



**URGENT:** This just in...2/6/09. See p.2 for an important *call to action--NOW--*. **Grab your cell phone ASAP & help save our schools—this year, seriously.**

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**Golden Goose Qtr. 1 & Qtr. 2 Winners**

**Latest Legislative News**

**Access Update Savings**

Go to the SHEA website:



[www.springhillnea.org](http://www.springhillnea.org)

Click on Quality Public Schools in the top banner

Click on political action

Click on contact legislators

## Golden Goose Winners

### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

2008/2009 School Year:

High School: Donna Tatum

Middle School: Christine Roitz

Intermediate School: Helen Kloepper

Elementary School: Janet Vater

Prairie Creek: Mindy Lewis

### 2nd Quarter

2008/2009 School Year:

High School: Gary Sutterby

Middle School: Team RSJ  
(Ryan Bechtel, Sarah Dorian-Lawrence, James Scroggins)

Intermediate School: Patty Broers

Elementary School: Daneen Hollern

Prairie Creek: Linda Sullivan

## Latest Legislative News

February 3, 2009—Sheryl Cleverley

The Governor's plan cut \$22 from the base state aid per pupil (BSAPP); the Senate cut an additional \$11 from the base aid; but **the House YODER plan cuts \$88 from the base—Spring of 2009, yes, this year!**

The loss of money in the latest bill to come out of the House appropriations committee expects local school boards to pass taxes to make up for this loss in revenue. How do you think the patrons of USD230 will feel about raising taxes for schools in this time of economic downturn?

**Please contact your legislators** and let them know to vote against HB 2095 that will let local school districts raise local property tax mill levies to cover utilities, property insurance, and payroll (if state aid payments are late). Also, let them know that **the YODER educational funding plan is not acceptable.**

To contact your legislator follow the directions in the green sidebar. You might want to bookmark the SHEA website, as I think we will need to be contacting legislators more often this year to let our voices be heard in Topeka.





**KNEA officers re-elected, Blake West re-elected president of the Kansas NEA**

"The KNEA members who teach and work in our public schools are deeply committed to the success of our students and to strengthening our communities," West said. "As KNEA President, it's an honor to represent the KNEA vision for a great public school for every student, especially in these tough economic times when a good education is so crucially important." **West** is a mathematics teacher and technology coordinator on leave from the Blue Valley School District.

Also re-elected by acclamation were KNEA Vice President **Sherri Yourdon** and KNEA Secretary/Treasurer **Karen Godfrey**. All will serve a three-year term. Yourdon is a counselor at Reno Valley Middle School and is on leave from the Nickerson School District. Godfrey is French/English teacher at Logan Junior High School in the Seaman School District in Topeka.

**Request for you to make a call** - sorry it is not a traditional request (from Blake West 2/6/09)

**"Making Public Schools Great for Every Student" You will be receiving this newsletter during P/T conferences—please, when you have a moment, Use your cell phone to call!**

While here in DC at the NEA Board and lobbying events, we learned that there are proposals afoot at this moment to cut either half or ALL of the education portion of the stimulus package from the legislation.

**We need those of you who have access to a phone to call both Brownback and Roberts offices and convey our desire that they KEEP all the education funding in the stimulus package.**

Those phone numbers are:  
**202-224-6521 (Brownback)**  
**202-224-4774 (Roberts)**

Kansas NEA's Political Action Committee (KPAC) uses VOLUNTARY member contributions to advocate for the election of pro-public education candidates to the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas State Board of Education, and the Kansas statewide elected offices

Whether a member contributes to PAC or not will not affect his or her membership status, right or benefits in NEA, KNEA, or S.H.E.A.

***NONE*** of your S.H.E.A., KNEA, or NEA dues goes toward any Political Action fund (contrary to a misguided belief)...Editorial by your V.P., Charlene A. Novakovich. Call me if you have questions.



## Reducing Classroom Disruption

Maintaining a positive classroom with minimal disruption is a prerequisite to learning and academic success. How can teachers address classroom discipline challenges and keep the students focused on learning?

Here are some tips:

1. **Be prepared.** Begin the school year with a fair, clear, and positive discipline plan in place. Discuss it with your administration, and garner their support. Then, review your plan with parents and students.
2. **Be mobile.** When teachers circulate through the classroom, they have a greater sense of "with-it-ness" that helps them to predict and stall disruptions, often before they become significant. Good behavior managers use proximity in the classroom to observe and solve minor problems before they become major ones.
3. **Be brisk.** Appropriately-paced lessons minimize the downtime that often leads to discipline problems. Students engaged in meaningful tasks are less likely to create disruption.
4. **Be perceptive.** Knowing students well, including their personality types, academic strengths, and interests, can help you group them together to minimize disruption. Good classroom managers group students effectively to avoid toxic combinations that hijack learning.
5. **Be complimentary.** Effective classroom managers understand the value of acknowledging desired student behavior. Catching students doing the right things, and recognizing them for their attention to the rules, is a sure-fire way of motivating students to avoid disruptions and focus on learning tasks.
6. **Be consistent.** Responding to disruptions fairly and consistently communicates to students that you value a positive, learning-focused classroom environment. To be effective, teachers should consistently communicate high expectations for student learning and behavior, even in the midst of a disruption.

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