

2003-2004 Annual Report

Union Public Schools

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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 more than 13,800 students in its eleven 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).

Another option at the elementary level is the Primary Multiage Classroom for grades 1 and 2. Children in the Multiage program stay with one teacher for more than a year and progress as quickly as their development allows, but those needing more time to master skills can do so without being "held back."

Union's comprehensive secondary curriculum provides both college-bound and non-college-bound students a wide range of offerings. Among them are Advanced Placement (AP) courses in all core academic areas and Concurrent Enrollment, which enables students to earn college credit while fulfilling high school coursework requirements. 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 Extended Education Building, 5656 S. 129th E. Avenue. 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), a host of parent organizations and the Union Schools Education Foundation which funds innovative teaching projects to reward and reinforce excellence.

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.

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

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Patrons,

It is our pleasure to review the 2003-04 school year with our stakeholders through this Annual Report. This report card of our progress as a district holds us accountable to our patrons and recounts both our triumphs and challenges. The depressive economy of our state continued to negatively impact school funding during 2003-04 necessitating continual tight fiscal management. With the loss of over 100 staff positions in spite of additional student growth, this was a year of higher class sizes and more responsibilities for our staff. However, student programs and opportunities were prioritized and maintained at a high level.

The Union Multipurpose Activity Center opened in November with a ceremony that included 3,000 students and then a full house for basketball. Thanks to a major contribution to the Union Schools Education Foundation, the arena was named for philanthropist and entrepreneur John Q. Hammons.

Though the building was used for trade shows and other events, it also proved a great venue to watch our Redskin Basketball team on their path to the 6A State Championship. In a partnership with SouthCrest Hospital, the wellness center at the UMAC opened for all staff and patrons in January. This unique facility's mission to promote wellness and

healthy living makes Union Public Schools a leader in innovative ways to contribute to the community.

Union patrons continued to support the annual bond issue in February leading to a new elementary school and all-day kindergarten programs throughout the district in 2006. Construction on the Fine Arts wing at the High School and planning for additions and renovations at the 8th Grade Center also maintained a positive focus throughout the year.

Union students set a school record for National Merit Scholars in 2003-04. Student academic performance has continued to be a priority of the district as we have tried to tie instructional decisions to student test data. Curriculum specialists, expanding programs for English Language Learners, and focused professional development have provided resources to educators making them more productive in the classroom. The NCLB federal initiative has given Union the opportunity to boast that all of our teachers are Highly Qualified by state and federal standards.

Though this publication cannot do justice to the variety of accomplishments of Union students and staff, I hope that you will read it to expand your awareness of the complexities of our district. We have a tremendous pride in our community of learners and thank you for your involvement and continued support.

Cathy Burden, Ph.D., Superintendent

Facilities/Operational Statistics

Union's well-equipped facilities were used by district and community organizations for everything from practices, games, rehearsals, performances, meetings, job fairs, craft shows, before-and-after-school care, classes, competitions and parent-sponsored fund-raising events. In order to keep our facilities looking their best, we have a custodial staff of 111 who each cover 30,000 square feet on a daily basis, 12 grounds staff members who tend to 480 acres of school property, and five warehouse workers who deliver and receive 6,500 cases of goods each month. Our facility coordinator schedules over 2,000 activities each month.

Maintenance Services

In addition to keeping our facilities looking their best, we have 13 maintenance technicians keeping everything in working order. During the 2003-2004 school year, they processed 5,029 work orders.

The following projects were completed during the 2003-2004 school year:

- Carpet replacement at seven sites
- Asphalt and paving
- Refinish of gym floor at the Intermediate High
- Cross Country/Track locker room renovation
- Drama room remodeled at the Intermediate High
- Photo Lab remodel at the High School
- New frames and windows at the 6/7 Grade Center pool

- Roof replacement at Andersen Elementary and the Intermediate High
- New freezer for Food Services at the warehouse
- New air compressor at the High School
- Media shades at Moore
- Fire alarm upgrade at the Intermediate High
- Cooling towers at Andersen and McAuliffe
- Security camera upgrade at Boevers
- TV installations at the UMAC

Food Services

Our Food Services department consists of 100 employees who served 9,000 lunches every day during 2003-2004. In addition, they implemented the “Breakfast in a Bag” program at one of our elementary sites, serving breakfast to each student every morning.

Transportation

Our Transportation department’s 61 drivers transported 5,500 students on a daily basis. We have 1,500 bus stops in the district, with 92 buses running 58 routes, driving 4,200 miles per day.

Construction Services

The Union Multipurpose Activity Center and SouthCrest Wellness and Sports Medicine Center opened in January 2004. Construction continued on the Fine Arts wing at the High School with the opening scheduled for December 2004.

Future projects include new construction at the 8th Grade Center that will add 29,100 square feet and remodel construction that will include 22,242 square feet. This will add 11 classrooms, a new media center and administrative office area.

Forty acres of land have been purchased to build Elementary #12. It will have 72,298 square feet to house 600 students. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2005.

Student Statistics

Growth has been a constant factor throughout Union’s history. As Oklahoma’s ninth largest district, Union served 13,819 students in the 2003-2004 school year. Of those, 6,642 were elementary age and 7,177 were in our secondary schools; 50.7 percent were male and 49.3 percent were female. In terms of ethnic origin, 10.7 percent were Native American, 10.9 percent were Hispanic, 10.8 percent were African-American, 5.4 percent were Asian and 62.2 percent were Caucasian.

9.5% or 1,453 of our students were enrolled in special education.

Throughout the district, approximately 1,802 students were bilingual in 2003-2004, compared to 206 in 1995. The total bilingual count included 60 different languages.

More than 31.3% of our students reported that they live with just one of their biological parents.

Student Achievement

In 2003-04, 323 Union High School students earned college credit based on their performance on the Advanced Placement Testing Program. In addition to 15 Pre-AP classes, Union offers 20 Advanced Placement 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 offers a Concurrent Enrollment Program, enabling students to earn both high school and college credits at the same time.

Senior Jordan Rader qualified for the semi-final round in the USA Biology Olympiad, and his score placed him in the top ten percent nationwide. The USA Biology Olympiad is a nationwide competition to select team members for the USA Biology team that will compete with other nation's teams during an international competition over the summer.

Four seniors - Miriam Blankenship, Mark Chandler, Ryan Huey and Rachel Williams - were named Byrd Scholars in recognition of their academic excellence and achievement.

Eleven Union seniors were named National Merit Finalists. They are Celia Beck, Miriam Blankenship, Stephen Elkind, Allison Grindle, Angela Liniger, Andrew Morris, Jordan Rader, Heather Stiverson, Heather Urquhart, Katie Warden and Rachel Williams. Daniel O'Dowd was named as a Semifinalist.

Recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars were Travis Biddick, Moriah Birnbaum, Lyndsey Hogg, Ryan Huey, Katherine Keeling, Megan Miller, Brittany Overstreet and Nikita Shah.

The Intermediate High and High School Jazz Ensemble performances were recognized for their outstanding musicianship at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. Both ensembles received #1 ratings. Seniors Brooks Ball, Jonathan Howland, Patrick Thomas and Evan Solensky received Outstanding Musician Awards, as did freshmen Luke Polly, Kade Goforth, Clay Grogan and Daniel Thompson.

Moore fourth grader Angela Cai was honored as a National Award of Merit winner for visual art in the PTA Reflections contest. Her picture of a girl sitting under a tree was also a state Award of Excellence winner, reflecting the theme "I am happy when...." Twenty-six other Union students were honored for their entries in the state PTA Reflections Program.

Sophomore Mike Reiser attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama - one of the premier space camps in the country - for the fourth time. During the week-long camp, he met other visually-impaired students from across the nation where they participated in activities astronauts and pilots might face on a mission.

More than 170 Union D-FY (Drug-Free Youth) students in grades 9-12 "invaded" the 6th/7th Grade Center during October's Red Ribbon Week in an effort to influence younger students and steer them away from drugs, alcohol, tobacco and violence. A

record 662 seventh graders joined D-FY, pledging not to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco or to engage in violence.

Several students at Moore were honored for their entries in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2004 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Competition. Winners in Category I (grades K-3) were Mitrah Ghavami & Sally Jung (first place); Monica Park, Amanda Perez & Chelsea Schmidt (second place) and Zach Haberman, Kay Nguyen & Christopher Snead (third place).

Freshman Danielle Biadasz was named Miss Rodeo Oklahoma Teen 2004 in Oklahoma City in December. During the competition, she participated in the speech contest, took a written test on rodeo and horses, rode her horse, interviewed with judges, answered impromptu questions on rodeo and current events and rode in a parade in Stockyard City.

Basketball senior Clent Stewart was named the Frontier Valley Conference Player of the Year. Mike Bontrager was named to the 1st Team Frontier Valley Conference and John Tarbell was named to the 2nd Team Frontier Valley Conference.

The Union boys basketball team won its first-ever Class 6A state championship by toppling No. 2 Putnam City 65-51 in the Class 6A state final. The entire school celebrated the victory after spring break with an assembly in the team's honor with the presentation of the state trophy and the basketball net from the game. Union seniors Adam Blankenship and Kiki Stephens were honored by the Oklahoma Coaches Association as Male and Female Athlete of the Year.

Junior Matt Byford won the title of Class I Jr. Elite State Champion in March at the Men's Gymnastics State Meet. He took first in Floor Exercise, first in Pommel Horse and first in the All Around. He also qualified for Region III Competition.

The Girls' Varsity Basketball Team was a state qualifier, while the girls' fast-pitch softball team and girl's volleyball team were both state runners-up. In swimming, the boys' team took third in state while the girls took sixth.

The Varsity Girls Golf Team took 1st Place at the Ram Classic Golf Tournament and 1st Place at the Guthrie

Invitational in March, while the Varsity Boys Tennis team won 2nd place at the Jenks Tennis Invitational.

Varsity wrestlers also accomplished some feats at the regional and state tournament: Trevor Sharon (12th) finished 5th at Regionals; Daniel Stockton (10th) placed 4th at Regionals and was a State qualifier; and Brandon Padden (10th) who was a State Runner-Up after losing to a two-time State Champion from Broken Arrow. Brandon is Union's first State Placer since 2000.

Union Varsity Gymnastics took top honors at this year's state meet. The team placed 1st in High School Level 6 with Meron Gashu, Daniela Bravo and Tasha Littleton taking All-State honors. Meron Gashu also placed 2nd in All Around Level 6. The Middle School Level 6 team took 2nd Place and Middle School Level 4 team also placed 2nd, with team members Sara Petherick winning 1st in Vault, 2nd in Bars, 2nd in Floor and 2nd in All Around; and Courtney Smith placing 1st in Beam.

A number of students are involved in sporting activities which are not affiliated with Union Public Schools. The Union Bowling Team won its conference in the Oklahoma High School Bowling Association. And, for the first time, the Union Hockey Team won the 2003-2004 Tulsa High School Championships, defeating Jenks.

Eighth graders Kylie Smith, James Buchanan and Lexie Kinion scored a perfect composite score of 25 on the Explore Test, which is an indicator of the "PLAN" pre-ACT test.

Out of 1,600 essays submitted nationwide, Taylor Rogers, a fourth-grader from Cedar Ridge, won first place in an essay contest sponsored by the National Center for Fathering. First-grader Bryce Jones also received a runner-up certificate.

Senior Julia Figueroa attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Law in Washington, D.C. Having demonstrated academic achievement and an interest in a career in law, Figueroa joined outstanding high school juniors and seniors from across the United States at the forum.

Sophomore Tawatha Jones was the winner in the John Lennon Songwriting contest sponsored by the Tulsa World. The John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, a high-tech mobile video and recording studio, visited the Intermediate High where Tawatha recorded her winning song, "The Dream."

The High School Academic Team placed second in the state in the 5A division in the OSSAA Academic Bowl competition. Team members included senior Catherine Waggy, junior Michael Mills and sophomores Jacob Lambert, Kaitlin Nicholas and Nicholas Stephens.

Six Union eighth grade students were recognized for their winning participation in the National Heritage Essay Program, sponsored by the Southside Sertoma Club of Tulsa. Kristi Potter won \$100 for first place, Courtney Young won \$75 for second place and Emily Potts won \$50 for third place. Earning \$25 each for honorable mentions were Jessica Cotton, Maggie Rardin and Molly Verret.

Junior Eric Reynolds was admitted to the National Youth Leadership Forum on Technology. He joined 2,000 high school students from around the country in San Jose, California, for an exploration of the technology industry.

The Highsteppers won their 24th consecutive state championship during the 2003 Oklahoma State Dance Team Association in December. They also swept the top awards in their categories at the CrowdPleasers Dance Competition in Keller, Texas. In March of 2004, they won the coveted "Spirit of Disney" Award at the Contest of Champions in Orlando, Florida. They were the only squad out of about 80 to win the award, which is based on character, respectfulness and overall sportsmanship, at the national championships.

During State Competition at Oklahoma City University, the JV Dance Team was named state champions in Kick and Jazz, while the 8th Grade Dance team was named first runner up in the 8th Grade Mix.

The Elite 8th Grade Dance Team received a Grand Champion Plaque at the Marching Auxiliary Summer Camp in Fort Worth for performance of a camp routine with stellar

precision, technique, showmanship and memory. Eight members were designated as All-Star Performers and MA All-Americans, and captains Kristen Zachary and Tori Benton and 1st Lieutenant Allie Nichols were MA Honor Roll Winners - awarded to the best of the All-Star Ribbon recipients.

The Union Elite 8th Grade Dance Team won a Sweepstakes Award at the Jr. Gussie Nell Davis Dance Classic in Kilgore, Texas, in February.

The 8th Grade Pom Squad competed at Oklahoma State University during Universal Dance Association's summer camp and won first place in the junior varsity division. The team was also awarded the Superior Trophy and the "On the Ball" award. Three young women on the team -- Janetta Bridges, Hayley Hudspeth and Megan Waggy -- received recognition as all-star dancers.

Junior Varsity Pom, 9th Grade Pom, 8th Grade Pom and 7th Grade Pom were named State Champions at Oklahoma City University.

The Junior Varsity Pom Squad placed fifth in their competition in the Universal Dance Association's 2004 National Dance Team Championships in Orlando, Florida.

The Varsity Pom Squad placed fourth in the Universal Dance Association's 2004 National Dance Team Championships in Orlando, Florida. "This is the highest our Pom Squad has placed at nationals," said a spokesperson for the Spirit Department.

Senior Matthew Robert Hayes was recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #577 for an essay he wrote for the annual Voice of Democracy contest.

Curriculum/Programs/Special Events/Initiatives

Drama classes remained another popular elective at the secondary level with an enrollment of more than 700. The year kicked off with "Noises Off," a comedy of errors that involved a large cast that included both Union High School and Union Intermediate High School students. That well-received performance, directed by Troy Powell, was followed by Powell's re-working of the musical "The Wizard of Oz," which drew rave reviews in the spring. A more intimate setting provided the stage for "12 Angry Men," as it showcased some of the finest acting talent Union had to offer.

Students from Briarglen and Grove collectively read more than 700 books in nine weeks for the program Reading is K.E.Y., started by Miss Tulsa Stephanie Robinson.

Jarman Elementary was one of 100 schools across the nation to be randomly drawn to receive 10,000 box tops worth \$1,000 in merchandise from General Mills. Parent Christine Couri entered Jarman in the contest and the school was selected.

Calling themselves the Panther Dads, a group of men organized to provide support, leadership and their talents at Peters Elementary, serving as male role models for students. While students often see moms at school volunteering, it is important for the students to see fathers pitch in, something the Panther Dads hoped to do, helping with

patrol duties before school, tutoring, recess duty, yard work and some maintenance duties.

Students at the 8th Grade Center celebrated Unity Week with costumes, class studies, art projects and an assembly. The annual tradition, part of the Character Counts program, brings students from diverse backgrounds together to learn from each other and forge a school community.

“Math is Everywhere” was the theme for the annual Union/Jenks Math Conference. The Jenks Trojan and Union Redskins football players assisted students with measurement on the football field - “Was that really a first down?” The young students interacted with football players from both schools as they learned how important math is to football and that the biggest rivals in the state can work together. Students also created a giant tessellation, a project combining art and math using repeating patterns, which covered a large portion of the UMAC arena floor. Students from the University of Tulsa Engineering School demonstrated a laser light show and discussed how important mathematics was in the development of the laser show.

Briarglen received a \$1,000 matching grant from Wal-Mart to be used for an anti-bullying program, Character Counts, and a character-building program.

Two Holocaust survivors and a child of survivors shared their stories with students at the 8th Grade Center. The program was presented by the Center for Holocaust Studies, a partnership of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art. English teachers Roxanne Addington and Linda Brooks requested the speakers’ visit knowing that personal accounts from those who had lived through the atrocities of the Holocaust would add a meaningful dimension to the materials students had been studying.

Flexing their brains, Jarman multiage students worked on “Body Builders” as they wrote and illustrated a page about a different part of the body each day. At the end of the unit, each student had a four-foot human body model to take home and a body book that they authored and illustrated. Students also made “Body Fact Bags” where they wrote different questions about body facts that other students were asked to answer.

Union Alternative School graduated 72 students during 2003-2004, a record number for Oklahoma alternative education programs and a record for Union Public Schools. There are 283 such programs throughout the state. During the year, Alternative students produced a video focusing on AIDS prevention which was circulated for use by public schools in the state as part of AIDS awareness programs. The video was made possible by funds provided through a grant from the State Department of Education.

The Alternative School also received a grant from the Oklahoma Arts Council which provided an exciting opportunity for students to learn problem solving and team-building skills through the arts.

Union partnered with the Norman and Muskogee school districts as well as Pearson Digital Learning to provide the eBus, which is a school bus retrofitted with student computer labs, for educators from throughout Tulsa County. The labs featured KnowledgeBox, the digital learning-system that lets students see, hear, learn and do; and the Waterford Early Reading program, an adaptive computer-based instruction developed by the Waterford Institute.

The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps placed fifth overall among 35 teams at the Oklahoma Invitational Drill Meet at Southeast High School in Oklahoma City in December. In individual events, first-year cadets placed first in the 1st Year Regulation Category and Union's Demilitarized Team won second place.

In a showcase for the state of Oklahoma, Tulsa County District Court, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, hosted a special session of CRASH Court for students at Union Intermediate High. By special invitation, nationally known judicial trainer, Judge Michael Martrone from the 52nd District Court, Michigan, conducted the Critical Life Choices portion of the CRASH Court program which focuses students toward making lifesaving choices.

The Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management met with Union officials and Tulsa County public safety and law enforcement agencies to help implement an Emergency Preparedness Plan for the district. The meeting focused on Union's readiness to handle a variety of emergencies that could occur at the schools. Representatives from the Emergency Management Office joined building principals and public safety officials on a tour of each school to familiarize first responders with the schools and enable the Civil Emergency Management officials to customize each school's emergency procedures.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. John Herrington, the first Native American astronaut in space, spoke to students and parents at Union's Native American Family Night. Herrington was on board the Endeavour in 2002, the 16th Space Shuttle mission to visit the International Space Station. His mission accomplishments included the delivery of the Expedition-Six crew, the delivery, installation and activation of the P1 Truss and the transfer of cargo from the shuttle to the space station.

Target donated \$260 worth of books to the media center at Peters Elementary by presenting media specialist Kay Leslie with a gift card which allowed her to select books for all grade levels. Target employees visited the school to present the books and read several of the books to second grade students.

Cherokee Chief Chad Smith shared 'origin stories' or folklore with fifth graders at Peters Elementary who were studying about Native Americans, their heritage and their history. Students questioned Smith about everything from what he eats to his duties as chief.

In October, members of the Union Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Beverly Laubach to fill the Board vacancy in Zone #1 following the resignation of long-time member Phil Barr.

Union Intermediate High dedicated a mural of the French countryside in honor of French teacher Becky Jack, who passed away in the spring after a battle with cancer. The mural was completed by Briarglen art teacher John Zaferes, using Jack's idea and designs.

Boevers dedicated its 2003 blood drive in memory of Nurse Sally Reibert who for more than 20 years coordinated the blood drive as a living memorial to a former student, Monique Webb. The blood drive coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Character Counts program at Union.

Moore Elementary School teamed with Liberty Tax Service of Broken Arrow to help raise funds to re-open the Statue of Liberty. Students asked the public to save and send to

the school the inner foil seals from Folgers Aroma Seal Canisters and Folgers Instant Coffees, and for every seal collected, Folgers donated \$1 to the Foundation.

The Southeast Rotary Club of Tulsa distributed Webster's Dictionaries to every third grade student in the Union district. The Dictionary Project is part of a national effort to give dictionaries to every third grader in America.

Home decorations, hotel stays, sporting event tickets and upscale furniture were among the hundreds of unique, practical and/or fun items sold at the Union Schools Education Foundation Celebration Dinner and Auction in November. With a "Union Station" railroad theme, the gala was the first official event held at the UMAC--Union Multipurpose Activity Center. Proceeds benefited teachers and students by generating grant money for innovative classroom projects.

Nearly 2,000 student singers, dancers and musicians welcomed the public during dedication ceremonies for the Union Multipurpose Activity Center (UMAC) November 24. Hotel magnate John Q. Hammons, a major contributor to the Union Schools Education Foundation, Tulsa Mayor Bill LaFortune, Broken Arrow Mayor Richard Carter and State Superintendent Sandy Garrett were among the guests.

A number of impressive events were part of YOUTHARTS!, the annual Union Public Schools celebration of student visual and performing arts in the John Q. Hammons Arena at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center. In addition to a huge art show featuring works by student artists from grades 1-12, the public heard representative performances by Union bands, choirs, orchestras, drama groups and competitive speech teams.

The state-of-the-art SouthCrest Wellness and Sports Medicine Center enrolled nearly 300 Union employees, students and their families within three days of opening its doors to the public in March. Wellness Center memberships are open to residents of the district whether or not they have children attending Union schools.

Employee Information

Union district employees donated \$113,223 to the 2003 United Way campaign, an increase of 10% over last year. Fifty-three employees were Bronze Key Club donors (\$500-999) and four were Silver Key Club members (\$1000-2499), an increase of thirteen key club donors over last year.

Six Union teachers were certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards after a year of extensive and rigorous evaluation. Along with the honor comes a \$5,000 per year pay increase funded by the State Department of Education for the ten-year duration of certification. Receiving the honor were Tiffany American Horse, I-High Computers; Becky Barrett, McAuliffe fifth grade; Mary Bauer, Darnaby fourth grade; Cindy Brown, I-High Business; Debbie Snider, McAuliffe fifth grade; and Shelley Zevnik, 8th Grade Center government. These six bring the number of Board certified teachers in the district to 29 since the program began in 1987.

Cathy Duke, coordinator of the Parents as Teachers program, was named a Parent Educator of the Year, one of five honorees recognized at the 13th annual Born to Learn Conference in St. Louis.

Three Intermediate High educators were awarded grants from the Fund for Teachers and the Tulsa Community Foundation. Terry Houck and Cindy Brown were awarded a \$4,600 grant to attend the National Educational Computer Conference in New Orleans, and Lt. Col. Ron McCool, an instructor for the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, received a \$4,640 grant to visit D-Day sites in Europe as he studies the history of World War II. Jarman teachers Denise Thomas and Paige Bergin spent eight days in Hawaii over the summer thanks to a \$4,656 grant from the Fund for Teachers Foundation.

Union Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden was selected to serve on the editorial board for T.H.E. Journal (Technological Horizons in Education.) The board serves in an advisory role to the publication regarding matters related to technology and education in K-12 and higher education.

Student assistance programs coordinator Danny Williams was named a Red Cross Everyday Hero. Each year, the American Red Cross and NewsChannel 8 honor people as everyday heroes for their involvement in the community.

Intermediate teachers Sharon Trogdon and Donna Hardway joined 13 other teachers and college students from Oklahoma on Mission to Planet Earth, the Oklahoma NASA Space grant's summer teacher institute at the University of Oklahoma. Teachers learned how to use the excitement of space to motivate students while meeting state and national education goals.

Boevers art teacher Judy Ide won a \$125 grant from the Higher Education Cultural Roundtable Mini-Grant program for her "tile art" project. Jarman art teacher Julie Wilcox also won a \$200 grant for an art project in her classrooms.

Hassan Yekzaman, director of custodial, facilities, grounds, security and warehouse services, was selected for the Oklahoma Plant Management Association Board of Directors.

Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market at 31st and Garnett honored Briarglen 2nd grade teacher Adrienne Barnes with its annual Teacher of the Year award. Briarglen received a donation of \$1,000 from Wal-Mart in recognition of Mrs. Barnes' award.

Union bus driver Angela Spencer placed second in the transit bus division in the State School Bus Road-E-O. Jermico Lewis also competed in the annual event.

McAuliffe assistant principal Lindsay West received a \$2,889 grant to attend a three-day conference, "Schools That Learn, Building Professional Learning Cultures" in New York.

Mike Taylor, AP Computer Science teacher at Union High School, was named a 2004 Coca-Cola Educator of Distinction by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. He was one of 250 educators across the country chosen to receive the honor of Educator of Distinction, an award that recognizes outstanding teachers dedicated to providing education with an enhanced purpose.

Andersen PE teacher Lowell Ratzlaff was named the 2003 Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Jarman principal Patti Pitcock was selected as the regional 2004 Oklahoma Association of Elementary Principals "District" Administrator of the Year.

Cedar Ridge enrichment specialist Cherry Redus was named the 2003-2004 Union Teacher of the Year. Site Teachers of the Year were Kathy Paige, Andersen; Sheri Morrison, Boevers; Angie Blankenship, Briarglen; Cherry Redus, Cedar Ridge; Cindy Wilson, Clark; Ruthie Zetik, Darnaby; Susan Weavel, Grove; Kathy Bailey, Jarman; Michele Spencer, McAuliffe; Cherie Towner, Moore; Judy Murdock, Peters; Roxann Hulse, 6th Grade; Margaret Lewis, 7th Grade; Matt Fore, 8th Grade; Doug Nelson, Union Alternative; Debbie Mooney, Union Intermediate; and Donna Niemi, High School.

Union athletic director and head football coach Bill Blankenship was named the 2003 Southwest Section Football Coach of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations. Blankenship was elected as Region 7 representative to the OCA as well.

Boys varsity basketball coach Rudy Garcia was named Frontier Valley Conference Coach of the Year and Region 7 Coach of the Year.

Also honored by the Oklahoma Coaches Association were David Lynn -- Swimming Coach of the Year; Sandy Hanlin -- Golf Coach of the Year and Matt Dobson -- Junior High Coach of the Year.

Union Public Schools received the Association of School Business Officials International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year end 2002.

Communications

District Website

The Union web site underwent further refinements as measures were made to communicate news and achievements of the district. Continuing its partnership with the University of Tulsa's electrical engineering and computer science departments, efforts were undertaken to track use of the web site through additional counters, e-mail alerts and guest books. With the introduction of a new section geared to the new Union Multipurpose Activity Center, efforts have been ongoing to highlight work at the UWear Store, the SouthCrest Wellness and Sports Medicine Center and other activities such as concerts and exhibits. Interactive elements were refined on the Employee Network, allowing departments to input news and communicate with employees. The district website is located at www.unionps.org

District Videos/CDs

- “Forming A More Perfect Union” - A ten-minute overview of the district
- “Union Alternative School” - A six-minute report on the school and its offerings
- “CLC” (English & Spanish) - A nine-minute overview of Union’s year-round school program
- “Union Schools Education Foundation Endowment Campaign” - A twelve-minute overview of the Foundation and opportunities to contribute to its \$1,000,000 Endowment Campaign
- “Union District Teachers of the Year” - Photos of Union’s top teachers at work in their classrooms

Publications

- Communicator - An 8-to-12-page newsletter for patrons; approximately 27,000 copies printed every two months and mailed to every district household, to area media and to district state legislators
- Comprehensive Annual Financial Report - Award-winning review of district finance
- Union Board of Education Policies - Updated annually and distributed to every employee
- Student Handbooks - Published annually for all students K-12
- District and Foundation Annual Reports - Combined in a special issue of The Communicator
- Information Packets - A collection of district brochures, maps and calendars providing both general and specific information about the district
- Emergency Procedures Guide - An employee manual for dealing with and reporting emergencies
- PTA Newsletters - Newsletters produced by members of the parent-teacher organizations at each site

Technology

The multi-media computer to student ratio at Union in 2003-2004 was brought up to 1:4 and the computer to teacher ratio increased to 1:1.

At the High School, one business computer lab was upgraded with 35 new student computers.

Computer labs at Boevers, Darnaby, Grove, Jarman and McAuliffe elementaries were upgraded with 40 new student computers.

The Wide-Area Network was upgraded with new microwave radios. Each microwave link increased from 45MB of bandwidth to 200MB and all links were equipped to have redundant radios.

Districtwide, more than 270 teachers (1/3 of the total number of teachers) and all site principals were given new multi-media computers.

A Zone Integration Server, ZIS, was brought online as part of the district's School Interoperability Framework (SIF) project.

Economic Condition & Outlook

After two years of declining revenues, Oklahoma's general fund ended the 2004 fiscal year 10 percent, or \$418.4 million, above the previous year and 4.7 percent, or \$208.8 million, above official estimates. The \$208.8 million marks the state's first deposit into its "rainy day" reserve fund since the end of fiscal year 2001. Collections for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2004, totaled \$4.6 billion. Rainy day deposits are made when annual revenue collections exceed the estimate adopted by the State Equalization Board.

Monthly revenue reports released by the City of Tulsa showed growth rates of about 5 percent over the previous year's receipts. Tulsa's sales tax check for August 2004 totaled \$15,362,098, which is 5 percent over August 2003 collections of \$14,622,562 and 4.3 percent above the budgeted amount of \$14,733,000, a growth in receipts the City has not seen in nearly 2.5 years. This economic expansion brought about a modest 0.8 percent increase in real personal income, from \$30,506 in 2003 to \$31,256 in 2004. Tulsa continues to boast of a relatively low cost of living. Tulsa's ACCRA cost-of-living index was 95.0 for the first quarter of 2004.

The Tulsa area is back on track, gaining jobs and logging an employment total that topped the level of August 2003. Tulsa's unemployment rate fell to 4 percent in August 2004, according to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. In August 2003, the area had a jobless rate of 6.3 percent. The last time the rate was at or below 4 percent occurred in November 2001, when it was 3.9 percent. Much of the improvement is attributed to Workforce Oklahoma, the state's workforce development system. Appointed by the Mayor of Tulsa, Workforce Tulsa's business-led board of directors oversee five local Workforce Oklahoma Career Centers that serve the Tulsa metropolitan area. Working in conjunction with the Tulsa Mayor's Office of Workforce Development and Chambers of Commerce in our region, a diverse group of employment, education and training providers are integrating services to assist local customers in finding jobs and qualified workers, making career decisions and accessing training opportunities. Union Public Schools contributes to these workplace initiatives by offering community programs for both adults and children such as:

- Adult Basic Education – classes for adults who need basic skills 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.

These positive trends have set the stage for an improved Tulsa economy in 2005, according to the Oklahoma State University 2005 Economic Forecast. The forecast for the Tulsa Metropolitan Area calls for the continuation and expansion of the recovery that

began in 2004. The forecast includes a 2 percent increase in real gross metropolitan product and a 2.8 percent increase in inflation-adjusted personal income.

The State Department of Education requires Union Public Schools to report all revenue and expenditures on a modified cash basis when reporting monthly and yearly management information. This data was presented to the Board of Education and the patrons annually in August during a public meeting: ... see revenue, bond funds, spending and grants/federal programs.

Bond Funds

On February 24, 2004, district voters approved a \$17-million bond proposal which included funds to purchase land and construct a new elementary school to address the needs of a growing elementary student population in the northeastern portion of the district. Other equally crucial items on the ballot included: phase II construction of the fine arts/stadium plaza; textbooks and classroom materials; library books; instructional equipment; technology, building repairs and renovations to sites district wide; and wrestling and track facility remodels.

2003-04 bonded capacity:

General Obligation Indebtedness.....	\$57,300,000
Sinking Fund Balance.....	(9,630,973)
Net General Obligation Indebtedness.....	\$47,669,028

Grants/Federal Programs

During the 2003-04 school year, Union received approximately \$3,712,371 in federal and state grant money. Grants were used to fund such programs as drug education, special education, professional development, remedial programs, enrichment programs in math and reading, and supplies and materials.

The district's child nutrition program received approximately \$1,183,398 in federal and state money. Approximately 26% of Union's students took advantage of free or reduced meals.

Revenue

Union Public School's 2003-2004 general fund revenue was \$63.4 million. As always, the primary source came from state aid, 36.9 percent (\$23.4 million). More than 31.5 percent (\$19.9 million) came from ad valorem tax revenue, reflecting new housing and the area's commercial growth, especially along the 71st Street corridor.

Tulsa County voters overwhelmingly approved an economic revitalization package on September 9, 2003, entitled Vision 2025. The program, financed by a one-penny sales tax

increase over 13 years, includes \$11.3 million dedicated for instructional materials in support of common education. Union will begin the application process for its proportionate share of these funds in the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

The district has continued its contractual exclusive vendor relationship with Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Company. The contract has provided Union with \$3,072,000 over the last five and one-half years, as well as free product and promotional goods and services totaling another \$880,000 to help fund site and district activities.

Spending

At least 59.5 percent of every dollar spent was used for teacher salaries, benefits and student instructional needs. More than 11.1 percent was spent on operations and maintenance. Another 6.2 percent was spent for student services which would include counselors, nurses and other student support services. Transporting the students used 3.5 percent, and the remainder of the budget was spent for general administration, school administration, including principals and their office staff; other instructional staff services such as media specialists at each school site; and staff development. In 2004 the State Department of Education determined Union's comparison of administrative cost to funds was only 1.48 percent..