

SUPERINTENDENT'S POST, JUNE 2019

By Chuck McCauley | Bartlesville Public Schools

The wild weather this May was a challenge for our community and schools. I appreciate the patience and understanding from students, parents, staff, and our community which allowed us to successfully finish the academic year, including our first indoor commencement in 25 years. Warm wishes to the Class of 2019!

The end of May also closed the legislative session with a \$157.7 million increase for common education which includes \$74.3 million through the funding formula to local districts. BPSD will use the formula funding to address the previously published 2019-20 budget priorities:

- Fully fund a step increase for all teachers and classified staff
- Initiate the ATLAS alternative program for 24 elementary school students, funding a teacher and teacher assistant while Grand Lake Mental Health provides a behavior health coach and a certified mental health therapist
- Provide a Secondary Technology Integration Specialist to support Canvas, Chromebooks, and other learning technologies across the middle schools and high school
- Initiate the Agriculture Education program with a first teacher; over 100 students have already enrolled across grades 8-12
- Provide an assistant principal for Wayside, the district's largest elementary school, which now serves over 1/4 of the district's elementary students, giving it a larger total enrollment than Central Middle School
- Improve class sizes: upper elementary class sizes were already projected to improve as a larger fifth-grade cohort advances to the middle schools, but the district expects to hire two more elementary school teachers as it lowers the class size target for upper elementary grades from 28 to 25



The close of the 2018-2019 academic year also brings with it some changes in administrative and support positions. Dianne Martinez, currently the Exec. Dir. of Elementary and Middle Schools, will focus on the elementary schools while continuing to coordinate the district's professional development program and will now lead the district's Response to Intervention program. Jason Langham, currently the Exec. Dir. of Special Services and High School, will broaden his oversight to include the middle schools. Staci Bankston, who has been the Teacher Specialist for Supplemental Services, will fill the new Assistant Principal position at Wayside.

The outsourcing this spring of district maintenance to Sodexo and shift of the outsourced custodial services to the same firm includes three management positions. David Barr is the Sodexo Director of Facilities, bringing to the district over 27 years of experience in facilities management. Two seasoned district employees will assist Mr. Barr: Roger Doty has been named the Sodexo Environmental Services/Custodial Operations Manager and Don Krause has been named the Sodexo Facilities/Engineering Operations Manager.

Jon Beckloff continues to direct the district's Child Nutrition program for Sodexo, which is self-funded and separate from the facilities programs. The Summer Food Service program is underway, so all children ages 1-18 can enjoy a free breakfast and lunch through August 7 at various schools; click the "Meals/Child Nutrition" quick link at bps-ok.org for locations and times.

Despite recent increases, state per pupil funding remains the lowest in our region, and our district must continue to rely on bond issues for basic operational needs. On Tuesday, August 13, 2019 voters will be asked to consider a bond issue to provide \$17,915,000 through the end of the 2023 fiscal year. Passage of the bond issue would not increase the tax rate, with no change in the sinking fund millage. The bond issue is structured to advance the excellence already established through support from previous bond issues. Friday, July 19 is the last day to register to vote in the August 13 election. See bruinbond.com for details.

I hope everyone has a great summer. Go, Bruins!

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This column is online at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ziWCUgpPjXrEOIBzKSxgdOJW9ylwZRW30EGHYjjEXhl/edit?usp=sharing>