

Broken Arrow

# PRESS RELEASES

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## **Interim Superintendent works to provide more clarity to district organization**

Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Gerber said the School District must do a better job of communicating organizational details of Broken Arrow Public Schools with school board members and the community.

“I was surprised to learn upon my appointment to the Interim position, that several school board members had not been provided organizational charts over the last few years,” Dr. Gerber explained. “I sent all charts from the previous years (that I was able to locate) to school board members on October 16, 2008 because it is important that our school board and the community have a clear understanding of the lines of authority in our School District.”

In addition, Dr. Gerber said the public is welcome to request or view all historical organizational charts of the School District.

“We belong to the community and we must communicate our organization in a clear and understandable manner.”

Dr. Gerber believes a better understanding of the district’s organizational chart will create a better understanding of the various checks and balances of working through the School District’s Finance/Purchasing and Procurement department(s).

“That approach is common in business organizations and certainly was in effect during the last four Superintendents of Broken Arrow Public Schools covering a time span of more than 30 years,” he said.

Organizationally, the School District’s various department directors of the implementation departments such as custodial, child nutrition, transportation, and maintenance have always worked directly and in a collaborative manner with purchasing and procurement encumbrance clerks, purchasing directors, accounting directors, and the Chief Financial Officer.

“Within this system, the department directors are designated budget managers and work directly with various positions in finance and purchasing to manage their budgets and procure equipment and services,” Dr. Gerber said. “The natural flow of paperwork for verification purposes has always been from these budget managers to the Finance/Purchasing, and Procurement offices.”

Having said all of that, Dr. Gerber said he does understand that the Superintendent of Schools is ultimately responsible for supervising all purchasing, quoting, sealed bidding, and public competitive bid activities as the Superintendent is expected to provide oversight to the Chief Financial Officer and Directors of Accounting and Purchasing.

“This ‘buck stops here’ mentality is not just a belief of mine; it is a fact as clearly stated in the Superintendent’s job description which says in part: *‘When necessary and with personal discretion, delegates to other employees of the Board, the exercise of any powers or the discharge of any duties with the knowledge that the delegation of power or duty does not relieve the Superintendent of final responsibility for action taken under such delegation.’*”

Dr. Gerber is glad the organizational charts and Superintendent’s Job Description (as well as other positions’ job descriptions) exist.

“I understand a School District our size can be a complex organization to navigate. These organizational charts and the Superintendent’s job description are excellent tools and do provide clarity.”

Organizational charts for the School District dating back to the 2003-2004 school year can be found [HERE](#).

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