



Superintendent
Dr. Justin B. Henry
Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Julie D. Cannizzo
Assistant Superintendent
Jeff D. Hersh
Director of Community Relations
Dane Baxa
Director of Facilities
Craig Phelps
Director of Finance
Doug Maxwell
Director of Nutrition Services
Eileen Blick

Director of Police Operations
Ronny Lieurance
Director of Technology
Mitch Krueger
Director of Transportation
Sam Houston
Board of Education
Nicole D. Hawkins
Sara P. McDonald
Kevin R. McWhorter
Robert J. Merritt
Mark A. Richards
Ruth A. Wood

House K-12 Education Budget Committee

Oral Testimony Supporting HB 2561

Mr. Dane Baxa, USD # 265

March 8th, 2018

Representative Patton and Committee Members:

My name is Dane Baxa and I have the privilege to serve the students, staff, and families of Goddard Public Schools in my role of Community Relations Director and Clerk of the Board. Our current district enrollment is almost 6,000 students and we have had an increase in student enrollment for more than 34 consecutive years.

I ask you to support HB 2561 for the following reasons:

1. Without this change, it is estimated our district would experience a **36% cut in transportation aid** resulting in over \$560,000.
2. Currently, our district is subsidizing the transportation budget with at least an additional \$500,000 from the general fund.
3. So, without this change, we will be spending a minimum of a million dollars from the general funding for transportation. By doing this, it makes it even more difficult to meet the goals articulated by Governor Brownback to hire additional counselors / social workers / school psychologist, pay for students to take the ACT, pay for college hours, and increase teacher pay.
4. Because US Highway 54 / Kellogg Avenue runs directly through the middle of our district we need to offer transportation to all pupils in order to ensure a safe route to school. A 36% cut in our transportation aid does not reduce this responsibility, it simply forces us to cut other programs.

We greatly appreciate the service each of you provides to the students of Kansas and look forward to future opportunities to partner with you in this mission.