

SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE COMMUNICATOR

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1998

*A  
Documentary  
of the  
School  
Year*



UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
1997-1998 ANNUAL REPORT





## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	Page 3
Mission, Goals .....	Page 4
Facilities & Services .....	Page 4-5
Publications .....	Page 5-6
Student Information .....	Page 6-7
Employee Information & District Recognition .....	Page 8-9
Curriculum/Programs .....	Page 10-12
Financial Information .....	Page 13
Technology .....	Page 14
Business Highlights .....	Page 14
Business Alliance & Volunteers .....	Page 15
Community Involvement .....	Page 15
Adult Educational Attainment & Parent Involvement .....	Page 16



## From the Superintendent

**Union** is a vibrant, growing school district with a diverse student body and dedicated staff members who are continuously working to provide the best learning situation possible. This 1997-98 annual report details only a fraction of the excitement that surrounds our district.

**Union** continues to be one of the fastest growing school districts in the state since we are considered a showcase of excellence in so many areas. Our community support continues to be strong and is demonstrated by citizens during bond issue and millage elections. Parents in our PTAs and Foundation are directly involved to enhance our available resources and volunteer their time generously. Opportunities for our students abound as we expose them to fine arts, athletics, character education and leadership training as well as to a rigorous academic program. Our district is fortunate to have state-of-the-art facilities and technology that add to our learning environment.



*Cathy Burden, Ph.D.*

**Union** stands as an example of what is good with American's public schools. Students from all socioeconomic levels and backgrounds blend together in our student body to learn and work together. Our high test scores demonstrate that our students are motivated and our curriculum is preparing them to become capable citizens of the twenty-first century. Creative teaching and skillful instructors make learning exciting while our dedicated support staff makes sure that we operate efficiently.

During the 1997-98 school year, the district has faced its share of challenges and successes which spurs us on as we remain committed to working together to form a more perfect **Union**.

Sincerely,

*Cathy Burden*

Cathy Burden, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



## Board of Education - 1997-98

Phil Barr  
Bill Bruner  
Derek Rader  
Frank Spiegelberg  
James Williams

## the Communicator

**The Communicator** (USPS 097 430) is published bi-monthly by Union Public Schools, 5656 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74134-6711. It is issued to patrons of the Union Public School District free of charge. Dr. Cathy Burden is Superintendent of Schools. Gretchen Haas-Bethell is Communications Director/ Editor. **The Communicator** staff includes Janie Froman and Beverly Thummel. Periodicals postage paid at Tulsa, OK. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **The Communicator**, 5656 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK 74134-6711, or call 459-3305.





## Introduction

Union Public Schools is a rapidly growing suburban, K-12 district in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The 28-square-mile area that comprises Union is unique in that it does not encompass a township, but rather incorporates within its boundaries much of southeast Tulsa and the northwest portion of nearby Broken Arrow. The school system acts as a unifying organization within the community, providing activities for its families and a sense of pride, support and identity for its patrons.

When Union was founded in 1919, it combined four small, rural communities and had only four students in its graduating class. A two-story brick building housed all of its classes, K-12. In the 1980s, Tulsa's residential and commercial building began booming toward the southeast, and Union's student population grew along with it. Today the district serves 12,500 students in its ten elementary sites, the Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, the Eighth Grade Center, the Intermediate High School, the Alternative School and Union High School. All have State Department of Education and North Central Association accreditation.



Thanks to a supportive community, the district has been able to fund computers, local- and wide-area networking and other instructional technology to enhance reading, language, math, science, music and writing skills. Every school has media specialists, nurses and counselors. Programs for gifted students and students with special needs are also offered at every grade level, as are music, art and physical education.

Elementary school students and their parents have the option of following Union's Continuous Learning Calendar (CLC or year-round program) or the Traditional Learning Calendar (TLC or 9-month school year). The six-year-old voluntary CLC program has steadily grown at the elementary level, and the Board has voted to offer it through eighth grade if and when there is a demand for it.

Union's comprehensive secondary curriculum provides both college-bound and non-college-bound students a

wide range of offerings. Students interested in careers or courses in vocational areas are transported to the appropriate Tulsa Technology Center campus for the curriculum they desire.

Community education, the district's central enrollment center and Union Alternative School are located in the district's newest facility, the Union Extended Education Building. The alternative education program helps students stay in school or return to school, giving them a chance to get back on track to graduate.

Other features of the district include the Extended Day Program (before-and-after-school care for Union students in grades K-5) and the Union Schools Education Foundation which funds innovative teaching projects to reward and reinforce excellence. Union's Board of Education consists of five members elected by district zones for five-year terms.



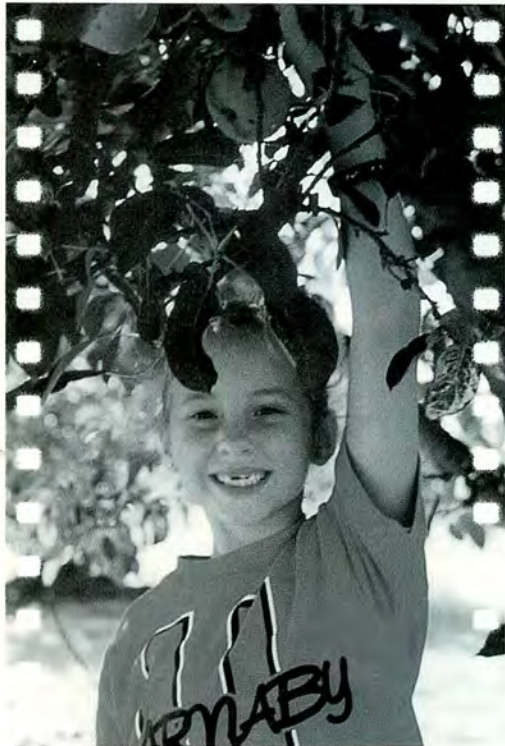




It is

## ***Our Mission***

*to provide our community of learners with educational opportunities to acquire and develop the best possible academic, vocational, recreational, social, and participatory skills, enabling them to become valued, contributing members of a changing global society.*



## ***Goals***

- ☆ Academic excellence for all students
- ☆ Preparation of students for positive citizenship
- ☆ A positive educational environment in which students, parents, community and staff assume responsibility for their role in the learning process
- ☆ District excellence for all employees
- ☆ Expanded opportunities for learning
- ☆ Increased use of technology
- ☆ Enhanced Union pride
- ☆ Support base to include patrons, partnerships and community resources
- ☆ Long-term plan to accommodate growth

## ***Facilities***

Andersen Elementary - 1200 S. Willow, Broken Arrow 74012-4511  
 Boevers Elementary - 3433 S. 133rd E. Ave., Tulsa 74134-4041  
 Briarglen Elementary - 3303 S. 121st E. Ave., Tulsa 74146-2200  
 Cedar Ridge Elementary - 9817 S. Mingo Road, Tulsa 74133-5183  
 Clark Elementary - 3656 S. 103rd E. Ave., Tulsa 74146-2441  
 Darnaby Elementary - 7625 E. 87th St. S., Tulsa 74133-4818  
 Grove Elementary - 10202 E. 62nd St., Tulsa 74133-1529  
 Jarman Elementary - 9015 E. 79th St. S., Tulsa 74133-6510  
 McAuliffe Elementary - 6515 S. Garnett, Broken Arrow 74012-8529  
 Peters Elementary - 2900 West College, Broken Arrow 74012-2100  
 Union Sixth & Seventh Grade Center  
 10100 E. 61st St., Tulsa 74133-1507  
 Union Eighth Grade Center  
 6501 S. Garnett, Broken Arrow 74012-8594  
 Union Alternative School  
 5656 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa 74134-6711  
 Union Intermediate High School  
 7616 S. Garnett, Broken Arrow 74012-8705  
 Union High School - 6636 S. Mingo Road, Tulsa 74133-3247  
 Education Service Center - 5656 S. 129 E. Ave., Tulsa 74134-6711







## Facilities & Services (Continued)

☆ Union's well-equipped buildings, swimming pool, ropes course, stadium, ball fields, tracks, gymnasiums, theaters, etc., were used by district and community organizations for everything from practices, games, rehearsals, performances, meetings, job fairs and craft fairs, to before-and-after-school care, classes, competitions and parent-sponsored fund-raising events. They were booked from early in the morning until late at night, seven days a week, nearly every day of the year.

☆ Approximate value of facilities: \$200 million for buildings and contents.



## Services

☆ A fleet of 83 buses transported students a total of 4,642 miles per day.

☆ Counting breakfasts and lunches, our child nutrition workers prepared and served 1,538,037 meals.

☆ Media center (library) holdings totaled 164,074 volumes districtwide, an increase of 10% over the preceding year.

## Publications

☆ *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* - Seven year award-winning review of district finances

☆ *Union Board of Education Policies* - Updated and distributed to every building and department

☆ *Student Handbooks* - Published annually for students K-12

☆ *Communicator* - An 8-to-12-page newsletter for patrons; approximately 20,500 copies printed every two months and mailed to every district household, to area media and to district state legislators

☆ *Insider* - A 2-to-4-page newsletter for employees; approximately 1,400 copies printed monthly or more frequently as information warranted

☆ *Insider Home Edition* - A 2-page newsletter sent to district parents monthly or more frequently as information warranted; approximately 11,700 copies of each edition

☆ *Focus On Results* - A state and national award-winning magazine, written in 1996 summarizing expectations for students, staff, parents and the community; approximately 20,000 copies printed; widely distributed to new employees, parents, staff and members of the community

☆ *Information Packets* - A collection of district brochures, maps and calendars providing both general and specific information about the district

☆ *District Video* - A ten-minute overview of the district

☆ *Union Alternative School Video* - A six-minute report on the school and its offerings

☆ *Union Annual Report Video* - A fifteen-minute video version of the district's 1997-1998 annual report

☆ *Emergency Procedures Guide* - An employee manual for dealing with and reporting emergencies







## Publications (Continued)

☆ *Union Purchasing & Procurement Procedure Manual* - Instructions and guidelines for employees making purchases for the district

☆ *PTA Newsletters* - Newsletters produced by members of the parent-teacher organizations at each site

## Student Population

Growth has been a constant factor throughout Union's history. As Oklahoma's ninth largest district, Union served 12,305 students in the 1997-1998 school year. Of those, 5,911 were elementary age and 6,394 were in our secondary schools; 50.5% were male and 49.5% were female. In terms of ethnic origin, 23.9% were minority students; 76.1% were Caucasian.

## Student Statistics

☆ Students new to the district came to us from a variety of places. Most were from neighboring districts--Tulsa, Broken Arrow, Jenks and 82 other Oklahoma school districts. We also had students enrolling from more than 40 different states and nearly 30 foreign countries.

☆ Approximately 11.86% of our students qualified for free or subsidized meals.

☆ 8% of our students were enrolled in special education.

☆ During 1997-98, the English-As-A-Second Language (ESL) program served 140 students with limited English proficiency. Throughout the district, approximately 800 students were bilingual, representing 6.5%.

☆ Our overall student mobility rate was 18.11%. It ranged from 7.52% to 48.59% depending on the school.

☆ Almost a third of our students reported that they live with just one of their biological parents.

## Student Achievement

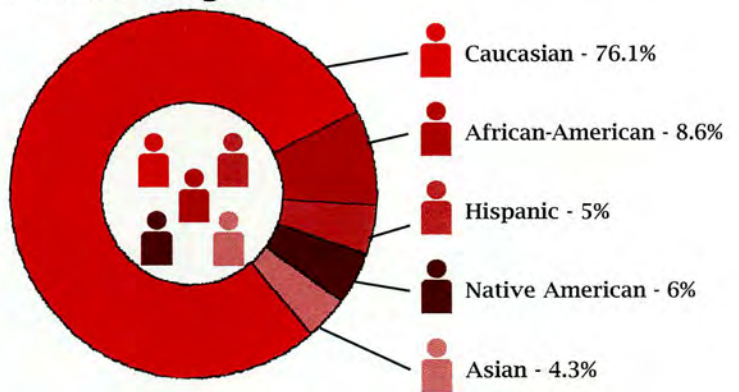
☆ Union third and seventh graders taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills during the 1997-98 school year achieved average composite scores ranging from the 51st to 84th percentile. For Union students in grades 5, 8 and 11 taking the Criterion-Referenced Tests, the percentage with satisfactory scores in the core areas ranged from 71% to 97%.

☆ Approximately 38% of Union's juniors and seniors took the ACT and/or the SAT college entrance exam. They scored an average of 22.1 on the ACT and 1153 on the SAT. By comparison, the national average on the ACT was 21 and on the SAT, 1017.

☆ 128 Union High School seniors earned college credit based on their performance in our 15 advanced placement classes.

☆ There were 659 graduating seniors in the class of 1998, 45 of whom were enrolled in our Alternative School. Ninety percent of the class of '98 chose to enroll in colleges, universities or some form of vocational training, receiving nearly \$5.5 million in scholarship offers to do so.

## Ethnic Origins







## Student Achievement (Continued)

☆ In their 20th anniversary year, the **Highsteppers** drill team celebrated by taking first place in the National Drill Team Competition in San Antonio, Texas after being named winners of the Oklahoma State Grand Champions Award with the highest overall score for their Novelty routine.

☆ In speech and debate, senior **Damion Shade** received eight regional qualifications, an all-time Union record. Damion became Union's first-ever state champion by winning the gold medal in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking.

☆ The **High School Jazz Ensemble** completed a successful season with superior ratings at the Pittsburg State University Jazz Ensemble contest. Receiving straight superior ratings at the National Adjudicators Invitational in St. Louis, strings students earned the right to compete at Grand Nationals in the spring of 1999. The Orchestra also received superior ratings at State Contest.



☆ Six Union High School seniors were chosen as **National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists**, and four went on to become Finalists.

☆ The **girls' gymnastics team** won the state championship, a first-ever for Union, and was ranked fifth in the nation.

☆ Members of the **boys' varsity soccer team** were crowned 5A state champions and were ranked fifth in the nation by *USA Today*.

☆ The **girls' varsity soccer team** won the district championship.

☆ Both the varsity boys' and girls' **basketball teams** won berths in the state tournament. The boys finished second in the entire state.

☆ Jarman second grader **Jeff Vogt** won first place in the photography category of the State PTA Reflections Contest, and his entry was recognized as one of five merit finalists at the national level.

☆ Briarglen third grader **Chen Chang** was the state winner in the 1998 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest.

☆ The **Renegade Regiment** marching band took top honors at the Fiesta Bowl National Championship of Bands in Tempe, Arizona.

☆ Seventh grader **Michael Johnson** and Darnaby fifth grader **Alicia Hagood** won Dance Masters of America state titles.

☆ The ninth grade **Shining Stars** drill team took top honors with the Division I award for their jazz routine at the State Dance Competition and an award for Best Technique and Polish. The Shining Stars also won the honor of dancing at the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day 1998.

☆ Sophomore **Katie Lee's** original poem "Youth" was published in the 1997 anthology of The National Library of Poetry, and Katie was invited to submit a new original work for the Library's publication, *The Best Poets of 1998*.

☆ Senior **James Wells** was named '97 Oklahoma State Diving Champion.

☆ The **High School vocal music department** represented Oklahoma in the National Festival of the States in Washington, D.C.







## Employee Information & District Recognition

☆ Union was the tenth largest employer in Tulsa during 1997-1998. Of our 1,283 staff members, 490 served in support positions; 742 were teachers; and 51 were administrators. In terms of ethnic origins, less than 1% were Asian, 3% African-American, 90% Caucasian and other, 1% Hispanic and 5% American Indian.

☆ Forty-two percent of all instructional and administrative staff had a master's degree or higher.

☆ Male/female ratios were: Teachers - 126 males/616 females; Administrators - 29 males/22 females; Custodians - 42 males/50 females; Bus Drivers/Assistants - 33 males/29 females; and Child Nutrition Workers - 7 males/103 females.

☆ The average teacher salary was \$29,950.91, not counting the end-of-the year stipend; the average teacher salary increase was \$163.34; and the average teacher stipend was \$1,256.78.

☆ Eighth Grade building engineer Jeff Johnson was named Employee of the Year in the Operations Department's Team Awards Program.

☆ The attendance rate for teachers in 1997-98 was 95% which was comparable to that of their students.



☆ During the 1997-98 school year, the district paid a total of \$13,201.87 for 335 hours of higher education course work for 51 certified employees.

☆ The majority of our employees lived in Tulsa (56%) or Broken Arrow (31%), but other places of residence included Avant, Bixby, Bristow, Catoosa, Chelsea, Claremore, Collinsville, Coweta, Flower Mound, Fort Gibson, Glencoe, Glenpool, Haskell, Henryetta, Inola, Jenks, Langley, Leonard, Mannford, Morris, Mounds, Muskogee, Oakhurst, Okmulgee, Owasso, Porter, Pryor, Ramona, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Skiatook, Sperry, Vinita and Wagoner.

☆ We had 63 married couples who worked in our district.

☆ The salary range for our bus drivers/assistants was \$6.10-\$10.59 per hour with an average salary of \$8.33 per hour.

☆ The salary range for our child nutrition workers was \$5.80-\$8.89 per hour with an average salary of \$6.69 per hour.

☆ The salary range for our custodians and building engineers was \$6.80-\$15.43 per hour with an average salary of \$8.87 per hour.

## District Recognition

Examples of our state and national accolades during 1997-98 are as follows:

☆ The district received an award from the Intel Corporation for its use of technology to enhance education. The honor was presented in conjunction with Technology Day at the State Capitol before a joint session of the State Legislature.

☆ Eighth Grade Center special education teacher **Monta Ewing** was named 1997 District Teacher of the Year and Jarman fourth grade teacher **Jill Fitts** was the district's 1998 Teacher of the Year.

☆ In 1997-98, four Union teachers -- **Cynthia Burnett** (Boevers), **Lynn McClure** (Briarglen), **Vicki Perritt** (Jarman) and **Dr. Evelyn Roberts** (McAuliffe) -- were the first from the district selected as candidates for National Board Certification, a prestigious recognition of excellence in the teaching profession.

☆ Union Superintendent **Dr. Cathy Burden** was named 1997 Civitan Citizen of the Year by the Metro Tulsa Civitan Club.

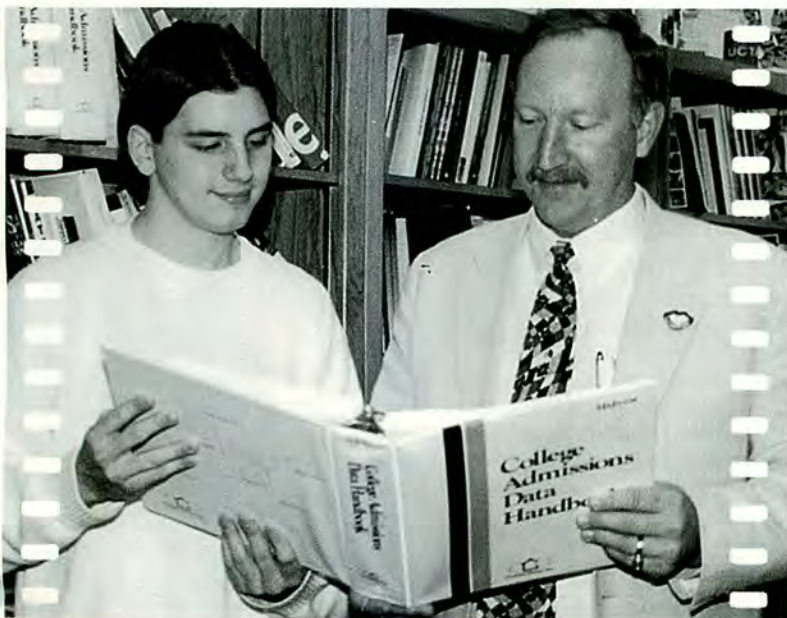




## District Recognition (Continued)

☆ Union High School Assistant Principal **Denise Vaniadis** was elected to a two-year term as chairperson of the National Association of Student Councils.

☆ High School junior **Eric Millican** made a perfect score on the ACT and was featured in all of our local media and in *Oklahoma Family Magazine*.



☆ For the fifth year in a row, the **Finance Department** was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by the district and its management.

☆ The Communications Department received awards from both the Oklahoma and National School Public Relations Association for its communications and marketing materials.

☆ Boys' varsity basketball coach **Rudy Garcia** was named Frontier Conference Coach of the Year and Tulsa World Metro co-Coach of the Year.

☆ Briarglen teacher **Tiffany Phenicie** and Jarman

teacher **Jennifer Proffitt** received first and second place, respectively, in competition sponsored by the Tulsa County Bar Auxiliary.

☆ Andersen Elementary physical education teacher **Lowell Ratzlaff** received the State Champion Award from the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports for the third year in a row. Ninety-seven individual Andersen students received awards for achieving the Presidential Physical Fitness award level.

☆ Athletic director **Benny Dixon** was named President of the Oklahoma Coaches Association.

☆ The March issue of a national bilingual publication, *Imagine*, ran a story about American schools written by 8th grade teacher **Amanda Howell**.

☆ Clark Elementary was featured in two national publications—first, in the *N-C-A Quarterly* for its successful efforts in partnering with businesses and next in *Country Weekly* for entertainer Roy Clark's visit during the 20th anniversary homecoming celebration of our school named in his honor.

☆ "Grover Goes To School" was the title of an article in *Animal Watch*. Grover, a dog, was the star of Grove Elementary's Pet Therapy program last year.

☆ The August '98 edition of *Seventeen Magazine* carried a multi-page feature on Union High School students.







## Curriculum/Programs

☆ The district reorganized its gifted and talented program, the **Academic Resource Center (ARC)** program for 1998-99. Rather than bus students to Grove Elementary two half-days each week, enrichment specialists have been assigned to each elementary school to assist with the gifted program as well as enrichment activities for all students. The following represents the percentage of students who participated in the ARC program at each grade level: Second grade-7%, Third grade-9%, Fourth grade-10%, Fifth grade-10.5%, Sixth grade-10%, and Grades 7-12-11.5%.

☆ **Advanced Placement** grants were received totalling \$50,670.

☆ The district's **Alternative School** doubled in size, serving 105 at-risk high school students in the district's new Extended Education Building. At the close of the 1997-98 school year, 45 alternative students received their high school diplomas.

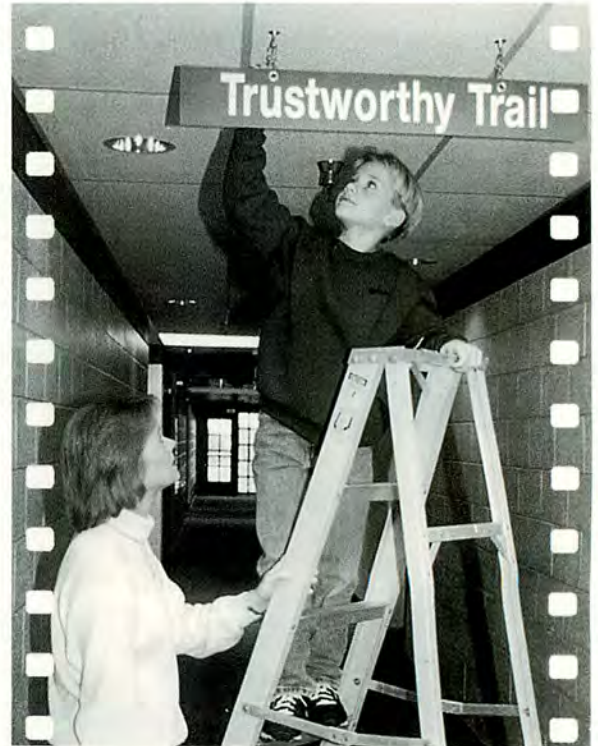
☆ More than 7,250 students participated in our competitive and intramural **Athletics** programs.

☆ **Biology-Physical Tech II**, an applied science course that provides hands-on projects relating to work and other life experiences, was approved for inclusion in the High School curriculum offerings.

☆ **Character Counts!** continued to grow in the Union community during the 1997-1998 school year. After the superintendent's presentation at the State Department of Education's annual leadership conference, more than a dozen school districts across Oklahoma contacted Union for advice on implementing character education programs in their communities.

☆ As a continuation of the district's **Common Ground** training, First Amendment expert Oliver "Buzz" Thomas addressed Union teachers during Professional Development Day activities.

☆ An \$8,539 grant received during the 1997-1998 school year enabled the district to plan a number of **Community Education** programs.



☆ **Community Resource Officers** from the Tulsa Police Department and the Tulsa County Sheriff's Department provided leadership and continued to ensure a safe learning environment.

☆ A program was instituted to award **Community Service Transcript Recognition** to students in grades 9-12. A special stamp on a student's permanent transcript noting hours given in service to the community proved to be beneficial during the scholarship/college entry application process.

☆ Union's alternative school calendar, the **Continuous Learning Calendar (CLC)**, served approximately 530 students districtwide at three elementary hub sites--Cedar Ridge, Clark, Peters--and sixth graders at the 6/7th Grade Center.

☆ **Drug-Free Youth (D-FY)**, a program that rewards students who don't use drugs, grew to approximately 1,200 eighth through twelfth grade students making it the largest student organization in the district.





## Curriculum/Programs (Continued)

☆ The **Extended Day Program** continued to meet the needs of district families for safe, alternative before-and-after-school care. The program served 1,510 students.

☆ The **Families and Schools Together (FAST)** program, which was initiated at Clark Elementary and extended to Briarglen, continued to benefit Union families. FAST is an effective program involving parents and community organizations working together for the success of at-risk students. More than 60 families have participated in the program since it began two years ago.

☆ Approximately 8,000 students were involved in our award-winning **Fine Arts** programs. The number of 6-12th grade students enrolled in Fine Arts classes, 5,500, was divided as follows: 175 in competitive speech; 125 in mass media; 65 in music technology; 1,200 in band; 235 in orchestra; 1,755 in visual arts; 830 in vocal music, 340 in dance (including drill teams and colorguards); and 775 in drama.

☆ **Focus On Careers** continued as the district's school-to-work program and expanded to include grades nine and ten. Union served as the Local Education Agency for the Region IV School-To-Work Grant serving Union, Jenks, Bixby, Liberty and Glenpool.

☆ A new program at the Eighth Grade Center, **GALA** (Get A Life Advisor) was initiated to help students prepare for careers which meet their interests and abilities. A portfolio including test results, exemplary student work, a record of courses taken along with grades earned, and an overall plan of study will follow students through their high school years.

☆ The Board of Education approved a recommendation to teach **Keyboarding Skills** at the sixth grade level beginning in the 1998-99 school year.



☆ **KinderCamp**, a voluntary, fee-based extended day program for kindergarten students, was successful at Cedar Ridge. In the voluntary **Kindergarten Flex Schedule** at Peters, youngsters attended school one full day and three half days a week.

☆ **Lightspan**, an interactive K-6 curriculum using state-of-the-art animation and full-motion video on a CD-ROM to supplement math, language arts and reading, began at Clark and Briarglen. Classroom and home use will continue in 1998-1999, and the Board of Education voted to expand the program to Grove Elementary.

☆ At McAuliffe, Cedar Ridge, Grove and Clark elementaries, in a program known as **Looping**, students in certain grades advance to the next level, staying with the same teachers and classmates for two years. Looping has expanded to include Darnaby

Elementary in the 1998-99 school year. Benefits include continuity and a strong sense of community among teachers, students and parents.

☆ A vision shared by six area school districts became a reality with the "launch" of the **Millenium Explorer**, a space shuttle simulator housed at McAuliffe Elementary. Students received hands-on learning in math, science and problem solving through the computerized simulator.





## Curriculum/Programs (Continued)

☆ **Network and the Environment with Student Teams (NEST)** was an outdoor classroom project at the Union 6th/7th Grade Center in which the progress of various related science projects was documented on the Internet.

☆ **Night School** offered older students the opportunity to earn class credits toward graduation.

☆ **Parenting Classes** were offered by Union elementary and secondary school counselors, and more than 700 parents received training.



☆ **The Pet Therapy** program continued at McAuliffe Elementary. McAuliffe's dogs, "Calvert" and "Duffy," offered unconditional love, fostered student responsibility and helped to reduce stress among students with special needs.

☆ **Primary Multi-Age Classes** at Grove and Peters elementaries enabled teachers to take advantage of a mixed-age setting to address children's diverse range of developmental levels and learning styles.

☆ **Professional Development** and student learning were enhanced by visits from nationally known education leaders such as **Dr. Grayson Wheatley**, First Amendment expert **Oliver "Buzz" Thomas**, and primary/multiage trainer **Jim Grant**.

☆ Union's **Special Services** department provided educational programs for students with a specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, deafness or hearing impairments, autism, serious emotional disturbance, visual impairment, developmental delays, and traumatic brain injuries. Staff included a director, office manager, curriculum specialist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, five psychologists, nine speech/language pathologists, 52 special education teachers, and 35 paraprofessionals and behavioral aides.

☆ In December, a **Suicide Prevention Forum** for parents provided information concerning at-risk characteristics and ways to protect children and friends from the growing problem of adolescent suicide.

☆ **1998 Summer School** served 303 elementary students and 596 secondary students.



☆ Teachers using thematic units and partnering with other core-curriculum teachers made **Teaming** a success at the Union Sixth and Seventh Grade Centers.

☆ An important part of the district's student assistance program is the **Union Challenge Adventure Ropes Course** at Union Intermediate. During 1997-98, sixty-one district groups and 14 outside groups made use of the Ropes Course.

☆ The first **Union/Jenks Elementary Writers' Conference** drew more than 3,300 students, parents and educators. Chaired by sisters Anna Wilson, a Union third grade teacher, and Rachel Bess, who teaches in the Jenks district, "A Writing Jubilee" gave young writers a chance to share their writing and listen to others, including two nationally recognized authors/illustrators.





## Financial Information

### Revenue

☆ Our 1997-98 general fund revenue was \$44.7 million. As always, the primary source--almost half of our revenue--came from state aid. More than 25% of our money (\$361,323,675) came from ad valorem tax revenue, reflecting new housing and the area's commercial growth, especially along the 71st Street corridor.

Federal, county, and other state and local sources, such as auto tags, land earnings, federal grants and various fees, accounted for the other portions of our revenue.

### Spending

☆ Almost 64% of our revenue was used for teacher salaries, benefits and student classroom needs. Nearly 10% was spent on operations and maintenance. Another 6.1% of the budget was for student services. Transporting the students used 3.3%, and the rest was for general administration and support, school administration, and other instructional staff such as media specialists and counselors.

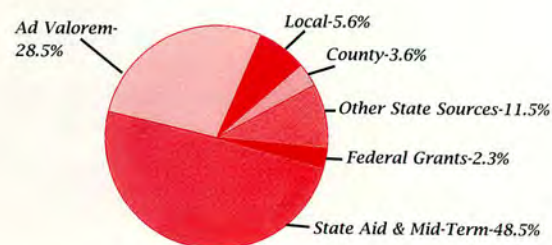
### Grant/Federal Programs

☆ During the 1997-1998 school year, Union received approximately \$2,179,448 in federal and state grant money. Money was used for programs such as drug education, arts in education, teachers for special education, remedial programs, enrichment programs in math and reading, and gifted programs.

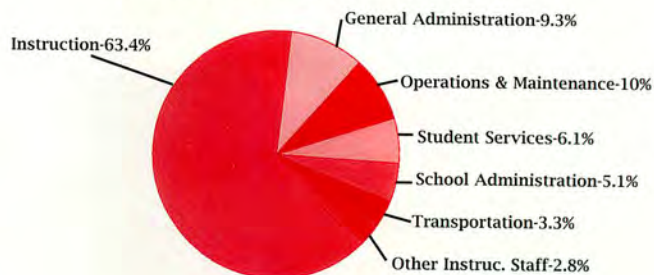
### Miscellaneous

- ☆ 1997-1998 bonding capacity: \$38,893.26
- ☆ Average per pupil expenditure: \$3,951.49

**FY 1997-98 General Fund Revenue**



**FY 1997-98 Budgeted Expenditures**



### Bond Issue & Millage History

We took our campaign slogan, "Building a More Perfect Union," literally when we proposed a \$13.6-million bond issue to, among other things, add 36 new classrooms at the High School and continue funding for districtwide instructional technology. The February 11, 1997, election also included our three annual millage questions and was successful beyond all expectations. All issues passed by at least 77% of the vote.

On March 10, 1998, voters helped us "March Toward 2000" by approving a \$14.7-million bond package for, among other things, construction of Elementary #11. The new school will be built with a scheduled opening date in the year 2000.





## Technology & Business Highlights

### Technology

☆ Video networks were installed at Briarglen and Andersen. It became possible for every classroom to view satellite downlink programs, internal broadcasts from three different locations in the school, and cable TV. In addition, a VCR tape or computer presentation could be run in one central location and viewed in all classrooms. A studio will be installed in the 1998-99 school year with a camera and video editing equipment for teachers and students to develop their own video presentations. With the completion of sessions during the summer of 1998, 96% of certified staff has now been trained and provided classroom computers.

☆ More than 150 teachers were given 30 hours of technology training, a computer, printer and software. Teachers chose between a Pentium system running Windows NT 4.0 Workstation or a Power Macintosh running Mac OS 8.1.

☆ Union High School was fully wired with Ethernet cable giving each classroom a minimum of six network connections. Those connections will provide teachers and students access to the Internet, the media center's catalog and software resources, and e-mail. Over 200,000 feet of cable was installed. All remaining school sites will be wired by the end of October 1998.

☆ Phase I of the music keyboarding lab at the High School was completed, along with two new business computer labs.

☆ A new business computer lab was installed at the Intermediate High, and two new curriculum labs were installed at the Eighth Grade Center.

☆ With the computers installed in classrooms and labs, the computer-to-student ratio in Union Schools became one computer for every five students.

☆ The district completed construction of a 120-foot microwave tower at the Education Service Center and installed what amounts to 30 miles of cable throughout our buildings which will allow us to be on-line with our wide-area and local-area networks.

### Business Highlights

☆ We continued to offer Union's self-insured indemnity plan and were able to maintain the same insurance carriers and premiums. Insurance carriers and monthly premiums have remained the same except for dental premiums, which have increased only slightly.

☆ Construction of the 36-classroom addition to Union High School



and an indoor sports practice facility on the Intermediate High campus were completed.

☆ By adding 29.5 new teaching positions, we were able to keep our districtwide elementary class size average to less than 22 students. None of our secondary core classes exceeded the state maximum of 140 students per teacher.

☆ The major focus of the 1998 bond proposition was constructing, furnishing and equipping Elementary #11, which will open in the year 2000. Passage also allowed the purchase of land for the future construction of Elementary #12.

☆ A minor redistricting of elementary attendance areas will help equalize enrollment between Clark/Grove and Peters/McAuliffe and keep class sizes in line with our districtwide student/teacher ratios.

☆ A select group of teachers became master trainers to instruct other teachers on how to integrate technology into the curriculum. They were the first Union teachers to go through the Tulsa Professional Development Center which opened in July of 1998.

☆ Over 20 teachers participated in the first Union Leadership Class for aspiring administrators.







## *Business Alliance & Volunteers and Community Involvement*

### *Business Alliance & Volunteers*

☆ Roy Clark volunteer Harriet Keck was named Education Volunteer of the Year by the JC Penney Golden Rule Award Program.

☆ Briarglen Elementary's partnership with Tulsa Technology Center continued, and Tulsa Tech students received the President's Daily Points of Light Award for their volunteer efforts. More than 1,000 Tulsa Tech students were involved in mentoring and tutoring Briarglen students.

☆ During this charter year of the Union Business Alliance, 23 businesses signed agreements to become active supporters of Union Public Schools. They provided a variety of services and donations, including tote bags for Lightspan play stations; T-shirts for Title I summer reading participants and the Union-Jenks Young Writers' Conference; Tulsa City-County Library cards for all students at Jarman Elementary and Union High School; electrical wiring and remodeling for a stove at Peters Elementary; billboard advertising; gift certificates to reward student achievement; and summer internships for teachers.



### *Community Involvement*

Throughout the 1997-1998 school year, our employees and students demonstrated strong community spirit by participating in a number of meaningful projects.

☆ Once a month, Student Council members from Peters could be found at Forest Hills Nursing Home visiting residents as part of their commitment to community service.

☆ The district's almost-\$42,000 employee contribution to the United Way campaign set a record for Union, exceeding the previous year by more than 60%.

☆ Tulsa Area United Way agencies benefited from the painting and general maintenance expertise of a number of Union volunteers during the annual "Day of Caring."

☆ Team Union became a powerhouse during last year's Corporate Challenge, finishing in second place in Division VI with approximately 390 employees participating.







## *Parent Involvement & Educational Attainment*

### *Educational Attainment*

Research has shown there is a strong correlation between the educational attainment of parents and the educational success of their children. Nearly 80% of all Tulsans 25 years or older have a high school education or higher, which is well above educational averages in the state or the nation. Within the Union district, the number of adults who have either attended college or earned a degree also exceeds the state average.

### *Parent Involvement*

☆ One of Union's strengths is its active parent community. Parents served a vital role in the decision-making process on PTAs, the Long-Range Planning Committee, the Bond Issue Task Force, the district Volunteer Advisory Committee and in "Character Counts!" implementation.



☆ Members of the Union Schools Education Foundation hosted a spring "Celebration" featuring silent and live auctions. Proceeds from the evening's festivities netted approximately \$32,000 and helped fund 22 grants for innovative classroom projects. The Foundation also awarded \$500 Distinguished Service Recognition Scholarships to four Union High School seniors.

☆ Certainly we could not talk about dedicated district parents without mentioning members of our Board of Education. They served as our top policy makers throughout the 1997-1998 school year. Without their guidance and strong commitment, the progress we achieved could never have happened. We appreciate the contributions they have made, and continue to make, to the quality of our district.

☆ Four schools had over 100% with Peters having the highest percentage at 129% (805 PTA memberships). Cedar Ridge had the highest growth rate last year. The total of PTA memberships was 8,315 for all of Union Public Schools.

### *Information Referral*

If you would like more information about our district, please contact the Communications Department, Union Public Schools, 5656 S. 129th E. Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74134 (918) 459-5432.



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