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Kyrene School District wins Award for Energy Efficiency

On Tuesday, April 14th the Arizona Association of School Business Officers presented the Kyrene School District Facilities Department with a 2009 Best Practices Award. The award was presented to Terry Tatterfield, Assistant Superintendent who oversees operations, facilities, transportation, food services and all other support services. Terry credited the entire Kyrene staff for implementing the strategies that have resulted in successful energy efficiency.

During the last five years, the Kyrene's energy conservation and utility reduction has resulted in substantially less energy use and cost. Use of energy management systems, careful scheduling, tracking of data and a district wide awareness initiative resulted in 12 of 16 elementary schools and 3 of the 6 middle schools reducing electric use in 2008.

Average electrical cost for 2008 was \$0.95 per square foot compared to the average for Maricopa and Pima county schools of \$1.52. Average total utility use was \$1.59 compared to other districts in like climate areas of the state of \$2.81. The district's excess utility expense has been reduced 16% in the past two years resulting in the current 10% excess utility expense. This program has helped to position the district to better deal with the increasing costs and decrease funding issues with minimal affect on classroom dollars.

Energy management equipment is part of Kyrene's overall capital improvement plan. Items in that plan are paid for by the \$111M in bond approved by voters in November 2005. That vote also included dollars for portable building replacement, student buses, telecommunications, bandwidth upgrades and Capital Improvement Plan projects for the Utility Reduction Program.

NOTE: Voter-approved bond money by law can only be used for the purpose which was stated during the election. Therefore, planned projects paid for by this bond will continue despite current budget changes. Bond money cannot be used to support teacher salaries which are part of another budget category called maintenance and operations.

