer** and **Kathy Butler**.

## BVSD's going GREEN...

### "Green" Flooring

Did you know?

BVSD uses carpeting with a minimum of 40 percent (sometimes up to 100 percent) recycled content and with low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs). There are also schools within the district that have polished concrete flooring rather than a floor covering (which saves on materials) and others with bio-based tile made from corn or similar natural materials. BVSD has made a commitment to recycle all old carpet that is taken out of buildings.

### Kudos!

Thank you to **Debbie Sedelmeier** for her diligent work to identify more environmentally friendly flooring options for BVSD.

### Tips to extend the life of the carpet:

Vacuum regularly.

Perform regular spot clean before stains have time to set vs. waiting for the breaks to clean all carpets.

Operations will be sending out a roll of AV cord tape to be used on carpets rather than duct tape which leaves an adhesive residue on the fiber which attracts and holds on to dirt and debris.

❄️ For tips on greening your holidays, contact [Ghita.Carroll@bvsd.org](mailto:Ghita.Carroll@bvsd.org) ❄️



BVSD

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"BVSD On the Inside" is produced by the BVSD Communications Division. Newsletter staff can be contacted at 303-447-5156 or [communications@bvsd.org](mailto:communications@bvsd.org)

Past issues are available on the website at [www.bvsd.org](http://www.bvsd.org)