Introduction

Union Public Schools, Independent District #9, Tulsa County, is a premiere Oklahoma school district “ahead of the curve” on college and career readiness and expanded avenues for individual student success. Its approximately 15,000 students, Pre-K through 12th grade, reside within a 28-square-mile boundary encompassing both southeast Tulsa and a portion of Broken Arrow. The school system is the heart of the community and serves as a unifying force. It includes an early childhood center for three-year-olds; 13 elementary schools Pre-K through 5th grade; and five secondary schools---a 6th/7th Grade Center, 8th Grade Center, Intermediate High for grades 9 & 10, High School for 11th & 12th, and an Alternative School.

Our Mission

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.

Parents choose the Union district for its all-around excellence. They take great pride in its wide-ranging dynamic academic programs; award-winning activities; caring teachers; highly respected elected and administrative leaders; and remarkable facilities. Union is one of the leading districts in Oklahoma in the number of teachers earning national certification, and in number of Presidential Math and Science award recipients.

Our 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

Union’s Community Schools—complete with health clinics and services from community agencies—serve as a model to other districts nationwide. They increase academic success by forming community partnerships to provide extra supports such as early care; health and social services; out-of-school activities; family/community engagement; neighborhood development; and lifelong learning.

Each year the district has an impressive number of National Merit Scholars, and its graduating classes receive millions of dollars in scholarship offers to colleges and universities throughout the country. Approximately 89.5 percent of the 2011 graduating class pursued education after high school.

The Union community provides whatever it takes to ensure students thrive. Successful bond issues have funded state-of-the-art tools to enhance reading, language, math, science, and writing skills at every grade level. Art, music, and physical education enrich the traditional curriculum. Professionals in remedial reading, speech therapy, and special education are assigned to the schools along with library media specialists, nurses, and counselors. Courses for gifted students are offered at all levels, as are programs for English Language Learners.

In addition to challenging Pre-Advanced Placement classes, Union offers a variety of AP classes which allow students to earn college credit while learning about a subject in greater depth and developing study and analytical skills that are important to success in college. In partnership with Tulsa Community College, Union was one of the first to pilot a unique concurrent enrollment program on its High School campus, enabling qualifying students to earn both high school and college credits at the same time—virtually tuition free! The Union Collegiate Academy also provides students exposure to college and career opportunities through a partnership with Tulsa Community College.

When Union was founded in 1919, it combined four small, rural communities - Boles, McGolough, Mayo and Alsuma - and had only four students in its graduating class. Today it is the eighth largest district in Oklahoma. Union’s strong sense of tradition and pride is underscored in its theme, “Working to Form a More Perfect Union.”
Operational Statistics

Transportation
Approximately 8,935 students were eligible for transportation each day on the district’s 94 buses. Union’s buses drove more than 875,315 miles in 2010-2011, approximately 4,836 miles per school day -- comparable to a round trip to Juneau, Alaska. The district’s total cost for fuel was $465,190. Activity buses transported students 77,352 miles during the year.

Child Nutrition
The child nutrition department served 578,109 breakfasts and 1,442,672 lunches during the 2010-2011 school year. In addition, 39,992 breakfasts and 39,142 lunches were prepared for early childhood and 166,232 after-school snacks were provided. Meals were also served during the summer months for summer school. There were 13,979 breakfasts and 18,646 lunches provided during summer to needy children. Lunch participation increased 7% and breakfast increased 14% over the previous year.

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A $175,000 grant from the USDA provided funding for the program. In addition to the food samplings, monthly nutrition education classes and daily ‘sound bite’ announcements were offered to teach students about the relevance of fresh produce to their health.

Maintenance/Facilities Services
Union Public Schools’ 382.59 acres were maintained by 12 employees in the Grounds Department. Not only did they take care of the grounds but they also cleaned the stadium, assisted with UMAC events, maintained 177 outdoor trash cans, repaired asphalt, removed snow, maintained playgrounds, and served as a moving crew.

The Custodial Department operated seven days a week with some schedules beginning as early as 3:15 a.m. while others ended as late as 1:30 a.m. Each of the 118 employees maintained 35,000 square feet of space. They were also responsible for set-up and clean-up for various meetings and activities around the district. Each member of the custodial staff regularly received hands-on training to clean and protect our schools.

The Maintenance Department consisted of 15 employees who maintained equipment and ensured the smooth running of all Union facilities. The crew included locksmiths, plumbers, welders, painters, carpenters, electricians, HVAC technicians, telecommunications technicians, and an electronics technician. They supported construction projects throughout the district.

The Purchasing and Supply Management Department, within the Support Services Division, consisted of the Director of Purchasing & Supply Management and three full-time employees at the Education Service Center. These three supported the functions of bidding, purchasing, and contract review.

The district’s Distribution Center served as the central receiving point, supply distribution hub, daily intra-district mail service, and records management for the district. The Distribution Center had nine employees who provided daily mail service, child nutrition food and supply warehousing and delivery, and general receiving and distribution.

Union Multipurpose Activity Center
Three employees at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center coordinated UMAC events and facility rental. The number of events held at the UMAC during 2010-2011 totaled 1,031 with an average of 20 per week. The UMAC also houses the U-Wear store which marketed Union spirit wear and items, the Fine Arts Department, the Athletics Department, and an in-house video production studio.

Construction/Facilities
The district maintained over 2.7 million square feet of facilities, including thirteen elementary schools (pre-kindergarten through fifth grade), an Early Childhood Education Center (three-year-olds), a Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, an Eighth Grade Center, an Intermediate High School (ninth and tenth grades), an Alternative School serving ninth through twelfth grades, a High School (eleventh and twelfth grades), the Union Multipurpose Activity Center, the district Operations buildings (housing the transportation, maintenance, grounds, and distribution center departments), and an Education Service Center.

During the 2010-2011 school year the district was engaged in several construction and improvement projects. The remodel of Grove Elementary was completed in July of 2011. Additional classrooms and offices were constructed at the site along with the remodel and expansion of the existing classrooms. The cafeteria and kitchen, media center, science lab, art room, music room, and computer lab were also remodeled. The existing gym was expanded providing the school...
Construction/Facilities (Cont.)

with approximately two times the previous amount of gym floor space. As a result of the addition and remodel, the new landscaping, parking, and playground area renovation, Grove Elementary is a beautiful new center for our students.

Several elementary schools had capital improvement projects occurring onsite. Peters received new carpet and tile in the classrooms. McAuliffe received new carpet in the classrooms, was painted throughout the interior of the building, and had new landscaping installed. Improvements were made to the Andersen plaza area where classes meet and students wait for parents under shelter.

The secondary schools also received some upgrades and improvements during the 2010-2011 school year. The Sixth/Seventh Grade Center had a cooling tower replaced in an effort to improve temperature control and air quality in the sixth grade classroom area. The High School roofing replacement project was finished with the completion of Phase IV of the roofing project.

The district’s largest project, approximately 125,000 square feet, continues at the High School campus with the completion of Phase I of the Union Collegiate Academy and the seamless transition into Phase II of the project. Included in the work over the past year has been the construction of a new kitchen where students will be offered four different ethnic food choices and a serving and preparation area for sub-sandwiches called The Deli. Areas have been remodeled for additional offices and storage along with classroom modifications in the existing High School. The floors have been poured, steel erected, and the building is being closed in to move on to the finish work. The building is projected to be completed by the end of July 2012 and ready for the approximately 3,300 students who will occupy the school in 2012-2013.

Other district projects over the past year have been the construction of a 10,000-square-foot storage building at the distribution center, new emergency generators installed at the Education Service Center and the distribution center, remodeling of the Alternative Education office areas, stadium upgrades, and other minor renovations and repairs throughout the district.

Student Statistics

Growth evened out during 2010-2011, with a 0.6% decrease over the previous year. Union served 14,931 students – 7,231 at the elementary level and 7,700 in grades 6-12; 7,681 were male and 7,240 were female. In terms of race, 6.9 percent were Native American, 14.4 percent were African American, 7.1 percent were Asian, 0.2 percent were Pacific Islander, 5.1 percent were multi-racial, and 66.3 percent were white. Just over 22 percent were of Hispanic ethnicity.

There were 4,886 first through twelfth grade students enrolled in Union’s gifted and talented program.

Ten percent or 1,533 of our students were enrolled in special education.

In 2010-2011, approximately 3,074 students throughout the district were bilingual or lived in a home where a language other than English was spoken, compared to 206 in 1995. The total bilingual count included 43 different languages.

During the regular school year, 387 first, 483 second, and 458 third graders were eligible to participate in the Reading Sufficiency Act program.

There were 782 students (grades K-5) enrolled in Union’s Extended Day Program - 189 attended the morning program, 191 attended the afternoon program, and 402 students attended both. EDP Summer Camp was held at Moore Elementary offering weekly themes and field trips over a nine-week period. Weekly camp attendance averaged 150.

During 2010-2011, High School and Intermediate High students earned 1,884 high school credit hours in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and 1,324 in Pre-AP courses.

Elementary summer school was held at Boevers, Briarglen, Cedar Ridge, Clark, Jefferson, and Rosa Parks. Thanks to federal and state grant funds, classes were offered free of charge. There were 1,550 kindergarten through 5th grade students who attended these free summer school programs. In addition, 54 pre-kindergarten and 50 kindergarten students chose to participate in Cedar Ridge tuition-paid classes offered in June.
Student Statistics (Cont.)

More than 12,000 Union students were involved in at least one arts class during the 2010-2011 school year. At the secondary level (grades 7-12) 834 were in band; 601 in orchestra; 945 in vocal music; 624 in drama; 20 in competitive speech; and 2,028 in a wide variety of visual arts disciplines.

During 2010-2011, 1,548 students in grades K-12 participated on 151 teams in the Intramural sports program. Additionally, over 418 Union parents participated as coaches, volunteers and coordinators, volunteering more than 11,350 hours. More than 2,400 practices and 604 games were scheduled in Union facilities.

Secondary Achievement (Grades 7-12)

National Merit Finalists were seniors Andrea Boss, Sam Carr, Amy Chevrier, Kathryn Chevrier, Sarah Daggett, Morgan Hillin, Caleb Nelson, Shelby Stillwell, and Whitney Thompson. Joshua Maddox and Andrew Royer were semifinalists.

Comemed Students included Jennifer Davis, Aaron Fowler, Leah Gray, Susan Liu, David Mahaffey, Christopher McDowell, Aneesh Shukla, Mark Street, and Jimmy Tran.

Seniors Mark Street and Laura Feller were named Mr. and Miss Union, the highest honor a Union student may receive in the district.

Through the Union Collegiate Academy, Union’s Junior Achievement company won third place in the North American JA Company of the Year Competition. The 12-person company, F.A.B. (Future Associates of Business), produced and sold 1,405 hair bows. Their net profit was $1551.13, and $1,241 of that was donated to the Autism Center of Tulsa. Each stockholder received 20% of the net profit.

Alexander Bell and Anthony Gonzalez, who graduated in 2010, were named AP National Scholars based on their performance during spring Advanced Placement exams. In addition, 73 students were named AP Scholars, 22 were named AP Scholars with Honor, and 28 were named AP Scholars with Distinction.

Union Repertory Theatre won first place in the state One-Act Play contest with their performance of The Insanity of Mary Girard. Emily Elkins, Nathan Robertson, Mariah Shaw, and Allison Ward were named All-State cast members. Union also won Best Tech.

Seniors Sarah Daggett and Page Reiter made the 2011 Oklahoma All-State Academic list.

Senior Lacey Baumer was named a semifinalist for the 2011 Class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Baumer ranked with about 2,100 seniors in the running for $3 million in college scholarships from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

The class of 2011 set a new scholarship offer record… $11,144,996.00 which is $50,028.00 more than the previous year’s record total.

Sophomore Samantha Hardgraves won first place in pottery at the Five Civilized Tribes art show and her work was displayed at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum Art Gallery in Muskogee.

The Renegade Regiment ranked third in regional competition and earned the Outstanding Visual Performance caption award at the Bands of America Super Regional Competition in St. Louis. The Regiment went on to place as a finalist at the 2010 Bands of America Grand Nationals.

All three Winter Guards earned the gold medal and state title for the 2011 season in the Winter Guard and Percussion Championships of Oklahoma. The 8th Grade and the JV teams competed in classifications with all High School Varsity level teams, still earning the honor of first place in their division.

Seventh grader Taya Tumpkin was awarded Grand Recognition for exceptional scores in Duke University’s Talent Identification Program. Since its inception in 1980, more than 2 million students have participated in a Duke TIP Talent Search.

The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit at Union High School was selected as one of 182 units to receive the 2010-2011 Air Force Junior ROTC Distinguished Unit Award with Merit, this for the fifth year in a row. The award recognizes Air Force Junior ROTC units that have performed above and beyond normal expectations and have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to their school and community while meeting the Air Force Junior ROTC mission of producing better citizens for America.

Union’s cadets took up the task to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11 by bringing the Moving Vietnam Wall to the district during 2011. Their request was approved for the entire week preceding 9/11, and they set about the year-long job of raising the needed funds.
Secondary Achievement (Grades 7-12) (Cont.)

Seniors Lindsey Willis and Sheyda Zakerion successfully completed the National Association of Student Councils’ Student Leaders Program, earning national certification as student leaders. They joined approximately 100 students in the nation to achieve this recognition.

Elementary Achievement

Darnaby was approved to be a participating A+ School. A+ Schools is a program that supports academic excellence and enhances the way students learn using the arts while working through A+ Essentials—arts, curriculum, experiential learning, multiple intelligences, enriched assessments, collaboration throughout the school, having infrastructure in place, and a climate that allows the students to do their very best.

Recognized as a model of community schools, Roy Clark Elementary was featured in the national publication of Scholastic Magazine. The article focused on how Clark is taking steps to not just improve the quality of education but students’ very lives by connecting students and their families with resources to provide emotional support and access to needed services like energy assistance and health care.

Clark was named a 2011 National Community School, one of only three in the country to be honored by the national Coalition for Community Schools in Washington, D.C. The Coalition for Community Schools established the national awards program to highlight the effectiveness and efficiency of schools, such as Clark Elementary, which has been a community school since 2005.

Union Intermediate and High School Athletic Achievement

Union won the 6A State Football Championship, beating Jenks in a phenomenal renewal of the country’s best high school football rivalries. For a remarkable 15 consecutive seasons, Jenks or Union has captured the 6A title. For the first time in school history, the Redskins savored a third consecutive state championship.

The boys’ cross country team finished first in state 6A competition. Union’s point total of 107 was seven higher than second-place finisher Norman. Union’s top finishers in the 5K meet were Erik Alnes, Tyler Helt, Alex Monaghan, Bryan Corbaz, Zade Nabilsi, Levi Garrett, and Chase Costner.

The girls’ golf team won the first state championship in school history by 23 strokes. Freshman Emma Allen finished second individually with a 155.

Senior Paige Brown was named to the All-State Volleyball Team.

Senior Erik Alnes (cross country) was Union’s nominee for the Wendy’s Heisman Award.

Union’s two-sport standout, Stephon Weaver, was voted the Oklahoma Coaches Association’s Region 7 Male Athlete of the Year. Weaver was a receiver for the state champion Redskins football team and a starter for the state semi-finalist basketball team who finished the season with a record of 21-4.

Senior Sarah Daggett, cross country and track athlete, won the large school girls’ Scholar Athlete Award for the 35th Annual March of Dimes Sports Headliner banquet. Sarah was the defending state champion in the 1600- and 3200-meter run.

Juniors Kyle Crutchmer and Kyle Ash earned hard-fought wins in the 160-pound and 152-pound weight divisions to take state wrestling championships.

Five weeks after winning the state championship, Crutchmer became a national champion by winning the National High School Coaches Association Junior Nationals 160-pound weight division in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

The OSSAA recognized a number of Union’s athletic programs for their outstanding academic work in the classroom. Winning the Distinguished Academic Award with a minimum team GPA of 3.5 and rank in the upper 10 percent of class 6A were boys’ swim, girls’ swim, cheer, volleyball, and baseball. Earning Academic Achievement
**Union Intermediate and High School Athletic Achievement (Cont.)**

Awards with a minimum team GPA of 3.25 and rank in the top 1/3 of Class 6A were boys’ and girls’ cross country, boys’ and girls’ golf, girls’ soccer, and girls’ basketball.

Named as OCA Region 7 Female and Male Scholar Athletes of the Year were seniors Sarah Daggett (track & cross country) and Jacob Albritton (tennis).

Senior swimmer Megan Myers and junior Erika Mc Govern took individual state championships in the 500-Yard Freestyle and 100-Yard Breaststroke, respectively. The girls’ swim team finished runner-up to state champion Edmond North. Megan also is the repeat honoree as the Tulsa World’s girls’ All-Metro Swimmer of the Year.

Junior swimmer Eastman Holloway set a new state record in the 200-Yard Freestyle event with a time of 1:39.97, breaking the record of Union alumna, Dylan Lynn, who had held the state best time of 1:40.15 since 2006. Eastman also was state champion in the 500-Yard Freestyle. The boys’ swim team finished 4th at state.

The Varsity Pom team won a State Championship for the 7th Year in a row and 8th total. They were crowned co-champions along with the Jenks Trojans. In addition, the 8th, 9th, and JV teams all won State Championships in their respective divisions. This is the first time that every team has won state in the same year.

Varsity Pom was named the national winner of the 2010 American Spirit Award by the Universal Dance Association – the highest honor bestowed by the organization. The American School Spirit Award is given to teams that excel both on and off the dance floor, focusing on competitive success, academic excellence, school spirit, and community service. The UDA also commended the squad for its academic achievements with a team GPA of an unweighted 3.6, and 16 girls were named to the Academic All-State Team.

Seniors Adrienne Allan and Dea Pennington represented Union on the All-State cheerleading squad comprised of the top 16 cheerleaders from the East side of the state.

The Varsity Cheerleaders placed third in nationals and were also recognized for their community service project at Rosa Parks Elementary.

The Highsteppers Dance Teams competed in the Oklahoma State Dance Team Directors Association (OSDRTDA) State Competition. 8th grade brought home a state championship in Kick and third in Jazz; 9th grade were state champs in Kick and second in Jazz, plus State Academic Championship winners. Varsity Highsteppers earned second place in Kick and fourth in Jazz.

The Varsity Highsteppers traveled to Orlando, Florida, to compete at the Contest of Champions National Championship. They placed second in Kick, sixth in Lyrical, sixth in Modern, and eleventh in Jazz.

**Teaching & Learning**

The Board of Education voted unanimously to start elementary school classes earlier, seventh- and eighth-grade classes later, and ninth- through 12th-grade classes about the same time to accommodate before- and after-school classes.

Schools began the day 25 minutes later on Fridays to give teachers collaboration time during the week. The schedule allowed all Union teachers to engage in a 45-minute embedded collaboration time with their peers to have an ongoing discussion of best practices in the classroom.

The Board also approved a new redistricting plan in an attempt to ease crowding and more evenly distribute student enrollment numbers. Approximately 200 students, or three percent of the district’s 7,200 elementary students, were affected.

The national Coalition for Community Schools, along with the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative and the Linkages group, hosted their fall networking meeting in Tulsa celebrating the Tulsa connection between early care and learning with community schools. Both Rosa Parks and the Early Childhood Education Center hosted a study tour showcasing community initiatives and collaborations as well as the linkages between the two sites.

Tulsa Community College and the P-20 Council received a grant to continue their work in ensuring more Oklahomans have access to higher education through a pilot program—EXCELeRate which enabled Tulsa and Union juniors and seniors, and limited sophomores, the opportunity to earn college credits on their high school campuses. The cost to students for a three-credit hour class was $12.75.

Three hundred seventy-three students participated in concurrent enrollment for college credit on the Union campus and 18 students earned college hours at Tulsa Tech. During 2010-2011, Union students earned 3,813 hours of college credit while in high school.

Even with concurrent enrollment, Union’s AP program was bigger than ever. More AP tests than ever were given, and 62% of the scores earned college credit.
Union Public Schools - District Profile (Continued)

Teaching & Learning (Cont.)

Union was named the Exemplary School of the Year by the Muscogee Creek Nation in recognition of Union’s Native American Johnson O’Malley program. Union was cited for an “impressive program” that offered tutoring and counseling for eligible students in grades 8-12 that helped them plan and prepare for college or career training.

Union’s Adult Education program became the largest in the state, and staff members helped 371 adults obtain their GEDs as well as teaching many adults English and job skills.

The district began working toward implementation of the Union Virtual Learning Academy which will provide a unique opportunity for High School students to have a challenging educational experience in a supportive online environment. Students will have access to classes across the curriculum any time, any place. The Academy (UVLA) will offer core classes, and interesting electives. Courses are self-paced, interactive, and supported as students communicate with highly qualified teachers.

Contributions from the Community

The George Kaiser Family Foundation generously supported Union’s FOCUS program with a donation of $25,000. The Williams Companies Foundation gave $20,000 in matching funds as did the Union Schools Education Foundation (USEF) with $5,000. Union’s FOCUS program serves students in grades 7-9, providing them with more instructional time in math and English plus the support and skills to achieve academic success.

Partnerships with area churches, civic organizations, colleges, businesses, and community agencies have provided everything from dictionaries and school supplies to mentors and health clinic services.

Employee Statistics

During 2010–2011, Union employed 69 administrators—53 certified and 16 non-certified and 966 certified teachers. Support staff members accounted for another 799 positions, 642 full time and 157 part time. The ethnic diversity among the staff was African-American 4.9%; American Indian 5.2%, Asian 1.9%, Hispanic 7.5%, Caucasian and other 80.5%. Three hundred seventy-seven were male and 1,457 female.

At the end of 2010-2011, Union had 96 Nationally Board Certified teachers at 19 schools, and 36% of district teaching and administrative staff held graduate-level degrees—348 had master’s degrees and 19 had doctorates.

Employee Achievement

Dawn Poyndexter, who teaches first and second grade at Cedar Ridge, was named the 2010-2011 Union Teacher of the Year and one of 12 finalists for state Teacher of the Year. The Site Teachers of the Year were Ione Stowell (Andersen), Joan Meyer (Boevers), Teresa Bowker (Briarglen), Kent Jones (Clark), Verna Pollack (Darnaby), Becky Hines (Grove), Kim Wolfe (Jarman), Karen Duncan (Jefferson), Angie Briggs (McAuliffe), LeeAnna Weaver (Moore), Athena Reich (Peters), Jean Thomason (Rosa Parks), Julie Brungardt (6th Grade Center), Frances Turney (7th Grade Center), Karie Anderson (8th Grade Center), Trent Spencer (Alternative School), Lt. Col. Ron McCool (Intermediate), and Ami Reynolds (High School).

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to Union 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 a government and its management.

Union also earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International for the 18th consecutive year. The award is the highest recognition for a school district offered by ASBO, recognizing significant achievement in school system financial reporting.

Jarman teachers Paige Bergin and Denise Thomas received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching from President Barack Obama. Bergin was honored in math and Thomas in science. Nationally 83 mathematics and science teachers were selected for the honor. They received an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony and related events.

After implementing a concussion management program, head athletic trainer Dan Newman has become a regional authority on concussion prevention. Union hosted a brain injury conference for area athletic directors, coaches, and parents as part of a national public awareness cam-
Employee Achievement (Cont.)

campaign by The Sarah Jane Brain Foundation, a national nonprofit group.

District patron Patrick Coyle was tapped to fill the District #2 seat on the Union Board of Education left vacant when member Ross Ford resigned to become Union’s Director of Security.

Union raised $175,198 for the Tulsa Area United Way campaign, with 94 people named Key Club donors – contributing $500 or more. The Intermediate High, the 6th/7th Grade Center, and Moore Elementary raised the most money for the United Way. Peters, Grove, and the 8th Grade Center increased their giving the most while Moore, the Alternative School, and Cedar Ridge gave the “highest per capita” from the school sites.

High School math teachers Cindy Johnson and Elizabeth Sonnenfeld were selected as participants in the State Superintendent’s Master Teacher Project. Johnson and Sonnenfeld organized study groups for the district and served on a regional curriculum conference planning committee.

Sgt. Dan Snow was honored as one of the top 10% of the country’s Junior ROTC instructors.

Robbie Lee, certified desk specialist in the Human Resources department, was named the 2010-2011 Support Employee of the Year. Robbie was described as an employee who raises the bar for work ethic and commitment to high professional standards.

JoAnna Jamison, director of the Adult/Community Education program, was named the 2011 Workforce Oklahoma Employment and Training Association (WOETA) Alumni Award Business Leader of the Year for the service area in Oklahoma by the Tulsa Area Workforce Investment Board.

High School teacher Christi Johnson, coordinator of Union’s Collegiate Academy, won the “Educator of the Year” award from Junior Achievement at their Business Excellence banquet.

Head football coach Kirk Fridrich was given a Sports Headliner Honoree Award at the 35th Annual March of Dimes Sports Headliner banquet for the success of the 2010 State Champion Union Redskins.

Named as Oklahoma Coaches Association Region 7 Coaches of the Year were Kirk Fridrich (football), Kevin Gannon (tennis), Lindsay Jones (golf), Chadd McKee (volleyball), and Steve Randall (softball).

Mike Stanton (cross country/track) was voted Region 7 Coach of the Year as well as Frontier Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

Parent Support

The Union Schools Education Foundation presented checks to its 2010-2011 grant recipients during Teacher Appreciation Week in May. Forty-eight grants totaling $37,292.29 were given to 48 different teachers at 15 of the district’s 18 sites. The classroom projects to be funded ranged from $64.80 to $1,999.02.

The Union Schools Education Foundation raised $80,759 during its annual November dinner and auction at the Radisson Hotel. The amount raised represents the second highest amount on record with net income of approximately $63,000. With the theme, “Focusing on the Future,” auction chairwoman DeAnn Magness and her team collected great items to auction including a 14K diamond pendant necklace and use of the Flintco Suite at the BOK Center along with gift baskets made by the schools. They also raised $5,200 for the “Fund the Need” cause to benefit Union’s “I Care Holiday Project.”

The PTA Klothes Kloset collected and distributed clothes for hundreds of Union children and their families.

Union voters overwhelmingly approved a $21.6-million February bond issue to expand the district’s efforts to better prepare students for college, giving the go-ahead to complete the $16.3-million Union Collegiate Academy by fall 2012. The remainder of bond funds were to be used to convert the Intermediate High to a Ninth Grade Center, and to purchase textbooks and make other capital improvements throughout the district.

Voter turnout was strong despite hazardous weather conditions left over from the previous week’s blizzard. Election officials consolidated all 36 Union precincts at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center for voter and precinct worker safety. The proposal passed with 84.23 percent of the vote.

Incumbent Jeff Bennett retained his seat on Union’s school board, with 58 percent of the votes.

Student Community Service

Students in the Extended Day Program at Union’s 13 elementary schools decorated cards to be delivered to area Meals on Wheels recipients and other homeless people through the Kenzie’s Cause project. Seventh grader Ken-
Union Public Schools - District Profile (Continued)

**Student Community Service (Cont.)**

Kenzie Chabin took the idea of sending the cards and said that within the first six weeks of the project, about 30,000 cards had been made. Schools and classes outside Oklahoma have started similar card-making projects after learning about Kenzie’s Cause.

Union High School was named the winner of The Salvation Army’s High School Bell Ringing Challenge, bringing in $996.54 for the campaign which raised $3,770 area-wide. The funds helped support some 3,000 needy families during the holidays.

Union students were involved in giving back to the community throughout the year through food drives, coat collections, and coin drives. Redskins AID (Athletes Impacting the District) members mentored elementary students and volunteered at the Alzheimer’s Memory Walk, area nursing homes, the John 3:16 Family & Youth Center, the Feed My Starving Children food drive, and many more.

**Communications**

The Communications Department created a successful 2011 bond election information campaign for a $21.6-million proposal to complete the Union Collegiate Academy wing at Union High School and to fund needed improvements throughout the district. The “Union – Ahead of the Curve” campaign culminated in strong voter turnout and a record-breaking 84.23 percent approval rating for passage on election day despite last-minute precinct changes and icy roads left over from the worst blizzard in Tulsa’s history.

Throughout the fiscal year, the Communications Department decreased expenditures 10 percent by reducing the number of publications it produced and increasing its use of the district’s automated telephone notification system, its website, www.unionps.org, and the social networks Twitter and Facebook to communicate with its publics. The department also opened a YouTube channel to provide another venue for student performances and information videos.

**Technology**

During 2010-2011, the Information Technology department completed 14,131 work orders and many projects funded by the 2010 bond issue. The Technology department continued to deploy a wireless infrastructure in many of the elementary schools and secondary school sites. Only a limited number of computers were upgraded during the year, but a virtual desktop pilot program was launched. The 2010-2011 school year also saw the first installation of a multi-year project to upgrade the district’s servers to a virtual farm.

Union continued to deploy SMART Interactive white boards at all sites. Over the summer, the hard drives on all student computers (3,100) were erased and re-imaged. The computers were then re-named and re-joined to the network.

**Economic Condition and Outlook**

Union Public Schools is located within the Tulsa Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), a seven-county area whose population exceeds 937,478 or 25 percent of the population of the state of Oklahoma. The Tulsa Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce reports Tulsa’s major industries as aerospace, transportation and logistics; electrical equipment manufacturing and services; health care; IT and telecommunications; petroleum and natural gas; architectural and structural metal manufacturing. The Chamber estimates the value of all goods and services produced in the Tulsa MSA as $35.2 billion, or 32.5 percent of the Oklahoma economy.

*Forbes Magazine* recognized a strong job market for Tulsa, ranking the metro as the fourth best city for jobs in winter 2011. *Relocate America* ranked Tulsa sixth in overall cities for 2010, attributing elements such as a strong economy, low unemployment, and a robust business presence. Tulsa offers a low cost of doing business at 11 percent under the U.S. average due to low rent, energy costs and taxes. Other qualities that attract new growth are Tulsa’s sound infrastructure and low cost of living. *Business Facilities* named Tulsa metro first for cost of living in 2010. Many publications have praised Tulsa for strong economic rankings, including:

1. “Affordable City in the U.S.” – *Relocate America*
2. “Strongest Economy for Families” – *Parenting Magazine*
3. “City Likely to Escape Commercial Real Estate Slump” – *U.S. News and World Reports*
4. “Affordable College Town” – *Coldwell Banker*

The area’s economy continues to rebound from past turmoil in the national and international financial markets. The Office of the State Treasurer reported that the state ended its fiscal year with revenues above projections due to higher than anticipated collections from gross production taxes on oil and natural gas and net income taxes. Oil and gas prices rose from the previous year, which helped contribute to additional state revenues in the current year as the state’s economy continues to improve. The Tulsa housing market has not been as negatively affected by the mortgage/housing crisis compared to the rest of the
Economic Condition and Outlook (Cont.)
country. An October 2010 article in The Wall Street Journal
ranked Tulsa first for best markets for conservative real
estate investors in cities with more than 200,000 residents.
This high ranking was due to a positive three-year home
price forecast, stable employment market, and small share
of volatile jobs. Tulsa also is a top 38 best performing city
for 2010 according to the Milken Institute.

The unemployment rate in the Tulsa MSA was 6.9 percent
in 2009, and then increased to a 2010 level of 7.4 percent,
with a 2011 rate of 7.3 percent, 2.3 percent below the U.S.
average. The Tulsa Chamber projects that rate will decrease
through 2015 as the economy improves in Oklahoma.

Union Public Schools contributes to Tulsa’s workplace
initiatives by offering community programs for both adults
and children such as:

* Adult Basic Education – classes for adults who need basic
  instruction in reading, writing, math and life skills,
* Workplace Education – links education goals to the
  employer’s desire for high performance work and product
  quality,
* G.E.D. Preparation – instruction to prepare adults to take
  the Tests of General Educational Development (G.E.D.),
* English as a Second Language – instruction to non-
  English speaking adults to help them be productive
  citizens of our community.

The Adult Education program has continued to grow,
serving 2,263 students in 2011. Due to program expansion
that includes five Northeastern Oklahoma counties, the
program predicts 2012 will serve over 3,500 students. In
addition to helping many adults, the program has formed
many relationships with Tulsa area programs including:

* Asbury Learning Center
* Catholic Charities
* South Tulsa Community House
* Green Country Event Center
* Community Action Project (CAP)
* Workforce
* Educare
* TRIO - Education Opportunity Center (EOC)
* Tulsa Technology Center

Union Public Schools continues efforts to provide superior
healthcare to the district. A joint effort between University
of Oklahoma Bedlam Community Health Clinic and
Union Public Schools produces cutting-edge services for
the Union community. The Union Public Schools Bedlam
School-Based Health Clinic operates at both Roy Clark
Elementary School and Rosa Parks Elementary School.
These clinics provide a convenient way for students to
receive a wide range of healthcare services, which operate
at no cost to the school district. The primary goal of the
clinics is to serve families of all children in each of the
schools, including those who qualify for Medicaid or have no
health insurance. The clinics provide at least one full-time
physician’s assistant or a resident physician. In addition, a
pediatrician visits each clinic as part of a rotating schedule.
The physicians work with and assist school nurses.

In addition to student healthcare, Union partners
with the University of Oklahoma Physicians-Tulsa
to provide low cost medical services for employees
through an employee clinic. This unique partnership
provides access to quality healthcare while controlling
escalating healthcare costs. The clinic is staffed by a
fully-licensed OU physician, a physician assistant, and a
licensed practical nurse. Limited pharmaceutical services
are also available at the clinic.

Enrollment
Union has experienced significant growth in the past decade.
During the 2001-2002 school year, the district recorded
total enrollment of 13,315. In 2010-2011, enrollment
reached 14,931. Administration projects enrollment in
the 2011-2012 school year to reach approximately
14,911 students with the continuation of the four-year-old
program to every elementary site and the three-year-old
program serving approximately 760 students. Additional
enrollment details may be found in the Statistical Section
of this CAFR.

Facilities
To accommodate this growth in student population the
district maintains over 2.7 million square feet of facilities,
including thirteen elementary schools (grades PreK-5), a
Sixth/Seventh Grade Center, an Eighth Grade Center, an
Intermediate High School (grades 9-10), an Alternative
School serving both middle school and high school
students, a High School (grades 11-12), and an Education
Service Center. The district’s newest construction includes
the remodel and expansion of Grove Elementary, which
will be complete in July 2011, and construction on Union
Collegiate Academy at the High School, scheduled to open
in school year 2012. Please refer to the Statistical Section
of this CAFR for additional facility details.

Bond Funds
On February 8, 2011, district voters approved a $21.6-million
bond proposal which included funds for Phase II of the
Union Collegiate Academy and a larger cafeteria at the
Bond Funds (Cont.)

High School; acquisition of textbooks, media books and instructional hardware/software; and building repairs and renovations to sites districtwide. Other equally crucial items on the ballot included classroom materials, instructional equipment, technology, and operations equipment.

Grants/Federal Programs

During the 2010-2011 school year, Union received more than $16.98 million in federal grant money, of which $7.34 million was funded by The American Recovery and Re-investment Act of 2009 (ARRA). ARRA provided funding for various programs designated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Homeless, Title I, and Federal Education Jobs Act, which allocated additional funds for educational positions. Union utilized ARRA funds for education-related expenses such as technology, instructional materials, salaries, parental involvement, and professional development.

Major Initiatives

Major initiatives that were enacted as a result of the 2011 Oklahoma Legislative Session included:

- S.B. 141: Amendments to virtual weights of students by modifying the calculation date.
- S.B. 536: Establishment of “Task Force on Creating Administrative Efficiencies” to examine administrative costs and ways to reduce and the associated impact of the reductions on the school district operations and student education.
- S.B. 664: Lowers the percentage of funds for administrative costs relating to school administration.
- H.B. 1744: Special Education Vouchers – Modification to the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.
- H.B. 2139: State Board of Education – Separate duties by indicating the State Board administers public schools and the State Superintendent administers the Department.
- H.J.R. 1002: Cap on Ad Valorem – Sends to a vote of the people a measure limiting property tax increases to 3% annually.

Internal Control

Management of the district is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the district are protected from loss, theft or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data is compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The internal control structure is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that 1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and 2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

Long-Term Financial Planning

The Board of Education of Union Public Schools, in conjunction with the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, establishes a system of sound financial planning and management to assure that the district’s objectives are addressed and that funds are expended in accordance with plans expressed through the Board budget. The financial management system components include: 1) a planning process that consists of a review of state statutes, Board policies, concepts, ideas, problems, constraints, approaches and systems before dollar amounts are established in the budget; and 2) a budget that is the expression of the plans of the Board through three main budgets – the General Fund, a Special Revenue Fund, and the Child Nutrition Fund.

Budgetary Controls

The district utilizes budgetary controls to ensure compliance with legal appropriation limitations and to provide an operating plan for the district’s resources. The annual appropriated budget includes activity of the General, Special Revenue Funds, and Child Nutrition Funds. Capital projects activity is controlled with approval of project-length financial plans. Initial budgets are adopted at the beginning of the fiscal year with periodic amendments approved by the Board as necessary.

The level of budgetary control is maintained by fund, project, and function. Individual line items may be adjusted without Board action, but total budgeted expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the major fund level without Board approval. The district utilizes an encumbrance system as a technique of budgetary control with encumbered appropriations lapsing at year end.

Independent Audit

Oklahoma state statutes require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants. The accounting firm of Cole and Reed, LLP was selected by the Board of
Independent Audit (Cont.)

Education to conduct the audit. In addition to meeting the requirements set forth in state statutes, the audit was also designed to meet the requirements of the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984 and related OMB Circular A-133. The auditor’s report on the basic financial statements is included in the financial section of this report.

Closing

In closing, without the leadership and support of the Union Board of Education, preparation of this report would not have been possible.

Sincerely,

Catherine L. Burden, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Debra J. Jacoby, CPA
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Catherine L. Smart, CPA
Director of Financial Reporting/Treasury

Gail Easterling, CPA
Director of Accounting