



May 27, 2009

Photo Caption

Tonganoxie Sixth-Graders Encourage Gov. Mark Parkinson and State Policy Makers to Help Schools Become More Energy Efficient

On Friday, seven Tonganoxie Middle School sixth-grade students met with Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson and other state policy makers to discuss the importance of energy efficiency in their school and their community. Students were joined by their principal, science teacher and representatives from Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services. This spring, Trane provided the students and their classmates with an energy efficiency curriculum called the BTU Crew™. In addition to the governor, students also met with representatives from the offices of Sen. Pat Roberts Carlson and Sen. Sam Brownback.

During the students' meeting with the governor, sixth-grader Christian Tiner presented Gov. Parkinson with 120 letters from the Tonganoxie Middle School sixth-grade class. Tiner discussed the students' findings and recommendations after completing the BTU Crew curriculum, explaining that the letters encourage the governor and legislators to help other schools become more energy efficient. Gov. Parkinson asked each student to provide some examples of how to conserve energy. The students then presented the governor with a "Tongie" t-shirt.



Shown in the photo are (*front row from left*): Tressa Walker; Danielle Irwin; Megan Briggs; Christian Tiner; Gov. Parkinson; Hunter Leihy; Brady Swedo.; Erin Rau, BTU Crew™ curriculum instructor, Trane; Tressa Walker; Stephanie Leslie, district BTU Crew coordinator, Trane; (*Back row from left*) Dr. Jill Dickerson, principal, Tonganoxie Middle School; Thomas E. Wright, chairman, Kansas Corp. Commission (KCC); Michael Bush, sixth-grade science teacher, Tonganoxie Middle School; Keven Ward, education facilities consultant, Trane; and Terry Stueber, KCC Energy Programs Division consultant.

About the BTU Crew curriculum

The BTU Crew is offered by Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort systems and services, and includes in-depth lessons on energy efficiency, including an energy audit of their school building and an assessment of the environmental impact.

Part of the program includes meeting with policy makers to discuss:

- the results of the energy efficiency audit of their school
- the importance of green high performance schools and the forthcoming energy-efficient infrastructure improvements of their school
- the state funding program that is helping to make their school's infrastructure improvements possible.

Part of district-wide effort

Tonganoxie Middle School delivered the BTU Crew as part of a larger initiative to improve school infrastructure and, in turn, create an even better learning environment.

The planned infrastructure improvements for Tonganoxie School District, including the middle school, have just begun and will be completed in September. The infrastructure improvements are estimated to result in efficiency improvements of up to 27 percent. The overall savings in operations, maintenance and utilities from the facility improvements are projected to be \$217,000 annually.

To pay for the improvements, the district elected to enter into a performance contract, which is a self-funding package of products and services customized to deliver significant energy and operating cost reductions. It is anticipated that energy savings will pay for the building enhancements.

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About Tonganoxie Schools

Tonganoxie USD 464 is located northwest of metropolitan Kansas City, Kan. Its mission is to prepare each student to be a fully productive and caring participant in our changing world with the educational tools to reach their full potential.

Energy efficiency improvements currently underway at the elementary, middle and high school in Tonganoxie School District include:

- High-efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve indoor air quality, to increase ventilation and to raise classroom thermal comfort
- High performance lighting systems to provide optimal lighting
- Low-flow water fixtures to conserve water and reduce sewage
- Additional cameras, digital video recorders and monitors to enhance student and staff safety
- Bus route automation software to increase bus transportation efficiency and student safety
- A district-wide building automation system which enables operations staff to centrally control the HVAC systems to optimize energy and operational efficiencies while improving classroom comfort
- Developing a long-range strategic master plan for the district with the services of an educational consultant

For more information about Tonganoxie School District, visit www.tong464.org

About Trane

Trane, a business of Ingersoll Rand - the world leader in creating and sustaining safe, comfortable and energy-efficient environments - improves the performance of homes and buildings around the world. Trane solutions optimize indoor environments with a broad portfolio of energy-efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, building and contracting services, parts support and advanced controls for homes and commercial buildings. For more information, visit www.Trane.com.

For more information, reporters may contact: Melinda Paulson, 651-407-3974, mpaulson@trane.com or Perri Richman, 732-652-6943, prichman@trane.com.