



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

February 2009

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ELL-SALINE USD 307 PREPARES FOR BOND ISSUE VOTE

Voters in Ell-Saline USD 307 will go to the polls on Tuesday, April 7th to consider two bond issue questions for improvements to district schools.

Two years ago, the District formed a Committee to evaluate educational programs and facilities and to develop recommendations for capital improvements to district buildings. The volunteer committee consisted of district parents, patrons and staff and also worked with attendance center site council members in their evaluations.

After input from the Committee and much thought and deliberation, the Board of Education approved a resolution to schedule a bond issue election for April. The ballot will have two improvement questions for consideration by district voters.

Question No. 1 will request the authority to issue \$6.815 million in general obligation bonds to construct, equip and furnish additions to and make renovations to certain portions of both the Elementary School and the Middle/High School buildings in the District.

A second Question No. 2 will request the authority to issue an additional \$385,000 in bonds to construct a new District Office building at the Brookville site. The Board stated that, as the improvements to the school attendance centers represented in Question No. 1 are the highest priorities, that the proposed new District Office will only be built and the bonds issued, if Question No. 1 is also approved.

Question No. 1 will require a mill levy of an estimated 10.6 mills assuming today's low interest rates of 5.25% and the current state aid assistance of 40% to help retire the bonds. The 10.6 mill increase is additional taxes of just slightly more than \$10 per month on a \$100,000 home. The smaller Question No. 2 will require an additional mill levy increase of only 6/10ths of a mill—added taxes on the same \$100,000 home of about 58 cents per month.

In order to develop and share information with district patrons before the April 7th Election Day, the District is forming a KIDS (Keep Improving District Schools) Committee. The Committee will develop and distribute information, schedule informational meetings, and plan other activities to educate voters about the challenges, proposed improvements, and the bond issue cost.

Any district patrons interested in joining the KIDS

Committee or assisting with the bond issue informational campaign is encouraged to contact Superintendent Jerry Minneman at the district offices (225-6813).

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

January 12 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

Paul Alexander was appointed acting clerk in Susan Rose's absence.

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

REPORTS

BOE – Delbert Armbrust shared some observations of Oard's.

Mr. Alexander – His report included: second semester has started and it is very full of activities; Mr. Laas accompanied a group of girls to the TWIST (Teen Women in Science and Technology) conference; the Site-Council met; possible HOA league expansion; Communities That Care survey will be given to 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th graders this week; we are continuing to explore opportunities for dual-credit courses for our students but the progress is slow; large turnout for the open gym the last few Sunday evenings; and the Bullying Prevention Kickoff assembly went well.

Mrs. Sprinkle – In her absence do to covering the MS basketball games at Bennington, Mr. Minneman gave her report which included: a total of 207 toys were collected for the Salvation Army Christmas project—the goal was 200; reviewed the Bullying Prevention program Kickoff and other activities; the January 23 Pep Rally will feature Jo Ho Storyteller presenting stories on Kansas Heroes which is a good tie in with the Bullying Prevention program; and that the 2nd grade class will take the MAP assessment during the first week of February and grades K-1 are looking at the Primary grades version of the MAP assessment.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: reminding the board of the KASB Governmental Relations Seminar in February; state funding for the rest of this year and next year is still pretty much unknown at this time; the deadline for filing for the board positions to be voted on in April is noon on January 27;

as January is Board Appreciation Month each board member was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for serving on the board; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Accept Resignation—Barbara Kern's resignation/retirement notification effective at the end of the current contract year was accepted.

Approve Vehicle Bids—The bids of \$49,900.00 from National Bus Sales for a 2004 65-passenger Blue Bird bus and of \$12,500.00 from Conklin Cars for a 2008 Chevy Impala were approved.

Superintendent's Contract—Mr. Minneman's contract was extended through the 2010-2011 school year.

Bullying Prevention Guidelines—These were approved for each building and now become part of the student handbooks.

Facilities—Information from last Wednesday's KIDS committee meeting with Steve Shogren was shared.

Drama Options—We are again advertising for a Drama Sponsor. It was the consensus of the board that we provide opportunities for students to learn more about Forensics programs to possibly add it as a student activity in future years.

Out-of-District Students—Chase Burkhart (6th grade) and Haleigh Burkhart (9th grade) were approved.

There were three Executive Sessions (2 – Personnel, 1 – Negotiations). No action was taken following any of them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 9, 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.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

EI-Saline believes in giving back to the community. This year the FFA and NHS were both involved in giving back.

The FFA sponsored a food drive for the Brookville community. Different grades were assigned different items to bring. The freshmen brought green beans, sophomores brought corn, juniors brought canned tomato products, and seniors brought canned fruit. Over 330 canned food items were donated. These donated cans were taken to the Brookville United Methodist Church in order to help with their Thanksgiving food drive. Excess food was then donated to the Salina food bank.

Each year, the EI-Saline National Honor Society selects children from the Salvation Army Angel Tree. This year, five children were selected. Each child was bought \$40 worth of coats, gloves, shoes, pants, shirts, and socks. This money was donated out of the EI-Saline National Honor Society Fund. The students involved in EI-Saline's NHS volunteered to go to Wal-Mart to pick out the gifts. The students who volunteered separated into groups to shop for the children and pick out the gifts themselves.

This year the EI-Saline FFA helped join the Christmas giving. They sponsored a toy drive to benefit the area children. A large amount of toys were donated from the

student body to be given to the Salvation Army to benefit needy children. The students really enjoyed this activity as they were able to go shopping for toys and then donate them to children for Christmas.

These activities help to show students it is important to give back to the community. Volunteering helps the students to learn how valuable giving is.

Submitted by Lee Weis

NEWSPAPER ACTIVITIES

As an interested parent, most likely you have asked your child's teacher what materials you could use at home to reinforce reading skills. No doubt the teacher offered many good suggestions. There is one learning resource that might not have been mentioned—the newspaper. It is full of items which appeal to every reading taste and interest, and you don't have to go searching for it because it is probably in your home already.

The habit of reading the daily newspaper should start early in a child's life. The newspaper is worthwhile for a child to read because it:

- Encourages reading for fun and information.
- Helps sharpen important reading skills.
- Broadens the variety of material read.
- Helps children become aware of the daily events happening around them.
- Allows your child to widen his or her understanding of local, national, and international issues.

As a parent, it is important that you spend some time with your child in order to take full advantage of all the newspaper offers. Here are seven good ways you can use the newspaper with your child. These activities appeal to a wide range of ages and can be varied to the reading level and age of your child.

1. Clip out an interesting news story and cut the paragraphs apart. Ask your child to read the paragraphs and arrange them in a logical order. For younger children you might use the panels from a comic strip.
2. Ask your child to read a short editorial printed in your local newspaper and to underline all the facts with a green pencil and all the opinions with an orange pencil.
3. Pictures fascinate children of all ages. Capitalize on this interest by clipping out various pictures contained in the newspaper. Depending on age level, ask your child to tell you about the picture, or list adjectives to describe the entire scene.
4. Do you take your child to the movies? Have your child first look up the movie page by using the newspaper index. After a movie has been selected, have your child study the picture or text in the ad and tell you what he or she thinks the movie is about.
5. Have your child pick a headline and turn it into a question. Then the child can read the article to see if the question is answered.
6. Ask your child to clip food coupons from the newspaper for the weekly grocery shopping trip. First, it's a good idea to talk about which products you use and which you don't. Then the child can cut out the appropriate coupons and separate them into such categories as beverages,

desserts, and breakfast items. You can then redeem the coupons at the store.

7. Pick out an interesting article from the newspaper. As you are preparing lunch or dinner, tell your child that you are busy and ask him or her to read the article to you.

The newspaper is inexpensive and educationally profitable for all children. Using it is a good way to help your child in reading, and is a powerful learning resource for your child.

Submitted by Susan Stateham

ELL-Saline Booster club is selling cookbooks, for \$10.00 each.

Booster club still has some spirit cards to sell for only \$10.00. These cards entitle you to discounts at the following Salina businesses:

Hickory Hut
I-Hop
Cici's Pizza
Sonic
Quiznos
Pretzel Maker
Dairy Queen
Tucson's
All Star Lanes
Blockbuster
Pizza Hut
Long John Silver's
Bogey's
Copper Tan
Taco Bell
Papa Murphy's
Big Cheese Pizza

Contact Amber Fouard, Lisa Armstrong or Shondra Abker for either of the items above.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Welcome to 2009! I hope that over the holidays you had time to enjoy family and friends. Poor road conditions would definitely not have been a problem for family gatherings this year. Although we've had some very cold days we've not had much in the way of snow or other moisture so far this winter. In just a few weeks it will be spring but before then it would be nice to see a good snow covering the fields to give needed moisture to the wheat crop.

Along with the certainty of winter weather this time of year is the annual reconvening of the state legislature. This year they have a monumental task facing them. We have all heard the condition of our

state's finances and the varying speculations of what lies ahead in coming years. The legislature will have to make some very tough decisions that will impact each and everyone of our lives. As educators we know, as much as we would not like to, that for the state to end the year within the required ending balance we will have to take a reduction in finances during this school year. At this time we don't know how large of a reduction it will be but we've heard it could be anywhere from .5% (\$22) to 5% (\$220) of the BSAPP (Base State Aid Per Pupil) on the General Fund. For us the .5% would be a total of approximately \$17,000 and the 5% approximately \$170,000. Accompanying the loss of General Fund dollars would be a loss of LOB (Local Option Budget) dollars plus Driver Education and Professional Development funding. Obviously the larger the amount of the reduction the harder it will be to absorb it as the majority of our budget is tied up in contract expenses.

Fortunately for our district and community our school board and administration have exercised fiscal responsibility in past years that prepare us for times such as these. As our resources get ever tighter locally we will have to make some difficult decisions. Our school board and administrators feel strongly that education comes first. Any resource reallocation that occurs will have that in mind. The responsibility of educating the youth of our community is something that your school board, administration and faculty take seriously. As we work through these difficult economic times we will strive to continue the outstanding education you have come to expect from USD 307. We will continue to make financial decisions that balance fiscal responsibility and the highest quality of education.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the ELL-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children continue to receive a quality education.

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).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

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|---------|---|------------|---|
| Feb. 2 | 4:00 MS BB @ Sedgwick | Feb. 14 | 12:00 HS State Scholar's Bowl @ Moundridge |
| Feb. 3 | 4:30 HS BB @ Little River | Feb. 14 | FFA @ Ellsworth |
| Feb. 5 | TBA HS Regional Scholar's Bowl | Feb. 14 | TBA HS JV BB Tourney @ Ell-Saline |
| Feb. 5 | FFA @ Manhattan | Feb. 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Feb. 5 | TBA HOA League MS BB | Feb. 16 | 6:30 CPTA Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary |
| Feb. 6 | 4:30 HS BB Remington @ Ell-Saline (Sweetheart) | Feb. 16 | 6:30 After Prom Meeting at Ell-Saline High School |
| Feb. 7 | TBA MS BB HOA League @ Inman | Feb. 16 | 7:00 MS/HS Music Concert |
| Feb. 7 | ACT Test Date | Feb. 16 | President's Day |
| Feb. 7 | Sweetheart Dance | Feb. 17 | 4:30 HS BB Goessel @ Ell-Saline (Senior Parent Night) |
| Feb. 8 | Play Try-outs | Feb. 17 | 6:30-8:30 Elementary Skating Party |
| Feb. 9 | TBA MS BB HOA League @ Inman | Feb. 18 | NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-service |
| Feb. 9 | TBA HS JV BB Tourney @ Ell-Saline | Feb. 18 | 4:15-8:15 Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Feb. 9 | 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office | Feb. 19 | NO SCHOOL |
| Feb. 10 | MS Science Olympiad | Feb. 19 | 7:00-7:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Feb. 10 | Elementary Spring Pictures | Feb. 20 | NO SCHOOL |
| Feb. 10 | 4:30 HS BB Bennington @ Ell-Saline (Elementary Night) | Feb. 20 | 4:30 HS BB @ Peabody-Burns |
| Feb. 12 | MS/HS Spring Pictures | Feb. 20 | TBA Wrestling Regional @ Beloit |
| Feb. 12 | HS Science Olympiad | Feb. 21 | TBA Wrestling Regional @ Beloit |
| Feb. 12 | TBA MS BB HOA League @ Inman | Feb. 22-28 | National FFA Week |
| Feb. 12 | TBA HS JV BB Tourney @ Ell-Saline | Feb. 22 | Play Practice Begins |
| Feb. 12 | Lincoln's Birthday | Feb. 22 | Washington's Birthday |
| Feb. 13 | 4:30 HS BB Trinity @ Ell-Saline (Little Cheerleaders Night) | Feb. 23 | 4:00 MS Quiz Bowl @ Ell-Saline |
| | | Feb. 24 | 4:30 HS BB @ Inman |
| | | Feb. 25 | Ash Wednesday |
| | | Feb. 27 | TBA Wrestling State @ FHSU |
| | | Feb. 28 | TBA Wrestling State @ FHSU |

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency
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 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.

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