



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

September 2008

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NEED HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

Knowing that student academic success is a goal everyone holds in common, the State Library of Kansas is again this year offering students a professional online tutoring service called HomeworkKansas. This is a FREE service available to all students, teachers, parents, grandparents and guardians.

HomeworkKansas is a one-to-one, online, interactive tutoring session with trained tutors. This fall begins the third year of this service. Last year more than 20,000 Kansas students completed HomeworkKansas tutoring sessions.

Homework help, via HomeworkKansas, is available to all K-12 students. Students can log in any day of the week between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Tutors provide help with math, science, social studies and English. Tutoring in math, science and social studies is also available in Spanish.

To access **Homework Kansas**, students simply go to www.homeworkkansas.org and enter their Kansas Library card number from their local public library. The service can be accessed from any internet connected computer. If the student does not already have a Kansas library card, they can acquire one for the State Library of Kansas immediately on this same site.

For further information, please call The State Library of Kansas (1-800-432-3919) or email egustafson@kslib.info. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this FREE service.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

August 11 Board Meeting Report

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

6:45 P.M. BUDGET HEARING

The budget was adopted as presented. The overall mill levy is 45.997 mills. This is a decrease of 2.694 mills from last year and is due to a reduction in the Bond & Interest mill levy since it is paid off this year.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

REPORTS

BOE – Marty reported on two relief projects that had been brought to his attention: Ethiopia Reads and Chapman Relief.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: thanking the board for allowing her to attend the Ruby Payne training this summer; enrollment went well; complimented Steve and LeAnna on their work in preparing the building for the new year; Back-to-School/Class Conference format from 5:30 to 7:30 on Monday, August 18; and the building in-service the afternoon of August 13.

Mr. Alexander – His report included: 7th Grade/New Student Open House from 6:00 to 7:00 on Monday, August 18; Booster Club Planting/Clean-Up to take place at the MS/HS the evening of August 14; enrollment went well; complimented Merle, Albert and Zandra on their work in preparing the building for the new year; concerns still with the roof following the June 11 hailstorm; 12 students are enrolled in on-line courses; and progress with the wrestling cooperative agreement with Minneapolis.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: complimenting all of the custodians on their work this summer work; the base has been poured for the wind generator and the tower is expected to be up in 30 days; the schedule for staff before school starts; bus inspections are completed and all buses have now passed; enrollment as of now is 469 students; struggling with the lack of action by the insurance company following the June 11 hail storm so the roofs are still not repaired and the additional damage done to the interior following the recent rains; read two thank you notes; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Facilities — Considerable discussion took place on the plan for building improvements as presented by the Site-Council/Patron Facilities committee. The plan as presented has an estimated cost of \$6,750,000. In general the board approved the plan as presented and expressed their appreciation to the committee members for their work and effort. Jeff Gillam, architect, was present to answer questions, provide information about the plan and anticipated amount of construction time required. Steve Shogren of George K. Baum & Company was present to share information about the services they can provide regarding a bond election. He also shared when, and in what manner, bond elections can be held. Both Jeff and Steve will return for the September 8 board meeting. No decisions were made.

Cooperative Agreement — The following guidelines were

approved for any future cooperative agreements:
--the students can miss no more than one class period per day for the purpose of attending practice;
--the distance between USD 307 and the cooperating school is tied to the item above;
--the students will follow whichever schools eligibility policy is the most stringent;
--the students/families will be responsible for transportation to/from the cooperating school;
--the expenses to be incurred by the district will be determined by each individual request.

Out-of-District Students — The list of out-of-district students attending USD 307 for the first time this year was approved.

Supplemental Positions — The following were approved: John Ludes, Asst. HS Football coach; Chad Flesher, Asst. MS Football coach; Dawn Cox, MS Cheerleader sponsor; Jeremy Miller, Head MS Boys' Basketball coach; and Michelle Werner, Asst. MS Volleyball coach.

Resignation — Kelly Monasmith's resignation as bus driver was accepted.

Classified Positions — The following were approved as route bus drivers: Jeremy Diehl; Kim Klucas; and Laura Riedel.

Staff Recognition — It was noted that the Recognition Night for all new staff and those returning staff with 5-year anniversary dates will be at half-time of the football game with Moundridge on Friday, September 12.

Wellness Policy — The policy was approved as presented.

Land Acquisition — A motion was passed to finalize negotiations with Mrs. Watter's for the purchase of her property that lays just to the south of the baseball field.

There were no Executive Sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 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 one week prior to the meeting.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Greetings and Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year at Ell-Saline USD 307. Another summer has come to a close and a new school year has opened up. The rain and cooler weather for a couple of weeks was much appreciated as we finished our preparations. I'm sure that the rain we have had has been a welcome sight for everyone whether it just greened up the lawn or put needed moisture in the fields. It's so unusual to see the fields and pastures so green this time of year!

Every year brings new beginnings with the accompanying excitement and apprehension. The excitement stems from: knowing that the staff has attended workshops and classes over the summer to improve instruction; seeing the fresh look of the facilities after the summer of repairing and "sprucing up"; having students and staff around again; the buses being all shined up after a year of road grime; new students and families to our district with us; and the new staff sharing their prior experiences and ideas. The apprehension stems from: have all of the materials/supplies that were ordered come in; do we have enough desks for everyone; is the air conditioning working; with all

of the increased traffic on the roads is everyone being extra careful; how are our new staff and students adapting and are we helping them to feel welcome. Sadly, as the year goes by we normally get caught up in the daily routines and we tend to lose the "excitement" that comes with the beginning of the year. On the other hand, we normally discover that our apprehensions were all taken care of and that it has been another good beginning of a new school year. This year has been no different. We appear to be off to a GREAT start!

Our student enrollment looks like it is going to be close to what it was last year. At last count, though, we were down by a few students. As has been the case for the last few years, one of the pieces of information that I think tells a great deal about the education our students receive is in the large number of out-of-district students that we receive. At the August board meeting, 37 new out-of-district students were approved. Last year we gained 31 out-of-district students at enrollment. Overall, just over 40% of our students are from out-of-district. Word appears to continue to get out about the many good things we do here for students.

Again this year we have a few new staff members that will help us to do even better. District wide we have 4 teachers new to the district this year. New at the elementary school are: Amy Brandt, music; Tina Jacquart, Special Education; Wendy DeArvil, Special Education para; Julie Work, .5 Special Education para. New at the MS/HS are: Ken Cannon, Jr/Sr English; Larry Laas, Counselor; Doug Wilson, MS English/Yearbook. Jeremy Diehl is a new route driver and he will be driving the afternoon portion of Liz Diehl's morning route. There are also 2 bus drivers that have been with us in the past as either regular route drivers or substitute drivers that are regular route drivers this year: Kim Klucas and Laura Riedel. We welcome each of these individuals and look forward to many good years of working together.

A project that we continue to work on is that of improving, expanding our facilities to meet the needs of our students. The board has been looking at this for the last four years but there was, and continues to be, more needs than our Capital Outlay fund can afford. From last spring through the summer the Site-Council from each building, a group of parent/patron volunteers and two board members met with Jeff Gillam of Jones Gillam Architects Engineers to finalize the list of needs and to work on potential plans to meet those needs. Great discussion was held during those meetings and numerous options were considered before the committee came to a consensus on a potential plan that meets those needs. The potential plan decided on by the committee was then presented to the Board of Education at its July meeting. The plan consists of considerable expansion at the elementary school and quite a bit of renovation and some expansion at the MS/HS. Jeff Gillam, architect, and Steve Shogren of George K. Baum & Company, were both present at the August board meeting. Steve shared information on what services his company offers to school districts that are working on facility projects of this type. At that meeting there were no decisions made regarding this project and both Jeff and Steve will be back at the September 8 board meeting as the board continues their discussion. Look for more information to come in the next ECHO.

Thank you for your trust and confidence in the Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children are receiving a quality education. Please call or stop in so we can visit about the good things going on in the district.

BOOK FAIR FUN!!

Note Change of Date

Students at EII-Saline Elementary are invited and encouraged to attend the Scholastic Book Fair that will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2008 in the elementary gym. Please mark your calendars--the date is different than the one published on the school calendar.

Students and parents will be able to shop a wide variety of books and educational materials right at school. There will be many popular titles available for children as well as books that parents and teachers will enjoy. Of course there will be posters and a few "gadgets" just to make it more interesting.

The Book Fair is combined with an ice cream social, so load up the family and be at the EII-Saline Elementary School gym between 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.

CPTA SEPTEMBER MEETING INFO

The ESE CPTA will be having its second meeting of the new school year on Monday, September 15th at 6:30 pm in the ESE Music Room. There will be free childcare provided for kids 6th grade and younger. We will also have refreshments and a DOOR PRIZE drawing! If you missed Back-to-School night, we will also have classroom party sign-ups available. We have lots of fun activities to plan so start the year off right and get involved now! Hope to see you there!

CARDINALS OF THE CARIBBEAN

The ESE CPTA would like to invite you to our annual school Carnival. This year's theme is 'Cardinals of the Caribbean.' Make sure you reserve Saturday, October 4th from 3:00-7:00 pm for some fun on the high seas. There will be lots of food, fun, and games for all ages. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mindy Schneider, 823-8853. Hope to see you there, matey!

CPTA VOLLEYBALL CAMP

The ESE CPTA sponsored a summer volleyball camp on July 21st-24th for girls 2nd - 6th grades. They learned lots of new skills with the help of the HS volleyball coaches and players. The girls showed a lot of talent and enthusiasm. All who attended received a t-shirt. Thanks to those who participated and helped make our volleyball camp a success, especially Laurie Came, Krista Russell, and Emily Smith.

CPTA VOLUNTEERS

The ESE CPTA would like to welcome everyone back as we begin another great school year. We got to see many new faces at enrollment and would like to thank all of those who signed up to help with the various activities the CPTA organizes. If you missed the volunteer table at enrollment, you can go to the CPTA pages on the elementary website and get one. Just fill it out and send back to the school with your student. Thank you.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

The EII-Saline Elementary CPTA is once again saving Box Tops, Campbell's Soup Labels, and now Nestle PureLife Water Bottle Labels! All of these cutting and saving efforts provide the elementary students with everything from playground equipment to library books! These items can be sent to the elementary building with the elementary students or given to Shirl Cole at the middle/high schools. If you have any questions, please contact Darci Ditto at 283-4248.

ESH UTILIZES WIND ENERGY

Renewable resources have been a topic of 7th grade science, Earth, Space Science and other classes. As a teaching tool, Mr. Chris Carazo and Mrs. Susan Nelson applied for the Wind for Schools project through the Rural Life Center. EII-Saline was one of the five schools selected to participate in the inaugural year of the program. Schools receive assistance in purchasing a 45 foot Skystream 1.8 KW wind turbine. This model provides from 40%-100% of a household or small business's total energy needs.

Technical and financial assistance is provided by Westar Energy, TradeWind Energy, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University, Smalley Electric Co., Total Electric, the Cardinal Foundation, and other institutions. The concrete foundation was poured on Tuesday, Aug. 5 in the parking lot next to the ESH softball diamond. The tower will be installed in September with the public invited to attend. The date will be announced on the school website.

Students will be able to study wind energy processes with the turbine. Classes will also be able to monitor performance and download energy performance data to school computers. Exploration of careers in wind energy will be another classroom focus.



EII-Saline Middle/High School 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, timers, clock operators, scorers and any other positions that come available depending on the event. As positions become filled you may be asked to fill another position. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Carazo at the district office (225-6813).

WELCOME

We welcomed 83 middle school students and 136 high school students Tuesday as we started another school year. Welcome might be a small word but we truly mean that when we greet our students again for another year. We want them to feel like they belong and that Ell-Saline Middle and High School is their school. We also want them to participate in our different activities we offer at our school.

We believe that all of our students have the potential to achieve at a high level and that we will work as a staff to help them succeed. We understand that we have differences as well as similarities. We expect our students to get along with and work with their classmates.

Our number one goal is student success. Our top priority is student learning. We advised students to get off to a good start, request assistance when they need help, and that they are responsible for themselves.

Parents can help their students by staying involved in their school experience as they enter middle and high school. Ask them questions about their classes and teachers. Keep track of their grades and attendance with our on-line grade book program. Parents can suggest to their students that they use their resources, talk to their teacher, and/or counselor. Our teachers are here to help students learn. Working together with parents gives us the best chance for this to happen.

Information from the principal will be updated weekly on the web page, and there is a middle/senior high school weekly calendar on the web page also.

These are the major rule changes this year at the middle/senior high school for this school year. We have covered these with all of our students the first day of school. Our whole staff will be working together to enforce these new rules. If you have any questions about the changes please contact any of our teachers or the office.

No music devices will be allowed at school this year. This includes earphones. We had many stolen last year. A 45 minute detention will be assigned for each incident.

No cell phones will be allowed to be used at school this year. This is a safety issue. Students may put them in their lockers turned off during the school day. A 45 minute detention will be assigned for each incident.

No food or drinks will be allowed out side of the lunch room. Water in water bottles can be taken into classrooms and lockers. No water in the library. A 45 minute detention will be assigned for each incident.

Inappropriate language will not be accepted. School appropriate language is to be used. A 45 minute detention will be assigned for each incident.

School appropriate dress is to be worn. Follow school guidelines. A 45 minute detention will be assigned for each incident.

Tardies – a 45 minute detention will be assigned for every unexcused tardy.

The third detention during a one week period will receive an (ISS) In-School-Suspension

The third (ISS) in a nine week period will receive an (OSS) Out-of-School Suspension.

Greetings From the Guidance Office,

Who says "You can't come home again"? As a graduate of Ell-Saline High School MANY years ago, I jumped at the chance to move back to my hometown area and return to Ell-Saline Middle School-High School. I look forward to renewing past acquaintances and meeting many new students and parents.

Just to briefly let you know where I have been the past thirty some years, after graduating from Ft. Hays State University, I spent the first thirteen years of my educational career in southwest Kansas teaching speech, debate, and forensics at Satanta High School. In 1987 I moved my family to Concordia where I continued coaching debate and forensics and teaching speech for the next four years. In 1991 I had the opportunity to move into the guidance office where I have been working as Guidance Counselor for 17 years. In the evenings I have been teaching college speech classes for Cloud County Community College for the past several years.

The thing I love most about being a guidance counselor is every day is a new day with new opportunities. No two days are alike and there's never a dull moment. In the few weeks that I have been on the job thus far, the staff has been GREAT to work with, helping me find my way around and implementing new ideas. The evening before classes began, Ms. Scuitte rounded up some of her PALS students and helped host a come-and-go open house for the seventh graders and new students. It gave them an opportunity to bring their new schedules, find their classrooms, and try their combinations on the lockers. It was an effort to make students who were new to the building feel a little more comfortable on that first day of school. I appreciated several of the teachers who rearranged their schedules to be in their classrooms that evening to meet parents and greet the new students.

The first part of September I will be focusing on our seniors. I plan to spend a class period with them discussing such important issues as college visitations, scholarship applications, writing resumes, taking the ACT test, etc. After that meeting, I will be setting up thirty minute appointments with each senior to review credits for graduation, plans for next year, and making sure they are on the correct path to meet their goals for post-secondary plans. As is always the case, parents are more than welcome to attend those one-on-one sessions to ask questions, too.

So I know parents are receiving the same information, I have scheduled an evening meeting for **SENIOR PARENTS, September 18TH from 7:00 until 8:00 in the Library at the high school.** I will be going over the same information on setting up college visitations, applying for scholarships, etc. It will be a great opportunity for me to meet several of the senior parents as we work together for the best interest of our seniors.

After I finish visiting with the seniors individually, I then plan to meet with each of the juniors just to make sure they are on the right track for the goals they have set.

As a Guidance Counselor, I work with students in three important areas: academic counseling, career counseling, and personal/social counseling. As parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at the school at any time (225-6633) or send me an email and I will get back in touch with you as soon as I can. My email address is llaas@ellsaline.org. Communication is the BEST way to solve and avoid many problems.

I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities this job provides. Feel free to stop by the guidance office or give me a call at any time.

NOTE TO SENIORS: Registration for the first ACT test must be postmarked by Sept. 19th. Registration packets are available in the Guidance Office.

Larry Laas
Guidance Counselor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

- Sept. 1 NO SCHOOL—Labor Day
- Sept. 2 4:00 HS VB @ Goessel
- Sept. 2 6:00 ESIC Meeting at ESEL
- Sept. 3 9:00 STARBASE
- Sept. 3 6:00 MS/HS Site Council
- Sept. 4 5:00 MS VB Sedgwick @ EII-Saline
- Sept. 4 6:30 MS FB Sedgwick @ EII-Saline
- Sept. 5 State Fair begins
- Sept. 5 7:00 HS FB @ Peabody-Burns
- Sept. 7 State Fair Week
- Sept. 7 Grandparents Day
- Sept. 8 8:30-2:30 HS @ State Fair
- Sept. 8 9:00 STARBASE
- Sept. 8 7:00 BOE Meeting at EII-Saline District Office
- Sept. 9 4:00 HS VB Berean/Little River/Remington @ EII-Saline
- Sept. 9 6:30-8:30 EII-Saline Elementary Book Fair
- Sept. 10 8:30 CEP Test
- Sept. 11 5:00 MS VB Inman @ EII-Saline
- Sept. 11 6:30 MS FB Inman @ EII-Saline
- Sept. 12 7:00 HS FB Moundridge @ EII-Saline District Staff Recognition Night
- Sept. 13 8:00 HS VB @ Sylvan Grove
- Sept. 15 6:00 HS JV FB @ Moundridge
- Sept. 15 6:30 CPTA Meeting at EII-Saline Elementary
- Sept. 16 4:00 HS VB @ Bennington (Peabody-Burns)
- Sept. 17 9:00 STARBASE
- Sept. 17 Citizenship Day
- Sept. 18 5:00 MS VB @ Bennington
- Sept. 18 6:30 MS FB @ Bennington
- Sept. 19 7:00 HS FB Bennington @ EII-Saline Little Cheerleaders Night
- Sept. 20 9:00 HS VB @ Tescott
- Sept. 22 9:00 STARBASE
- Sept. 22 6:00 HS JV FB @ Bennington
- Sept. 22 6:30 After-Prom Meeting at EII-Saline High School
- Sept. 23 4:00 HS VB @ Goessel (Moundridge)
- Sept. 24 NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service
- Sept. 24 FFA @ Clay Center
- Sept. 24 HOA Leadership @ HCC
- Sept. 24 4:15-8:15 Parent Teacher Conferences
- Sept. 25 NO SCHOOL
- Sept. 25 7:00am-7:30pm Parent Teacher Conferences
- Sept. 26 NO SCHOOL
- Sept. 26 ACT Registration Deadline
- Sept. 26 7:00 HS FB @ Sedgwick
- Sept. 27 TBA MS VB Tourney @ Solomon
- Sept. 27 9:00 HS JV VB @ Inman
- Sept. 29 6:00 HS JV FB Sedgwick @ EII-Saline
- Sept. 30 4:00 HS VB @ Trinity Catholic (Sedgwick)
- Oct. 1 9:00 STARBASE
- Oct. 1 HOA League
- Oct. 1 FFA @ Manhattan
- Oct. 1 6:30 KU Honors Dinner at Salina Country Club
- Oct. 2 Elementary Fall Pictures
- Oct. 2 6:00 MS FB @ Solomon
- Oct. 3 MS/HS Fall Pictures
- Oct. 3 7:00 HS FB @ Trinity Catholic
- Oct. 4 7:00-5:00 W.A. White
- Oct. 4 3:30-7:00 CPTA Carnival at EII-Saline Elementary

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The EII-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.

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EII-Saline USD 307
412 E. Anderson P.O. Box 157
Brookville, KS 67425-0157
(785) 225-6813