



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

December 2008

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BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

November 10 Board Meeting Report

John Schrock was the only board member absent. Action taken was on a 6-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

Amber Fouard, on behalf of the Ell-Saline KNEA, invited the board and administration to an Appreciation Dinner at 6:00 prior to the board meeting on Monday, December 8.

REPORTS

BOE – Delbert Armbrust shared his experience with going through the Physical Capacity Profile procedure that is required of all bus drivers. This will eventually be required of all current classified staff as well as new classified staff applicants as a requirement to being offered a position. The purpose of this procedure is for the district to try to reduce its Workers Compensation liability as well as to reduce the risk of employee injury by not placing an employee in a position for which they may not physically be able to perform the tasks of that position.

Mr. Alexander – His report included: fall sports activities are concluded but that doesn't mean that our students aren't still busy as the music program is next Thursday, the All School Play is this Friday – Sunday, Scholar's Bowl had its first competition on Monday, MS basketball practice has started and HS basketball practice will start on November 17; we have received the results of the Bullying Survey that was taken by the students and staff and now the Bullying Prevention Team is using them as they work on designing the bullying prevention program; the staff is currently meeting regularly for the book study of the 1st book in the Olweus Bullying Prevention program; the Site-Council has met and discussed the Olweus Bullying Prevention program, transportation and various computer issues; and a Rosetta Stone Learning Language Program presentation at SHESC that he and Mr. Miller attended.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: distributing the Elementary School and the CPTA newsletters; the elementary school classes are saying the Pledge of Allegiance on Y93.7 each morning at 6:30 and 7:30; the K-3 Music Program is this Thursday and it has a patriotic theme; she stressed that the props were made by several parent volunteers; Body Venture is next Tuesday; the ESIC met

and discussed the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, parades and parties; they will be concluding their book study of the first book this week and there will be additional book studies in the future.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: the wind generator has been installed; a Legislative Luncheon hosted at SHESC on December 12; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Facilities — Steve Shogren was present to help the board continue to make plans for the upcoming bond election in April. It was the consensus of the board that it be for a 25-year time period and that it be broken into two questions. The first question being on the additions/improvements to the two school buildings and the second question being on the relocating/constructing of the district office. Steve will have the official resolution available at the December meeting for the board to act on.

2007-2008 State Assessment Results — Principals Dana Sprinkle and Paul Alexander shared the good news on last year's state assessments. The scores at all levels on all assessments continue to increase. The elementary school made Building Wide Standard of Excellence on both Math and Reading and the Middle/High School made Building Wide Standard of Excellence on the Reading assessment. They thanked and congratulated the staff and board for all of their efforts in making this possible.

Supplemental Positions — Derek Isaacson was approved as the Asst. MS Boys' Basketball Coach and Dane Baxa was approved as the Asst. HS Boys' Basketball Coach.

Select BOE Negotiations Team — Marty Kramer and Jamie Bradley agreed to serve in this role again this year. The Superintendent will contact Bobby Thompson and set up a time for IBB training for the negotiations teams.

Board Policy Updates — Since this was the first reading of these proposals it was informational only and no action was taken.

KASB Legislative Proposals — These were discussed giving direction to Delbert Armbrust as he represents the board at the KASB Convention.

Change in Calendar — Tuesday, March 10, was changed from a Student Contact Day to an In-Service Day. We host the HOA MS Music Contest that day and many of the classrooms will be needed for it.

There was one Executive Session for Negotiations. No action was taken following that.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office. If anyone wishes to have an item added to the agenda, please contact President Marty Kramer, Vice-President Geena Kejr or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

For Sale: Bad Boy go-cart. Designed and built by EII-Saline Drafting Tech class. 13 h.p. engine. Full suspension system. Runs great! Contact John Johnson



CPTA MINUTES for Monday, October 20th, 2008

Attendance:

Julie Weems	Mendee Kramer
Darcy Bradley	Darci Ditto
Angela Hopkins	Jeremy Hopkins
Desiree O'Shea	Karla Alley
Andrea Rhodes	Mary Ellen Muninger
Lisa Wilvers	Dawn Peterson
Mindy Schneider	Dawn Pierce

Minutes were reviewed from the September meeting. Corrections were given and the corrected minutes will be re-submitted to the web page.

Treasurers Report:

Checking Balance: \$14,918.89

Library Fund Balance: \$4,334.89

Angela Hopkins reported that the carnival made around \$4700. Deposits so far total \$6500, and expenses so far total \$1800. These are preliminary figures with some bills still unpaid, and we continue to sell the ESE t-shirts which will also change the bottom line for the event.

OLD BUSINESS

Classroom Communicator Packets

Julie Weems reported that packets have gone out and that there were only a few classrooms that had spots left to fill.

Carnival Update

Mindy Schneider reported that carnival went really well. If anyone is interested in being the chairperson of the carnival, please contact any CPTA officer. Mindy will not be heading this event next year.

Suggestions for next year's event:

A night depository drop by a CPTA officer for all monies collected.

Publish a schedule of events.
Better instructions for volunteers.

Fall Picture Follow Up

Suggested that next year the school does not need as many volunteers for picture day. Darcy Bradley will modify the enrollment volunteer form to include a spot for miscellaneous events/jobs during the school day.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The committee would like to increase the budget for the teacher's meals during the spring conferences so that the committee themselves do not have to donate so much. Julie Weems made a motion to increase the budget to \$200 for meals for the teachers for the spring parent/teacher conferences. Desiree O'Shea seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Sock Hop

The sock hop is scheduled for Monday, October 27th. The committee may need cups but will check with local businesses first to see if they can get them donated. Andrea Rhodes made a motion to increase the budget for the Monster Mash by \$30 and Darci Ditto seconded. Motion passed.

Fundraising Update

Mindy Schneider reported for Casie Cox that a letter with instructions will be sent out soon. We will again be selling Home Interior Candles. Order forms will go home with students on the 17th, a reminder letter will go out the 24th and orders will be due back on December 1st. Delivery will be before Christmas.

Dye Cuts

Kim Parks has sent a survey out to all teachers and will let us know the response.

Other New Business

Ms. Brandt announced that she needs some volunteers to help make bow ties, hats, and liberty torches for the fall K-3 music program. It was decided that this will be worked on at Monster Mash by parents who are waiting on their children. Four people volunteered to help with students the night of the program. These volunteers are; Julie Weems, Jordan Weems and Friend and Dawn Pierce.

A Chili's fundraising night was discussed. Chili's Restaurant will donate 10% of their profits from a particular evening to our organization. This is free to the school. It is just a service they offer to become more involved in the community. Julie Weems motioned we contact Chili's and set this up, and Desiree O' Shea seconded. Motion passed. Andrea Rhodes informed the group that some schools do this once a month with different restaurants. This will be looked into further by CPTA.

Discussion was had about Heartland Shares. Darcy Bradley is going to get more information about this program for the next meeting. Mary Ellen Muninger suggested flyers be sent out to families to see if anyone would be interested.

Darcy Bradley had information on purchasing more Elmo machines for the school. The cheapest is \$1300, then \$1846, and then \$1953. It was agreed the school's technology committee decide which machine to purchase. Motion was made by Darci Ditto for the committee to have \$2,700 for the Elmo's; Desiree O' Shea seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jeremy Hopkins was at the meeting to discuss the marquee for in front of the grade school. He had an illustration of what the sign would look like. The example he presented would cost approximately \$5,400. It would have 4 rows of 8 inch changeable letters, and it comes with a lock and a cover and is two sided. The installation would be free, donated by Jeremy Hopkins. The sign is 11 feet tall, it comes ready for electricity if we wanted it to light up, and a timer could be added. Some concerns included the electrical connections, electrical costs, and permitting issues. The committee would like to present this to Mrs. Sprinkle and get her ideas and concerns. Jeremy will figure for the committee what the sign would be without the electrical connections. Jeremy will also add the address and phone number to the bottom of the sign. He will be checking on the permits. Motion was made to purchase the marquee for \$6,000 by Julie Weems, seconded by Desiree O' Shea. Motion passed.

School Beautification was discussed. Darcy Bradley reported the concrete benches in front of the school were donated by Salina Concrete and will check to see if they would be willing to donate another bench. Darcy Bradley also had a catalog with posters for the hallways but tabled discussion for the next meeting.

Door Prize
WINNER OF THE \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO THE
BREAK BASKET - DESIREE O' SHEA!!!

Meeting as adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next CPTA Meeting, Monday, November 17, 2008 at 6:30

Submitted by Secretary Mendee Kramer

CPTA December Meeting

CPTA doesn't have a monthly meeting scheduled for December. Please come join us on Monday, January, 26th at 6:30 for our next regular meeting. Have a great holiday season. CPTA Reminders Keep sending in those Box Tops, Soup Labels, and Pure Life Water Labels. We are also taking pop can tabs. The Ronald McDonald houses collect the pop can tabs and recycles them for money for their program. All the Box Tops, labels, and tabs can be left at the grade school office. Thanks.

CPTA Carnival Thank You's

The ESE CPTA would like to thank everyone who came out to support our school during the Carnival. We want to thank the parents, relatives, and friends that donated baked goods, items for the auction, and their time and talents to make it an enjoyable evening for all. The teachers, staff, and custodians also need a big thanks for their help before, during, and after the Carnival. We also want to thank Ms. Scuitte and the MS and HS students that volunteered to help during Carnival. Their help made it less hectic for most parents who usually have to work the games. The raffle and auction would not have been possible without all the wonderful donations from businesses in our area and in the surrounding areas. We really appreciate everyone's generosity. Mindy Schneider and her Carnival committee deserve a big thanks for all the time they spent putting this event together. Way to go!

The Sock-Hop was a huge success! We collected many boxes full of canned goods for the Food Bank, while the students had a great time with their friends! Thanks to everyone who brought snacks to share! Also, thanks to the parents that helped with Ms. Brandt's music projects. That was a huge undertaking and you made quick work of it! Thanks for the help.

AFTER PROM NOTES

The November meeting was held on the 17th in the HS Cafeteria. Those present were Lisa Armstrong, Margaret Shaver, Robin Nachbar, Donella Hughes, Kriste Rietcheck, Jeannie Beaugh, and Susan Reiff. Letters have been sent to businesses soliciting donations. So far, \$2,100 has been sent to the committee from the first round of letters. Gift ideas were talked about for the night of April 18th and several committee members will start looking for items on sale. The cinnamon roll sales at the games netted approximately \$1,200. Several game ideas were talked about to set up the night of After Prom. They will be minimal since the kids spend most of the evening bowling. It was decided to not meet in December or January so the next meeting will be February 16th at 6:30 at the HS.

Submitted by Margaret Shaver

READING AT HOME

Reading is the most important skill that a child can learn. As a parent, you can play an important role in developing this skill with your child. Following are a few "helpful hints" for you to use to help your child in reading.

1. Set aside 15 minutes a day to read to your child. Once finished, discuss what was read. For older children, let them read to you.
2. Ask your children to read to each other without you. They will develop a habit that will become a quiet and happy part of every evening.
3. Let your children see you enjoy reading so that they will know that reading is important to you.
4. Each child should have books of his/her own and a place to keep them. This will help to develop a sense of pride and accomplishment.
5. When reading to your children, choose a quiet time that your children will know is especially for them. Example—before they go to sleep.
6. Allow your children to choose a book for you to read to them.
7. When your child reads to you, give him/her time to figure out unknown words. If the child cannot sound out the word, tell him/her the word. Expect beginning readers to read slowly and without much expression.
8. Take time to look at the pictures with your children and help them identify familiar letters and characters which will add to the understanding of the story being read.
9. When possible, take your child to the public library to select books to read. Help your child select books that are easy for him/her to read. Also, let your child select books to read that are of interest to him/her.

Just taking a little time each day with your child can insure a rewarding experience in reading and family enjoyment.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By the time you are reading this we will be on the doorstep to enter December. That means that winter is quickly approaching and with that comes the possibility of snow, ice, and general bad weather conditions. If those conditions happen on a scheduled school day then a decision needs to be made regarding whether or not to have school. Ideally the decision can be made the night before so that parents have more time to make arrangements for their child for the day. However, the weather does not always give us that much advance warning and a decision isn't made until early in the morning. A decision will always try to be made by 6:00 a.m. but conditions can worsen at any time. To help in making what appears to be the best decision we check the radar, weather predictions, current road conditions and what other neighboring school districts are planning. Safety of students, staff and parents is the primary consideration in making a decision. If travel conditions are not good at the time of our normal school beginning or if there is a strong likelihood that the weather will deteriorate during the day so that it will not be safe to get everybody home, then school will likely be called off for the day. It is much more difficult to dismiss school earlier than normal than it is to call off for the entire day. If the weather prediction is for bad weather or if it is "not looking good out there" tune to radio stations KSAL (1150 AM), KSAJ (98.5 FM), KZBZ (104.9 FM), KY94 (93.7 FM), KINA (910 AM), KSKG (99.9 FM), KILS (92.7 FM), KQNS (95.5 FM) and TV stations KSNW (Channel 3), KAKE (Channel 10) and KWCH (Channel 12). Each of those stations will be contacted as soon as any decision is made to modify the normal school day because of weather conditions. If the decision is made for an early dismissal after school has already started for the day, we will also have the notice on our district web site (www.ellsaline.org). Good communication at those times is critical. We are in the stages of setting up a new communications tool called *School Messenger* that will also be used to notify parents of any school closings. *School Messenger* is a tool where all parents can be contacted at once through a single telephone call on our part. At Parent-teacher Conferences the parents all gave us their preferred telephone numbers to use. We are hopeful of having this place early enough to make a couple of "practice calls" over it prior to actually needing it.

This month our students gained confidence, and showcased their talents, in several forms of communication. Six of our top instrumental students (Jr. - Jesse Freeman; So. - Dillon Dreyer, Michelle Kejr, Tamra Nelson, Seirra Oberle; Fr. - Marie VonLintel), accompanied by Ms. Joan Grover participated in the HOA League Honors Instrumental Concert at Inman. That same week grades K-3, under the direction of Ms. Amy Brandt presented an outstanding fall concert to a packed house. Our drama students, with Mr. Jason Mohn directing, put on a fantastic performance of *Urnig It*. The MS basketball teams under coaches Ms. Erin Marshall, Mr. Dale Dodd, Mr. Jeremy Miller and Mr. Derek Isaacson have started their seasons on positive notes. Our Grades 5-12 Instrumental and Grades 7-12 Vocal students, under the direction of Ms. Joan Grover, put on a great show last week. Several of Mr. Lee Weis' FFA teams placed very high in the various contests they competed in. Our HS basketball teams and cheerleaders under the direction of their coaches Mr. Curtis Pickering, Mr. Nick Taylor, Mr. Doug Wilson, Mr. Dane Baxa and Mrs. Dawn Cox will begin their seasons on Friday, December 5. Each of these is an example of various communication tools that our students are being exposed to that will help them be better prepared for school and work when they leave us.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children are receiving a quality education. That is just one of the many things that we have to be thankful for on this upcoming Thanksgiving Day.

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL LAPTOP CHECKOUT

Beginning after Thanksgiving vacation we are starting a service for our middle school and high school students that have a need for computer access at home. We will be making available five laptops to be checked out and taken home to be returned on the next day the student is in school. This will provide the students that don't have a home computer the same opportunity as other students have to complete an assignment on time. These laptops can be used to work on writing a research report, developing a spread sheet application, power point presentation, etc. and the data will need to be stored on an external storage device, i.e. USB Drive or Flash Drive. For security reasons these laptops will NOT have internet access capability. Before a student can check one out to take home, the student and their parent will need to sign a "Laptop Check Out Agreement" form. This form will need to be signed only one time and it will last for the remainder of the school year. Interested students can pick up a form in the MS/HS office and it is recommended that the form be picked up as soon as possible so that it is on file before the student has a need to check out a laptop.

COUNSELERS CORNER

I am pleased to say things are hopping in the Guidance Office. Mr. Johnson recently took 53 students on a visit to Salina Technical College which generated lots of questions and interest in career explorations and educational opportunities through the area technical schools.

Ms. Scuitte, Mr. Roche, and Mr. Laas spent two days with eighteen high school students who had been selected as "Natural Helpers" in a leadership training session in Salina. It was part of a grant for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. We learned a lot of techniques to help other students make wise choices, and discovered who other referral agencies might be. These students did a great job of representing our school and communities.

During December, I will be administering two new tests. The EXPLORE test will be given to all eighth graders on December 3rd, and the PLAN test will be given to all sophomores on December 17th. Both of these tests are preliminary tests to the ACT. There are several benefits that I see in taking these tests.

Each year, more and more emphasis seems to be placed upon the results of the ACT test. It is used as a college entrance exam, it is used as a part of the formula for determining eligibility in college athletics, and it is a major determining factor in scholarship selections. I want our students to have every advantage and opportunity available to them when the stakes are so high. These results will show the student where they currently stand in their academic progress, and what classes they may need to take as they prepare for the ACT.

For students planning to take some college classes while in high school, the PLAN test scores for sophomores can be used to determine eligibility for enrollment in English Comp. and College Algebra. It is our hope that we can expand the opportunities available for our students to enroll in college dual credit classes while in high school, so these scores become even more important.

For those who don't plan to attend college, but rather continue their education at a technical school, a trade school, or go directly into the work force, the EXPLORE and PLAN tests can also be a valuable tool. Each exam includes an interest inventory to help students begin to explore potential career interests. It matches the interests of the students with those in a career who have similar interests. After receiving a list of potential career matches, we can then further explore those careers, see what classes and activities a student should be taking in high school to prepare for that career, and explore what education would be required beyond high school for that occupation.

To further explore that occupation, we will be introducing students to a relatively new online program called Kansas Career Pipeline. This program will give you a description of the career, project the future market for the career, tell students what classes they should be taking in high school as well as what activities to become involved in to better prepare for that career. It can explore the educational opportunities beyond high school to prepare for that career and even look for financial assistance to help pay for those expenses. Two REALLY great things about this program: IT'S FREE and it doesn't end when a student graduates from high school. It is life long. A student can build their resume into this program and send it, along with a letter of application to businesses who have job openings listed. Parents, you may want to check out this website as well. Just look at www.kansascareerpipeline.org. I will be sharing further information with our students once the test results are returned in late January or early February.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Larry Laas in the Guidance Office. Have a safe and very Merry Christmas along with a happy and prosperous new year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

ELL-SALINE MS/HS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our middle/high school activities provide patrons and friends a chance to volunteer for various positions at our activities. Such positions are ticket takers, chain gang, timers, line judges, clock operators, scorers and any other positions that come available depending on the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Carazo at the district office (225-6813).

- Dec. 2 5:00 & 6:00 HS BB Scrimmage and Winter Parents Meeting
- Dec. 4 4:30 MS BB Peabody-Burns @ Ell-Saline
- Dec. 5 3:00 HS BB @ Trinity Catholic
- Dec. 8 FFA @ Minneapolis
- Dec. 8 4:30 MS BB Inman @ Ell-Saline
- Dec. 8-13 HS BB Blue and Gold Tourney
- Dec. 8 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office
- Dec. 11 4:00 MS BB Canton/Galva @ Ell-Saline
- Dec. 13 ACT Test Date
- Dec. 15 4:00 MS BB @ Remington
- Dec. 16 4:30 HS BB @ Moundridge
- Dec. 18 6:30-8:00 Read with Santa
- Dec. 19 4:30 HS BB Little River @ Ell-Saline
- Dec. 19 End of Quarter/Semester
- Dec. 22-Jan. 1 Winter Break
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday

The Ell-Saline U.S.D. 307 Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or age in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs or activities. Any questions regarding in the board's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 may be directed to the Title IX coordinator, who can be reached at (785) 225-6813, 412 E. Anderson, P.O. Box 157, Brookville, KS 67425, or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

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