

## From the desk of Mr. Herl . . .

I would like to thank all of the patrons who attended the Grainfield Community Development Committee meeting and the local school board meetings to voice concerns and give input on the school district. Following the meetings, the USD #292 school board decided not to send the PK-4 grades to USD #291 next year. The students' attendance center will remain in the current location in Grainfield. The configuration of classrooms and teachers has yet to be finalized by the BOE.

Since the last letter posted on the internet, there has been little change in school finance. The majority of districts in the state are watching their budgets to make sure there are sufficient funds to finish the 2009-10-school term. The general fund budget has been reduced due to lower enrollment over the past years, resulting in fewer general fund dollars. The district has not utilized the entire Local Option Budget fund allowed by the state. The district will look into increasing local ad valorem taxes to help offset reduced revenue. The contingency reserve fund is at the maximum legal amount allowed by the state. The state is inquiring about the

revenues and transfers in the district budget to find a way to possibly balance the state budget. By looking at cash reserves, the legislators are trying to find ways to justify a cut in education.

The students have been taking Kansas State Assessments the past few weeks. The preliminary results are very positive. The teachers have been working very hard to ensure the students meet standards to achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The district utilizes various programs and curriculum to work with the students on an individual basis. The school should achieve the benchmarks set by the state to continue to receive AYP.

I would like to thank David Herl and Dexter Herl from Herl Ag Spraying for moving the bleachers to and from the football stadium. Thank you also to Dave Mendenhall and Alan Kaiser from the Gove County Road Department for the work done on the track around the football field. The volunteer work you do for the district is much appreciated.