

## May 12 Update

Date: April 16, 2009  
To: Parents and Other Interested Supporters  
From: Robert A. Maile, Superintendent  
Re: KSD budget, and the Governor's Commission on Facilities Closure and Realignment

The Budget: The Kansas Legislature has completed its deliberations, which resulted in additional reductions in the budgets of all state agencies and schools. Reductions for KSD for the 2009-2010 school year total \$686,000. We will absorb this reduction by leaving positions vacant, and by reducing the contract year for staff by 10 days. For students this will mean two (2) days less of school. However, they will still meet the 1116 hours required of accredited schools in Kansas. There will be no involuntary layoffs, and the integrity of our educational programming will remain intact.

Facilities Closure and Realignment Commission: The Governor has established a Facilities Closure and Realignment Commission to study and evaluate the closure and/or realignment of some state facilities, including the schools for the deaf and blind. (You can access Executive Order 09-01 from the website [www.governor.ks.gov](http://www.governor.ks.gov)) This 17 member commission has until December 1, 2009 to prepare its report and recommendations. The Governor will present her recommendations based on this report to the 2010 Legislature.

The Commission met at KSD on Tuesday, April 7. They received an orientation to the school and issues in deaf education, toured the facility, and received testimony from alumni, the Olathe community, the Deaf community, students and parents. Another session will be scheduled during the summer or fall, providing a full day for further testimony and discussion related to KSD. When a date, time, and location are established, information regarding participation will be disseminated via this website as well as established mailing lists.

While the Commission members were, of necessity, cautious in their response to testimony, the general tone of the meeting and the presentations was considered positive by those present. This was a good first step in their investigative and deliberative process. I believe there is reason to be optimistic.

In 2011 we will be celebrating 150 years of service to Kansas deaf children and their families. The Commission provides us with an opportunity to reaffirm the unique contribution which KSD has made and continues to make to the education and growth of our deaf children and our deaf citizens and their families. The state of Kansas has a longstanding commitment to its Deaf community and deaf citizens which we believe the light of its inquiry will continue to support. The need for the accessible, barrier-free communication environment and related resources represented by the Kansas School for the Deaf is as great now as ever. We will celebrate our sesquicentennial with the expectation of continuing our mission to provide deaf children with "total accessibility

to language, communication, and educational excellence in a visual environment.”