

2001-2002 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 13,300 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). The nine-year-old CLC program has steadily grown at the elementary level, and the Board has voted to offer it through eighth grade if and when there is a demand for it.

Another option at the elementary level is the Primary Multiage Classroom for grades 1-3. 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,

This 2001-2002 Annual Report is presented to our patrons as a report card of Union Public Schools' progress. The publication has been delayed until spring of 2003 to include state test results and the Academic Performance Index that have just been made available by the State Department of Education. Though test results are one measure of performance and important enough to wait for, they do not tell the whole story. The school district is best understood by knowing its entire context including the characteristics of our student body and community, the fiscal environment we operate within, and the learning opportunities that are provided. This Annual Report attempts to address all of those areas.

The quality of Union Schools is important to our students and to our patrons. The district contributes to the property value of our patrons since families are drawn to our community for a good education. While academic excellence is expected as a basic, we also offer programs for preschoolers and adults as well as co-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts. I invite you to read this review of 2001-2002 to learn more about Union Public Schools. I think you will see why spirit and pride are so strong in Union. Sincerely,

Cathy Burden, Ph.D., Superintendent

Facilities/Operational Statistics

Union's well-equipped buildings, swimming pool, ropes course, stadium, ball fields, tracks, gymnasiums, theaters, etc., were used by district and community organizations for everything from practices, games, rehearsals, performances, meetings, job fairs and craft fairs, to before-and-after-school care, classes, competitions and parent-sponsored fund-raising events. Over 26,700 scheduled activities were held in our facilities last year. Booked events took place from early in the morning until late at night, seven days a week, nearly every day of the year.

Approximate value of facilities: \$260,157,903 for buildings and contents.

Transportation

A fleet of 94 buses transported more than 5,500 students a total of 4,200 miles per day.

Food Services

Counting breakfasts and lunches, our child nutrition workers prepared and served 2,016,597 meals.

Operations

In February, Union asked patrons to decide an important \$17.4-million bond proposal which included two propositions. Proposition One, \$16.4 million, including a new fine arts wing at Union High School; computers, software and related technology districtwide; instructional equipment and materials for classrooms and media centers throughout the district; and various building maintenance projects including roof replacements, heating and air upgrades, and security and safety, passed with 61% of the vote. Proposition Two for \$1 million for school buses failed with 59.96% of the votes cast.

In May, district voters overwhelmingly passed Union's \$1.5 million transportation bond issue, enabling the district to address student school bus needs for the next two years. More than 70 percent of the voters voted in favor of purchasing 14 regular route school buses, four special education buses, two student activity buses and a support vehicle. The May 14 election was the second try for the proposal. The first was on February 12 when the bus transportation issue failed by just one vote. The February vote was a reminder that every vote really does count.

Construction began on the \$22-million Union Public Schools Multipurpose Activity Center, following groundbreaking ceremonies on August 2 at the site, 6636 S. Mingo Road. The Center, which is being built south of Union Tuttle Stadium on the Union High School campus, includes a 5,800-seat multi-use arena, versatile floor space for a wide array of district and community events, a student store, locker and dressing rooms, concessions, offices and a wellness center. It is expected to open in 2003.

Student Statistics

Growth has been a constant factor throughout Union's history. As Oklahoma's ninth largest district, Union served 13,372 students in the 2001-2002 school year. Of those, 6,439 were elementary age and 6,933 were in our secondary schools; 50.4 percent were male and 49.6 percent were female. In terms of ethnic origin, 7.5 percent were Native American, 6.1 percent were Hispanic, 8.7 percent were African-American, 4.8 percent were Asian and 72.9 percent were Caucasian.

7.8% or 1,038 of our students were enrolled in special education.

Throughout the district, approximately 1,476 students were bilingual in 2001-2002, compared to 206 in 1995. The total bilingual count included 55 different languages.

More than 31% of our students reported that they live with just one of their biological parents.

Student Achievement

In 2001-2002, district-developed Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs) were administered in Mathematics and Language Art in grades 3, 4 and 5. District CRTs were administered in Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies at the 8th grade level, as well as Algebra I and Biology at grades 9-10. The tests measure students' knowledge at the beginning and end of the school year to inform instructional decision-making and curriculum planning.

Union students also participated in the Oklahoma School Testing Program. For the first time, third grade students took the Stanford Achievement Test. Union students exceeded the national average in all content areas. Students in grades 5 and 8 taking the state CRTs exceeded the average in every content area.

About 74% of Union's seniors took the ACT and/or the SAT. Those tested achieved an average score of 21.9 on the ACT and 1145 on the SAT. By comparison, the national average on the ACT was 21 and on the SAT, 1019.

Union's graduating classes consistently receive millions of dollars in scholarship offers to colleges and universities v About 74% of Union's seniors took the ACT and/or the SAT. Those tested achieved an average score of 21.9 on the ACT and 1145 on the SAT. By comparison, the national average on the ACT was 21 and on the SAT, 1019.

In 2001-2002, 135 Union High School seniors earned college credit based on their performance on the Advanced Placement Testing Program. In addition to seven Pre-AP classes, Union offers 16 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.

Darnaby student Stephen McCollam was awarded first place in a nationwide art contest sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

Union veterans who were unable to graduate from high school during World War II, finally received their high school diplomas in a special ceremony and tribute. Many veterans were called into service before finishing high school, and the ceremony was one way for Union to express its gratitude.

Each year the district has an impressive number of National Merit Scholars. Six seniors were named National Merit Semifinalists through the National Merit Scholarship Program, a privately financed academic scholarship competition. The students were Chris Culver, Anne Hullinger, Kristin D. McWilliams, Michelle VanSchoyck, and Ashley Watts. Anna Smith, a Union student attending the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics, was also named a semifinalist. Four were named National Merit Finalists: Hullinger, VanSchoyck, McWilliams and Watts. Named as National Merit Commended Students were Elizabeth Casey, Phillip Coghill, Justin Floro, Melissa Martin, Jonathan Moore, James Rader and Ashkan Sepahvand.

Union High School students Lindsay Wampler and Stephanie Bryan served as Youth City Council members on the Broken Arrow City Council; Brian Bailey was an alternate Council member.

Darnaby fourth grader Kelsey Godfrey placed third in the under-15 age category for the 2001 Tulsa Run, a 15K or 9.3 mile race. Darnaby received first place in the Tulsa Run large school division and was awarded \$300 for the physical education program.

The Renegade Regiment marching band made its grand appearance in the 113th Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, Calif., on January 1, 2002. The year's parade theme included patriotic marching numbers.

Three Moore students – Samantha Radcliffe, Sally Jung and Monica Park – took top honors in the statewide Sixth Annual O.K.L.A. Challenge Stained Glass Drawing Competition

Cedar Ridge fourth grader Geoffrey Gill won an Award of Excellence at the national level in Reflections competition. His visual arts entry, "I hold in my hand . . . a wish for peace," was one of only three in the Intermediate Division earning the Award of Excellence. Geoff received a silver medallion and a \$200 check.

The following Union students were among the 16 state winners earning Awards of Excellence (first place) in the 2001-2002 Oklahoma Reflections cultural arts program: Christian Ackmann, Darnaby – Literature/ Primary Division & Music/ Primary Division; Jacki Shan, Jarman – Visual Arts/Primary Division; Geoffrey Gill, Cedar Ridge – Visual Arts/Intermediate Division; Krystal Fitzsimonds, Intermediate High – Photography/Senior Division. Eleven Union students received Awards of Merit in the State Reflections program: Adrienne Fulton, 8th Grade Center – Literature/ Junior Division & Visual Arts/Junior Division; Mike Williams, Union High School, Literature/Senior Division; Nathan Hughes, Grove – Visual Arts/Primary Division; Jordan Matlock, 8th Grade Center – Visual Arts/Junior Division; Nancy Chen, 8th Grade Center – Visual Arts/ Junior Division; Melissa Nichols, Darnaby – Music/Primary Division; Elaine Shan, 6th/7th Grade Center – Music/Junior Division; Dalton Coyle, Jarman – Photography/Primary Division; Calleigh Sexton, Moore – Photography/Junior Division; Whitney Walters, 8th Grade Center – Photography/Junior Division.

Seniors Anne Hullinger and Matt Johns were crowned Miss and Mr. Union, the highest award bestowed upon Union juniors and seniors.

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The 2001-2002 Seniors of the Month were Melissa Martin, Shawn Sen, August; Anne Hullinger, Daniel Rader, September; Melissa Ekstrand, Ryan Ensley, October; Phillip Coghill, Chelsea McIntosh, November; Carey Bachman, Andrew Kwok, December; Mike Hays, Adrienne Stucky, January; Lauren Davis, Beau Evans, February; Kylie Battaglia, Hunter Niemi, March; Caleb Booth, Heidi Schwarzkopf, April; and Eric Cornell, Sarah Palke, May.

The Renegade Regiment won the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association Marching Contest by a stunning three-point margin and they placed third at the Bands of America Regionals in St. Louis.

Members of the High School Jazz Ensemble received Superior ratings at the Pittsburg State University Jazz Festival, and seniors Scott Cornish, Brian Gresh and Dominick Stephens earned individual recognition. Brian Gresh (lead guitar) was named to the 2001-2002 Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State Jazz Band.

Union posted more winners than ever in the history of the Scholastic Arts Competition and had more Gold and Silver Keys in Photography and Digital Imaging than any other school in the region.

The Union Highsteppers varsity dance and drill team was one of only five squads invited to perform on New Year's Day at the 66th Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Classic football game in Dallas, Texas.

Eight Valedictorians and eight Salutatorians were recognized in the graduating class of 2002, representing the top 1 percent and 2 percent of the class.

Students at Andersen Elementary School were named 2001-2002 State Fitness Champions for the President's Council on Physical Fitness. This is the seventh year that Andersen has won the state award. The award is given annually to three schools in each state that have the highest percentage of students qualifying for the President's Council on Physical Fitness Award.

Moore first grader Sally Jung was awarded first place in the World Awareness Children's Museum's International Youth Art Exchange program, and Monica Park received honorable mention for her entry. In addition, works by six other Moore students were chosen to become part of the World Awareness Children's Museum permanent collection. Those students include April Thiessen, Abby Kay, Taryn Fox, Tempest Ponds, Josh Hobbs and Andrew Polly.

Sophomore violinists Matt Summers, Pradu Kannan and Marie Coleman, junior violinist Noelle Coleman and junior cellist Chuck Becker were among the 22 students from a five-state area selected to the Regional Honor Chamber Orchestra in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Junior Greg Gilmore was selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) in San Francisco during the summer.

Union's Repertory Theatre production of The Bald Soprano placed first in Regional One-Act Competition and second at state. Junior Alan Goodale and seniors Leslie Palmer and Ben Kirberger were named State All-Stars; and Palmer and Kirberger, along with juniors Landon Morris and Rachel Wolf, were named Regional All-Stars.

Junior Phillip Douget received the Individual George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge for organizing a full military Retiring of the Colors ceremony honoring Pearl Harbor survivors as his Eagle Scout project.

Sophomore Heather Stiverson and juniors Danny Harwell and Tara Plecinski were named to Youth Leadership Tulsa.

Seniors Meray Boustani, Elliott Deasy, Olivia Duhon, Emily Guinn, Danny McClary and Joab Somerville; juniors Justine Eckert, Rebecca Guinn and Stephanie Washington were selected to OMEA (Oklahoma Music Educators' Association) All-State Choir.

All-State Band members included seniors Lauren Davis, Nichole Iarrusso, Natalie Thompson, junior Pete Caudle and sophomore Stephen Elkind. All-State Jazz Band members included senior Brian Gresh, junior Melanie Nolen and sophomore Jonathan Howland. All-State Orchestra members were seniors Angel Alajaji, Meray Boustani, Katie Cease, Scott Cornish, Leigh Martin; juniors Chuck Becker, Leah Pranger, Joseph Ross and sophomore Marie Coleman.

Seniors Jordan Renz and Kyle Shanahan were named to the All-State Football Team.

McAuliffe Elementary placed first out of approximately 138 schools in a recycling contest sponsored by Abitibi

Seniors Sarah Becker (basketball), Greg Baland-ran (football) and Kirk Helm (basketball) were selected to play in the Jim Thorpe games.

Intermediate High student Brett Boland was named Special Olympics Athlete of the Year for the Green Country Area, and Brett's family was named Family of the Year by both the Green Country and state Special Olympics organizations.

Jarman fifth grader Andrea Alonso won third place medals in the 800m and the 1500m at the 2002 United States of America Track and Field (USATF) Youth Athletic Championship in Miami, Florida.

Members of the Varsity Pom Squad attended Universal Dance Association (UDA) camp at the University of Arkansas and took first place for Home routine, winning a bid to Nationals in Orlando, Florida. They also won Superior Trophy, Team Drill Down Winner, Spirit Stick and Top Banana. Four seniors -- Sarah Peters, Megan Schmidt, Meredith Clark and Katelynn Sexton -- were chosen as All-Stars, which entitled them to travel to Paris to dance in the Paris New Years Day Parade.

Members of the Junior Varsity Pom Squad placed first in the Home Dance routine at UDA Camp in Fayetteville and qualified to attend National Competition in Orlando, Florida. The squad took first in their division and received a Superior rating at state competition and, at a local ASC competition, the group placed first and earned the Highest Point Award.

The 8th Grade Cheerleaders won the Top Banana Team award for leadership and excellence at UCA camp. They won first place in the Extreme Routine and Chant and second in Home Dance. Shaye Burke, Shelby Mathis, Brenna O'Toole and Brooklyn Scheer were selected for the UCA All-Star Team.

Seventh grader Trevor Sarratt was recognized for his achievement in the top 2% of the Duke University Talent Identification Program at the Grand Ceremony on the campus of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Receiving State Recognition in the top 25% were Harry Allen, Daniel Becker, Vanessa Boshuizen, Jonathan Crossley, Kade Goforth, Mackenzie Hieger, Elyse Holmes, Brett Jones, Tracy Pfeiffer, Kendal Rader, Margaret Rose, Peter Shin, Sean Donaldson Steward, Daniel Thompson, Rebecca Waggy, Tyler Ward, Max Wharton, Jonathan Wilson, Christopher Xia and Kala Zink.

For the third straight year, the junior class sponsored a St. Patrick's Day dance for residents of the Gateway Foundation in Broken Arrow

Seniors Olivia Duhon and Luke Byford played the lead roles as the Union drama department participated in the Richard Rodgers 2002 Centennial Celebration by presenting Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I* as its annual all-school musical.

Students at Union's 6th/7th Grade Center 'passed the hat' during lunch hour to collect spare change for the September 11 disaster relief effort with students, parents and staff members donating a total of \$2,730.00. The sponsor of the 6th/7th grade band fund raiser, QSP (Readers Digest) matched those donations, and students presented a grand total of \$5,460.00 to the Red Cross.

A group of Andersen students volunteered their time for a relief project initiated by fifth grader Megan Silvey. During neighborhood garage sales in the Fairfax and Lancaster Place additions, the students set up 12 lemonade stands where they also marketed baked goods, sold flags and patriotic ribbons and accepted donations, raising a grand total of \$495.21. Area stores donating ribbon, cups, lemonade and posters included Wal-Mart, Albertsons at 101st & Sheridan and Big Lots & Deals. Flags were donated by Jay Miller of Coldwell Banker.

Members of the Union High School, Intermediate High and 8th grade Drug-Free Youth (D-FY) organization collected more than \$5,000 in donations to purchase groceries and holiday gifts for Tulsa-area families in need. D-FY members received an award from the Tulsa City Council for their efforts on the Angel Bear project.

Curriculum/Programs/Special Events/Initiatives

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) for students in the ninth-twelfth grades. The program was housed at the High School and transportation was provided for participants from the Intermediate High. Instructors are retired Air Force commissioned and non-commissioned officers committed to the development of cadets as tomorrow's leaders. They were selected and employed by the district as full-time members of the High School faculty.

Advancing Children Toward Success (ACTS) was a successful pilot program at Roy Clark Elementary School. It is a temporary intervention program that helps children who

are struggling in the classroom due to long-term behavior problems. Students in the program attend half days in the ACTS classroom where they receive instruction in behavior management, social skills, reading, and math. In addition, students receive character-building instruction and group/individual counseling. The grant-funded program showed a 75% success rate in the number of students making “major progress.”

Thirty-three juniors attended the Academic Camp for Enrichment (ACE). Students learned strategies for improving test-taking skills and enriched their general verbal and mathematical skills through a variety of activities, including the use of computer programs, videos and tutoring.

Fifth grade students at McAuliffe Elementary participated in a science enrichment program called “Students’ Signatures in Space” in which the students sent their names into outer space. The program is designed to inspire future generations of space pioneers.

Schools across the district observed the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance on September 14 honoring the victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade center and the Pentagon.

More than \$300 worth of English and Spanish children’s books was donated to Clark Elementary School by Usborne Books at Home, a division of the Educational Development Corp. and Editorial Grama, publisher of the Spanish newspaper, La Semana del Sur.

The Andersen Parent Teacher Association dedicated new playground equipment during ribbon cutting ceremonies in August.

A new "ladies only" English-as-a-Second Language class was created for a gender-sensitive class for Muslim women. Partnering with a local mosque, it met twice a week at the Islamic Society of Tulsa.

A new program, Project ONPACE, was created to assist participants in ESL classes become more confident and successful in contributing to the community through gaining increased civics knowledge and social awareness.

More than 300 Union fourth and fifth grade students participated in the annual Union/Jenks Science Conference at Tulsa Technology Center. The cooperative effort inspired students to learn more about the scientific process by engaging them in a study of flight science.

The Extended Day Program received a \$5,000 grant from the Visteon Corporation for the purchase of televisions and VCRs for showing educational videos.

More than 800 district ninth graders participated in the new ropes program at Union Intermediate High School. The program encourages character development by teaching students about cooperation, communication, caring, responsibility, trust and support.

In a partnership between the University of Tulsa and Union Public Schools, students enrolled in a new web design class, creating web pages for many of the High School’s activity organizations

Alternative Education students participated in a mock murder mystery as they learned forensic science investigation and trial procedures to solve a staged crime.

In an effort to communicate more effectively with parents about their secondary students' academic status, progress reports were sent home more frequently. Following a revision to Board Policy #5035 – Progress Reports, all students, whether or not they are failing a class, are given an academic progress report in each class every 4 1/2 weeks during the semester and a report card at the end of each semester.

Union Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chad Smith arranged for a free course on the history of the Cherokee tribe to be held at Union.

Students and teachers from Cedar Ridge tested some of the latest educational computer software programs when the “eBus,” the first-ever technology-enhanced mobile classroom, made one of only two stops in Oklahoma during its 12-month tour of 100 cities in the United States. The primary goal of the event was to introduce a new technology program for the English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) program. The eBus tour, the first of its kind, was sponsored by Electronic Education, a division of Pearson Education, the world's leading K-12 educational publisher.

A flying memorial and piece of Vietnam War history was featured at the Eighth Grade Center when a UH-34d Sikorsky, the only known airworthy helicopter of its kind from the Vietnam War, landed on the school grounds before hundreds of students. Pilot Gerald Hail, a 1962 Union High School graduate, was responsible for restoring the helicopter.

District/Employee Recognition

Child Nutrition Assistant Coordinator Vivian Brown was honored as Support Employee of the Year for the district.

Eighth Grade Center science teacher James Kerr was named Union's Teacher of the Year. Kerr was chosen by the Union Professional Development Committee in recognition of his outstanding service to the district and his representation of the teaching profession.

Union's building-level teachers of the year were: Andersen-Connie Miller, Boevers-Linda Montgomery; Briarglen-Jami Roberts; Cedar Ridge-Joan Chandler; Clark-Teresa Moore; Darnaby-Judi Hill; Grove-Karen Franklin; Jarman-Geri Stites; McAuliffe-Anita Thornton; Moore-Rhonda Friday; Peters-Colleen Gold; Sixth Grade Center-Karen Rogers; Seventh Grade Center-Deena Churchill; Eighth Grade Center-James Kerr; Intermediate High-Melissa Lord; High School-Alicia Abbott; and Alternative-Patt Mical.

In typical Union fashion, district employees and students far exceeded a Tulsa Area United Way 2001 fund-raising goal of \$90,000 – donating a total of \$123,000 to the local charity organization, an increase of 43 percent.

Todd Nelson, a math teacher at the high school, was appointed as the Union math curriculum specialist funded by a grant from the Bank of Oklahoma. His job included coordinating the district's math curriculum program, delivering professional development and designing pre- and post-assessment tools.

Union Redskin head baseball coach Bill Springman was inducted into the Oral Roberts University Hall of Fame.

The Union JOM Program was selected as the recipient of the Honored JOM Program of the Year for the 2001-2002 school year. This honor was bestowed on the Union JOM Program on behalf of all the Creek Nation JOM Programs. A vote was taken by the Creek Nation JOM Programs at the end of the 2001-2002 school year and as a result, the Union JOM Program was voted, by their peers, to receive this honor. This program will be officially honored as an exemplary program at the Statewide JOM Conference in March 2003.

Superintendent Dr. Cathy Burden was named a "Newsmaker" by the local chapter of American Women in Communications.

Director of Special Services Dr. Bonnie Johnson was named State Special Education Director of the year at the annual Oklahoma State Directors conference in Oklahoma City; and school psychologist Dr. Angie Love was named State School Psychologist of the Year.

Union's Finance Division and the Department of Accounting received honors from two important national business-related organizations for the ninth consecutive year. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Union for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000. The CAFR also received top honors from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).

Boevers art teacher Judy Ide was one of only 25 applicants accepted to the Distinguished Fellows Research Institute during the summer at Ohio State University.

Moore principal Sandi Calvin was named a recipient of the 2001 Best of TCC Alumni Achievement Award.

Aaron Parsons, a first-year multiage teacher at Briarglen, was elected to the executive board of the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI). His term as ACEI Student Representative runs from 2002-2004.

The Communications Department -- Director Gretchen Haas-Bethell, Janie Froman, Shannon Phillips and Beverly Thummel -- received three Awards of Excellence in the Oklahoma School Public Relations Association's annual contest. Top awards were given to the Election 2000 video, A Window of Opportunity: Election 2000; the district newsletter, The Communicator; and the annual report, Re-Union Tour 2000.

Andersen teacher Michelle Naylor, 8th grade teacher James Kerr and Intermediate High teacher Ken Brooking were awarded certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

The addition of Naylor, Kerr and Brooking brings the number of Union teachers holding National Certification to eight. Jarman's Vicki Perritt and Moore's Dr. Evelyn Roberts earned the distinction in 1998; Peters' Kimberly Owen gained certification in 1999; and Briarglen teacher Shelia Smith joined the ranks in 2000. Avi Gelfand, who joined the Clark faculty in 2001-2002, is also nationally certified.

Intermediate High teacher Chadd McKee was named All-State Volleyball Coach.

Board member Phil Barr was elected Oklahoma State School Board Association District 4 Director.

Cedar Ridge enrichment specialist Cherry Redus was chosen Teacher of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Area Post.

Union's Corporate Challenge Team placed second overall in Division 7 in 2002, behind Phillips Petroleum but ahead of Williams. We received first place plaques for the Fun Walk and the Team Spirit competition. Union placed first in seven events, second in five events and third in ten events.

Special services bus driver Betty DeLarzelere was nominated as a Red Cross Everyday Hero for her work with abandoned and stray animals, both on her own and through Animal Aid, Animal Rescue Foundation and HALO (Home At Last Organization).

High School teacher Lisa Butler, Briarglen teacher Shawna Hanlin and 8th grade teacher Mike Mitrik attended the Oklahoma NASA Space Grant Consortium Summer Teacher Institute, Mission to Planet Earth, in June.

6th/7th grade teachers Sarah Cooper, Karen Rogers and Janet Schonefeld received scholarships to attend the PACE XIII Elementary Institute at Oklahoma City University during the summer.

Two Union teachers received recognition for their promotion of Americanism in the schools by Chapter #589 Military Order of the Purple Heart. Peters teacher Leigh Ann Keller was honored for the involvement of veterans as speakers in the classroom, and 6th/7th grade teacher Karen Rogers was selected for her "Valentines for Veterans" program.

Intermediate High family and consumer science teacher Linda Parker was named Teacher of the Year by the Junior Achievement of Greater Tulsa (JA), which serves 14 area school districts encompassing 21,501 students.

Building engineers Sheryl Jenson (Moore), Sam Morrison (Jarman) and Sandy Logue (Clark) passed their first class Building Engineer's test.

Union bus drivers took honors in the OAPT (Oklahoma Association for Pupil Transportation) Bus Road-E-O. Crystal Spohn placed first in the transit category, David Collins took first in the conventional category and Angela Spencer was second in the transit category.

The Finance/Human Resources Division instituted monthly training programs on a variety of topics, based on the calendar season and relevant issues facing schools and departments. Topics included job codes, sick leave/FMLA, sub slips, cash handling, purchasing procedures, OCAS coding, and how to read your paycheck.

To aid in substitute teacher placement, the district began using an automated substitute caller system which has the ability to call and place substitutes 16 hours a day. The AESOP system eliminates the need for a paper trail by rolling information directly to payroll.

Employee Information

Union was the tenth largest employer in Tulsa during 2001-2002. Of our 1,556 staff members, 690 served in support positions; 814 were teachers; and 52 were administrators. In terms of ethnic origins, 1.3% were Asian, 3.8% African-American, 87.4% Caucasian and other, 2.6 Hispanic and 4.8% Native American.

The majority of our employees lived in Tulsa (51.5%) or Broken Arrow (32.9%), but other places of residence included Afton, Beggs, Big Cabin, Bixby, Catoosa, Claremore, Collinsville, Coweta, Ft. Gibson, Glenpool, Haskell, Henryetta, Hominy, Inola, Jenks, Kellyville, Langley, Leonard, Locust Grove, Mannford, Mounds, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Oktaha, Owasso, Porter, Pryor, Ramona, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Skiatook, Sperry, Stillwater, Tahlequah, Talala, Vinita and Wagoner.

Thirty-eight percent of all instructional and administrative staff had a master's degree or higher.

During the 2001-2002 school year, the district paid a total of \$20,000 for 378 hours of higher education course work for certified employees. Nearly \$15,000 was paid in higher education reimbursement for support employees.

The average 2001-2002 teacher salary was \$34,401, not counting the end-of-the-year stipend, and the average 2001-2002 teacher stipend was \$1,233. The salary range for our bus drivers/assistants was \$7.02-\$12.73 per hour with an average salary of \$10.25 per hour. For our child nutrition workers, the range was \$6.89-\$11.30 per hour with an average salary of \$8.08 per hour. Custodians and building engineers earned \$7.47-\$18.55 per hour with an average salary of \$9.10 and \$13.55 per hour respectively.

The Department of the Air Force selected Union Public Schools to host an Air Force JROTC.

Communications

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

The Union web site continued to grow in size and depth through the district's ongoing partnership with the University of Tulsa electrical engineering and computer science departments. Information added to the site included a virtual tour for athletics, updated enrollment and registration forms, curriculum programs, school board policies and board reports, a search index and various news features.

Further features were being developed for the Union Intranet or Employee Network including electronic forms and daily messages from the Superintendent.

Technology

Technology Ratio - Through the district's continued effort to provide students and staff with the most advanced tools available, the district's computer-to-student ratio remains at 1:4 and our computer-to-teacher ratio is 1:1.

More than 280 teachers were upgraded with new computers, a Dell OptiPlex GX260 Pentium 4 1.8GHz computers with 256MB RAM, DVD/CD-R drive, floppy drive, 20GB hard drive, 250MB zip drive, video card with video out, and a 17" monitor. In addition they received an HP840 Deskjet printer and an APC 350 UPS.

At the High School, three business labs and one math lab received upgrades, and two business labs and one math lab were upgraded at the Intermediate High. The Eighth Grade Center's business lab and curriculum lab were renovated, while the 6th/7th Grade Center received a new 7th grade keyboarding lab and upgrades to the curriculum lab and the 6th grade keyboarding lab.

A new wireless mobile lab was scheduled to be installed at the 8th Grade Center in October 2002.

During the summer the I.T. staff moved all administrative computers to Active Desktop and Exchange 2000.

Network servers were upgraded at the secondary schools.

Economic Condition & Outlook

Within Union's boundaries is one of the fastest-growing retail and restaurant areas in the Southwest, an area in which the state's largest shopping mall, Woodland Hills Mall, is located. Some of Union's corporate neighbors include State Farm Insurance, MetLife, Visteon Corporation, and the national reservations centers for American Airlines and Avis Rent-A-Car.

Economic data indicates that the Tulsa metropolitan area is in a period of slow economic growth. The number of jobs in the Tulsa area dropped by less than 1% from July 2001 to July 2002. Job growth in the Tulsa area has tapered off in 2002, but is still positive. The average number of jobs in the Tulsa area during the first two quarters increased to 406,817, up 0.3 percent (1,067 jobs from the first two quarters of 2001). The unemployment rate stood at 4.8 percent.

Projected per capita income in the Tulsa area is above state levels at \$31,943, an increase from \$30,409 in 2001. Per capita income increased to \$32,335 in 2000 from \$30,704 in 1999 exceeding the national average of \$30,252 by approximately 7%. The cost of living in Tulsa is 90.6% of the national average during the first quarter. Retail sales in Tulsa during the first five months of 2002 were down 2.6% from the same period last year.

A total of 2,273 new residential building permits were issued in the Tulsa metropolitan area during the first six months of 2002, valued at approximately \$285.5 million. Non-residential building permits issued in the Tulsa metropolitan area during the first six months of 2002 were valued at \$206.6 million. Much of this new, residential and business construction is taking place within the Union School District and is expected to continue well past the year 2001. Current lane expansion projects on Highway 51/64 (the Broken Arrow Expressway) and Highway 169 (the Mingo Valley Expressway), as well as a series of improvements on several arterial roadways, are further indications of the rapid growth of commercial, residential and industrial properties within the Union boundaries.

Oklahoma has one of the best vocational and applied technology education systems in the country. The labor force is plentiful and better educated than in most cities in the nation.

A number of decisions regarding higher education in the Metropolitan Tulsa area have resulted in expansion of courses offered here through Northeastern State University, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

Bond Issue & Millage History

2001-2002 bonding capacity: \$51,177,708

Taking advantage of a change in state law, Union patrons voted in February 2001 to make the district's annual millage levy funds automatic. On February 12, 2002, voters passed a \$16.4 million bond proposition for a new Fine Arts wing at the High School as well as for districtwide instructional equipment, technology and building maintenance projects. Proposition II, a \$1.5 million proposal for buses, failed by one vote to reach the required 60% supermajority. However, a similar proposition passed by more than 70% of the vote in May 2002

Grants/Federal Programs

During the 2001-2002 school year, Union received approximately \$3,054,327 in federal and state grant money. Money was used for programs such as drug education, professional development, teachers for special education, remedial programs, enrichment programs in math and reading, supplies and materials.

Approximately 18.3% of Union's students took advantage of Free or Reduced Lunches.

Union High School was awarded a \$25,600 grant as part of the Oklahoma Advanced Placement Incentives Program (OAPIP). The funding was based on the number of Union students who scored a 3, 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement tests.

Union continued as one of only two Oklahoma districts to participate in federal grants for school safety co-ops with law enforcement agencies. The \$34,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant was used for Drug-Free Youth programs at the secondary level.

Revenue

Our 2001-2002 general fund revenue was \$60.2 million. As always, the primary source--37% of our revenue--came from state aid. More than 30% of our money (\$17.5 million) came from ad valorem tax revenue, reflecting new housing and the area's commercial growth, especially along the 71st Street corridor.

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

The district's exclusive vendor contract with Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Company will give Union at least \$3,072,000 over a five-year period as well as free product, promotional goods and services totalling another \$880,000 to help fund site and districtwide activities.

Spending

At least 63% of every dollar spent was used for teacher salaries, benefits and student classroom needs. Nearly 10% was spent on operations and maintenance. Another 6% was spent for student services which would include counselors, nurses and other student support services. Transporting the students used 3%, and the rest was 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.

Average per pupil expenditure:\$4,486.35