Gifted Education in Blue Valley Schools

Mark Schmidt,
Executive Director of Student Services
Fast Facts about Blue Valley School District
# Superintendent Search

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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| July 20            | Determine search process  
*The Board determined that a search firm will be employed.* | ✔️       |
| Week of Aug. 18    | Interview search firms                                              | ✔️       |
| Aug. 27            | Board selects search firm  
*Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates*                    | ✔️       |
| Sept. 14           | Board of Education workshop  
Discussion of superintendent search timeline and activities       | ✔️       |
| Sept. 17–Oct. 19   | Gather community input through an online survey                      | ✔️       |
| Oct. 6 & 7         | Search firm hosts two evening community forum  
*to discuss attributes: Hilltop Campus 7 p.m.*         | ✔️       |
| Oct. 5–9           | Gather community input through multiple community focus group sessions | ✔️       |
| Nov. 9             | Board of Education 8 a.m. workshop  
Search firm presents attributes for board discussion  
*Leadership profile report*             | ✔️       |
| Nov. 9             | Board of Education 7 p.m. meeting  
Board approves attributes *(Leadership profile report)* | ✔️       |
| Jan./Feb. 2016     | Candidate Interviews                                                |          |
| Early Spring       | Public announcement of new superintendent of schools                 |          |
2015 CUSTOMER ASSESSMENT SURVEY

“When you ask community members why they choose to live in Blue Valley, they nearly always have the school district at the top of their list. The results of the Customer Assessment Survey confirm that our community values a quality education, understands the positive impact the district has on the local economy and supports the district’s mission of unprecedented academic success and unparalleled personal growth for every student.”

Dr. Al Hanna, interim superintendent of schools

METHODOLOGY

- District patrons were randomly selected to participate in a 10-minute telephone interview.
- Demographics represent a cross-section of parents and non-parents.
- This survey was last conducted in 2013.
2015 Customer Assessment Survey

**Significant Results**

**Overall, what grade would you give the district as a whole?**

- Grade A: 65% (Total 91%)
- Grade B: 26%
- Grade C: 6%
- Grade D: 1%
- Grade F: 1%
- Don't Know: 2%

**What grade would you give teachers in the district?**

- Grade A: 62% (Total 91%)
- Grade B: 29%
- Grade C: 3%
- Grade D: 1%
- Grade F: 2%
- Don't Know: 4%

**How much do you think the quality of the Blue Valley School District positively impacts property values and economic development in the district?**

- Very Much So: 83% (Total 97%)
- Somewhat: 14%
- Not Very Much: 1%
- Not At All: 1%

**Other significant areas that were graded high with a grade of an “A” or “B.”**

- The quality of school district buildings: 95%
- The quality of education provided by the district: 92%
- The safety and security of the students in the district’s school buildings: 83%
- The value received by patrons for the tax dollars invested in the district: 86%
International Comparison: PISA

- Shanghai-China
- Singapore
- Hong Kong-China
- Taipei
- Korea
- Blue Valley
- Japan
- Switzerland
- Netherlands
- Estonia
- Finland
- Poland
- United States (36)
International Comparison: PISA

- Shanghai-China
- Hong Kong-China
- Singapore
- Japan
- Finland
- Blue Valley
- Estonia
- Korea
- Poland
- Canada
- Germany
- Taipei
- United States (28)
National Comparison: SAT Composite: Math, Verbal, Writing

- Highest Composite in District History
  - Blue Valley Composite: 1864
  - Kansas Average: 1753
  - National Average: 1497
Other Awards & Recognitions

• All five Blue Valley High Schools named to:
  – Washington Post’s 2015 most challenging high schools
  – Newsweek’s 2014 top public high schools list
  – The Daily Beast’s 2014 list of Americas top HS

• Blue Valley Graduation Rate (97%)

• District bond rating is Excellent
  – Moody’s (Aaa)
  – Standard & Poor (AA+)
Fast Facts about Special Education in Blue Valley
# Growth: Primary Exceptionality

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autism</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaf/blind</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Developmental Delay</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
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<td>Emotional Disturb.</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaf/Hard of Hearing</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Disability</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>688</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>-.004%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple Disability</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intellectual Disability</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
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<td>Other Health Impairment</td>
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<td>212</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
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<td>Orthopedic Impairment</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech/Language</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>-11.3%</td>
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<td>Traumatic Brain Injury</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Visually Impaired</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Disability</td>
<td>2035</td>
<td>2083</td>
<td>2069</td>
<td>2248</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifted</td>
<td>1520</td>
<td>1619</td>
<td>1586</td>
<td>1612</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twice Exceptional</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
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<td>Total Gifted</td>
<td>1552</td>
<td>1658</td>
<td>1623</td>
<td>1645</td>
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<td>General Ed Population</td>
<td>21330</td>
<td>22154</td>
<td>22421</td>
<td>21778</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
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Fast Facts About Gifted Education in Kansas and Blue Valley
Did You Know—Gifted Education Laws & Funding

• States with gifted education services mandated by law (32)

• States that have a mandate and fully fund gifted education (4)

• States that have a gifted education mandate and provide some funding (19)
  – Kansas provides $27,750 per full-time gifted teacher
Did You Know—Gifted Education Laws & Funding

• States that include gifted education as part of special education*(8)
  – Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia

*Includes states with procedural safeguards akin to special education even if not included with disability special education
Did You Know…
Gifted Education Identification

• Kansas students identified as gifted (12,989)
  ▪ Percentage of all Kansas students identified as gifted (~2 to 3%)

• Total Blue Valley students identified as gifted (1700+)
  ▪ Percentage of all Blue Valley students identified as gifted (~8%)
Did You Know…
Gifted Education Staffing

• Number of K-12 public schools in Kansas - excluding Blue Valley (2011)

• Number of gifted education teachers in Kansas - excluding Blue Valley (328)

• Total Blue Valley gifted education teachers (39)
Did You Know…
Gifted Education Staffing

• Average schools served by teachers – excluding Blue Valley (6.1)

• Number of schools served by Blue Valley gifted education teachers (1.0)
Gifted Staffing Models in KS

- Typical gifted education service delivery models (Local BOE Decides)
  - Itinerant teachers serving multiple buildings
  - Students bussed to gifted education center once per week
  - Gifted education teachers in every building
Legislative Issues Impacting Schools
State Budget Questions

Kansas Revenues Below Predictions in December
- Income Tax (-$26 million)
- Sales Tax Receipts (-14 million)

Current Revenue is $14 million behind for the year.
- KC Star (January 4, 2016)

Choices if Revenue is below Budget:
- Tax Increases
- Spending Reductions
- Transfer from other State Funds
Upcoming Legislative Debates Impacting Schools

- Efficiency – Are schools spending money wisely?
  - How does the legislator think money should be spent (or not spent)?
  - How is money being spent (local BOE)?

- Effectiveness – Are schools students prepared for college and career after K-12?
  - How do we measure “success” (CETE, MAP, NEAP, ACT, other)?
  - Minor adjustments to the current system?
  - Complete overhaul in funding and program?
Things to keep in mind during Legislative Session

• Effectiveness of Schools
  ▪ Kansas and Blue Valley Schools are very good, but can improve. Public schools must have a “growth mindset”
  ▪ Publicizing selected test scores can make schools look very good or very bad.
  ▪ Form opinions from multiple data points from multiple assessments, as some assessments are not aligned with KS curriculum.
Things to keep in mind during Legislative Session

• Effectiveness of Schools
  ▪ In Kansas, students can choose a college prep curriculum or basic curriculum for graduation. Students who don’t choose college prep may need remedial classes in college or score poorly on ACT/SAT.
  ▪ Achievement gaps are important, but look to see if all student groups improve over time and if gap is narrowing.
Things to keep in mind during Legislative Session

- Efficiency of Schools
  - Public schools serve a wide variety of students, what seems optional and frivolous to one, may seem necessary to another.
  - Are the following part of “Instruction”? Gifted Teachers, counselors, school nurses, social workers, librarians, HVAC, Transportation, Classroom Supplies, extra curricular?
  - Are they necessary for KS Schools?
Things to keep in mind during Legislative Session

• Efficiency of Schools
  ▪ School funding comes from a combination of federal, state and local dollars.
  ▪ How funds are spent are determined by local Board of Education.
  ▪ Would it increase efficiency to move some decisions to the state?
  ▪ Some recent discussion may impact local BOE (election dates, conflict of interest, state approval for bonds, requirements for how to spend at-risk funding)
QUESTIONS?

Dr. Mark Schmidt
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