



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

DECEMBER 2011

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NOVEMBER 14 BOARD MEETING REPORT

All board members were present. Action taken was on a 7-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD
None

REPORTS

BOE – Jeff Parker reported on the Smoky Hill Education Service Center Legislative Luncheon.

Mr. McDaniel – His report included: continuing work on MTSS framework; classroom observations; Fall KSDE Assessment/Annual Conference; teacher evaluations; and looking at potential student cell phone policy change.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: continued classroom visits; AIMSweb assessment tool and in-service; demographic data showing that a large majority of the discipline office referrals involve the subgroup of below level readers; Fall KSDE Assessment/Annual Conference; the After School Program partnering with the Boy Scouts beginning in January; and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program continues to grow.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: update on the ImPACT Concussion Management Program; read three thank you notes; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

2010-11 Audit Review—Jay Langley of Clubine & Rettele presented the audit findings and reported that there were no major violations. No action was needed on this item.

District Technology Plan—Brian Bell presented the draft of the new District Technology Plan and accompanying materials. The draft was approved as presented.

Bond Review—Mr. Minneman presented a review of the bond fund which has a current balance of \$78,000.00. No action was needed on this item.

Gym Air Conditioning—Information was shared that showed an estimate of \$90,000.00 to air condition both gymnasiums. Following discussion it was the consensus of the board that Mr. Minneman secure bids to air condition both gymnasiums.

Elementary School Part-Time Custodian—Richard Rice was approved as a part-time (3 hr.) custodian at the elementary school.

2010-11 State Assessment Review—Dana Sprinkle and Adam McDaniel shared the results of last year's state assessments. No action was needed on this item.

MS/HS Bullying Prevention Program—The board approved the Middle/High School staff designing and implementing its own local program.

KASB Legislative Platform and Delegate Assembly Representative—Jeff Parker will be representing the Board at the convention. No action was needed on this item.

FFA Out-of-State Request—The request to attend the National Livestock Show in Denver was approved.

There were two Executive Sessions (Personnel). No action was taken following either of them.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. at the District Office in

Brookville. If anyone wishes to have an item added to the agenda, please contact President Jeff Parker, Vice-President Anita Bird or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

CPTA MINUTES for 10/17/2011

Attendance:

Lisa Wilvers	Mendee Kramer	Anita Bird
Dianne Schultz	Angela Hopkins	Tara Richards
Dana Sprinkle	Traci Dent	Amy Helm
Kayla Herrman	Jennifer Walker	Brooke Riedel
Janelle Stelter	Dawn Pierce	Erin Hecker

Principal Report:

Mrs. Sprinkle expressed that tomorrow is Mix It Up day at the elementary school. Students from the PALS program from the high school will come over to the elementary school. The students will all eat at one time in the cafeteria on the floor. Then they will work on the Bully Prevention program and the music will be loud. The students have reached the end of the 1st quarter and grade cards will be sent out on October 27th. The Halloween Parade will be October 31st at 8:20 am. Parents may go to the new gym to watch their student.

Secretary Report:

No letter this month. The minutes were read by members. Brooke made the motion to accept the minutes as they are and Traci Dent seconded it.

Treasurer Report:

Checking account has \$7,624.59 and Library Fund has \$4,779.52.

Old Business:

We have all the classroom volunteers for the year. They should have received their packets from Mendee Kramer. Family Fun Night went well and we had some nice giveaways. For dinner dates this month we had total sales of \$447.61 at Jim's Chicken which we got \$100. Then we had total sales of \$417.00 at Big Cheese which we got \$50. Upcoming nights for dinner out are Spangles on Crawford, October 27th and Cozy Inn, November 9th. Fall pictures went well. The children liked the photographer. The members of CPTA were concerned about the prices of the packets. We need to remember to compare what we are getting with other vendors.

Chris Métais came and talked to us about our upcoming fundraiser. We will start selling on November 18th and turn in on November 28th. The delivery date is December 15th. We will pre-collect when the child makes the sale. We will do the

Wish List book and Cookie Dough. We will be using the money for an outside learning center and a nature trail. No other old business.

New Business:

The Sock Hop will be November 3rd and flyers will go home this week. Cold Fusion from the High School will be the DJ and the \$50 will go to the Senior Class. There will need to be a volunteer bouncer. Also the students are supposed to bring a parent to stay with them and a can of vegetables to donate to the Food Bank. The Sock Hop is from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help serve the snacks and clean up. Read with Santa is December 15th. Also, there will be a Santa Shoppe where students can come and buy stuff for their families at a low cost on December 15th. It will be from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. We will need lots of volunteers to help with this activity. The door prizes were won by Traci Dent and Janelle Stelter. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Anita Bird

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. We've even had some snow already this year. 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. An attempt will always be made to make a decision 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. Calls will also be made over *School Messenger* so that word can get out to everyone very quickly. 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.

A second piece of communication that will be important for each of us to stay current on is that of the condition of the state's budget and how it will impact school district budgets. Revenue projections for this year are up by almost \$200M which would make it look like some of the cuts to school funding and other social programs over the past years could be restored. However, that is not likely to happen because several million dollars that the legislature borrowed from various other funds last year will need to be repaid and the Governor has a goal of ending the year with a 7.5% ending balance. Adding to that, there has been an overall increase in the number of K-12 students, corresponding weightings and special education costs across the state that will take an additional appropriation of nearly \$25M just to maintain the BSAPP that our budgets were set with for this year. For next year it is anticipated that it will take an additional \$33M to fund schools, \$72M for Human Service, \$62M for KPERS and the 1% sales tax is expected to not be extended creating a loss of state general fund revenue of approximately \$400M. With these various factors figured in, it is doubtful that schools will see an increase in funding. We're hoping that there won't be any decreases during the year.

Another potential impact on school funding is that the Governor is proposing a change in the school finance formula that will put more of the burden on the backs of local patrons. The latest that I have seen on this does not put any new money into funding schools. It supposedly would hold all schools harmless for the first year; it would set a base rate of \$5,500 (this is well above the current BSAPP of \$3,780 but there would be no weightings associated with it which adding those in to the current BSAPP and we receive roughly \$9,000 per student); districts would have unlimited LOB authority (LOCAL TAXES) rather than the current 30% of General Fund; districts/counties could pass a Local Optional Sales Tax (LOCAL TAXES) of from .25% to 1%; and there would be four grants that districts could apply for (two of those are for startup costs of new programs rather than for

continued funding of current programs). This proposal may change before it gets to the legislature in January and the legislature will have to approve it before it takes effect. However, it is something we all need to keep an eye on because it appears to me that it places considerably more of the funding burden on the backs of local taxpayers if we are to even maintain the same level of school funding that we now have. For that reason it will be important that each of us stay abreast of what is happening and communicate our concerns to our area legislators.

This month our students used several forms of communication as they gained confidence, and showcased their talents. Eight of our top instrumental students (Sr. – Chanda Williams; Jr. – Emily Work; So. Mason DeArvil and Garrett Schuman; Fr. – Levi Holcom, Jacob Hopkins, ToriLynn Miser, Tabitha Newton), accompanied by Ms. Joan Grover participated in the HOA League Honors Instrumental Concert at Berean Academy. That same week Grades 5-6, under the direction of Ms. Amy Brandt and Ms. Joan Grover presented an outstanding fall concert. Our drama students, with Mrs. Kacia Marrs directing, put on a fantastic performance of *I'm Getting Murdered in the Morning*. The MS basketball teams under coaches Mrs. Erin Unruh, Ms. Jeni Wolters, Mr. Jeremy Miller and Mr. Tanner Roney have started their seasons. Our Grades 7-12 Instrumental and Vocal students put on a fantastic concert. Our HS basketball teams and cheerleaders under the direction of their coaches Mr. Curtis Pickering, Ms. Katie Novack, Mr. Doug Wilson, Mr. John Johnson and Mrs. Amber Fouard will begin their seasons on Friday, December 2. 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 for us to have been thankful for on last week's Thanksgiving Day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

Dec. 1	4:00 MS BB @ Moundridge	Dec. 13	4:30 HS BB Canton-Galva @ ES (Cardinal Foundation Awards Night)
Dec. 1	5:30 WR @ Minneapolis	Dec. 15	3:30 HS Scholar's Bowl @ Bennington
Dec. 2	4:45 HS BB @ Herington	Dec. 15	4:00 MS BB @ Inman
Dec. 3	9:00 JV WR @ Salina South	Dec. 15	5:30 WR @ Republic Co. High
Dec. 3	9:30 WR @ Osborne	Dec. 15	6:30-7:30 Read with Santa at Ell-Saline Elementary
Dec. 5	3:30 HS Scholar's Bowl @ Smoky Valley	Dec. 16	3:00 V & JV WR @ Marion
Dec. 5	5:45 HS BB Lincoln/Russell Tourney @ Lincoln	Dec. 16	4:30 HS BB Little River @ ES
Dec. 6	2:45 HS Scholar's Bowl @ Salina South	Dec. 19	4:00 MS BB @ Sedgwick
Dec. 6	6:00 ESIC Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary	Dec. 20	MS/HS Semester Finals
Dec. 7	6:00 MS/HS Site Council Meeting at Ell-Saline Middle/High	Dec. 21	8:20 Elementary Christmas Parties
Dec. 8	4:00 MS BB Marion @ ES	Dec. 21	MS/HS Semester Finals
Dec. 9	FFA @ Hutchinson	Dec. 21	End of Quarter/Semester
Dec. 9	7:00 HS BB Lincoln/Russell Tourney @ Lincoln	Dec. 22	NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday (flexible)
Dec. 10	ACT Test Date	Dec. 23-27	KSHSAA Non-Practice Days
Dec. 10	9:30 WR @ Minneapolis	Dec. 23-Dec. 30	NO SCHOOL—Winter Break
Dec. 10	HS BB Lincoln/Russell Tourney @ Lincoln	Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 11	6:30 After-Prom Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Dec. 12	7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office		

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