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## School levy oversight committee: promises kept

### Funding proposals appear in budget

By Nancy Hull Rigdon POSTED: 12:22 pm CDT September 21, 2011

The Kearney R-1 School District has kept its promises, according to a citizen oversight group.

During a Thursday, Sept. 15, Kearney Board of Education meeting, Dave Hinck with the district's levy financial oversight committee gave a report on the group's work.

"What was promised to taxpayers is what is in the budget," Hinck said.

Since voters approved the 56 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation tax rate increase in February 2011, the committee has met five times. Committee members sat down with district budget documents and tracked whether the tax rate increase dollars were set to fund the areas the district said they would prior to the election, Hinck explained.

"The conclusion was that all items promised to taxpayers were included in the budget adopted by the district," Hinck told the board during the meeting's public comment portion.

The committee will continue to meet to ensure the budget is spent as planned, he said.

Assistant Superintendent Randy Smith responded to Hinck's presentation.

"It is great we have this transparency," Smith said. "We are going to fulfill the promises made."

The committee consists of citizens and one school board member. Hinck, who leads the group, is executive vice president of KCB Bank.

The tax rate increase generates an additional \$1.5 million a year. During his presentation, Hinck detailed the six areas the tax rate increase funds in the current budget:

- Class size reductions
- Technology upgrades
- Math, science and technology instruction
- After school tutoring, clubs and organizations
- Parents as Teachers program
- Library, gifted and at-risk programs

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