



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

September 2010

Check us out at www.ellsaline.org

CHANGE IN ECHO DELIVERY

As a cost savings measure, this year the ECHO will primarily be sent electronically. For this to happen we will need to hear from you as to whether or not you have email/internet capability. Please email Brenda Bockenstette at bbockenstette@ellsaline.org if you have email access. We have gone through the Student Enrollment forms and have found many email addresses that we will be sending them to. If you do not have email access then please call her at 225-6813 and let her know. We will then continue to send yours through the mail. **We do need to hear from everyone!** Thank you in advance for your help in conserving our budget.

2010-2011 BUDGET UPDATE

At the Budget Hearing on August 9 the Board of Education adopted the budget for 2010-2011. This year's budget is again filled with a mix of hope and of anxiety. Some good news is that our enrollment is going to be at least where it was last year. The budget is built on the same Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) of \$4,012 as we ended with last year. We are hopeful that the 1% sales tax increase passed by the legislature last session will help provide the needed revenue for the state so there won't need to be a reduction in the BSAPP during the year. Although it is not the case in USD 307 or in Saline County, the assessed valuations across the state have decreased which is a cause of concern to us. With that decrease there will be a corresponding decrease in the amount that the state receives from the 20 mill levy but we are hopeful that the sales tax increase will help offset that so that a decrease in the BSAPP is not needed to balance the budget. Again this year we do receive some federal America Recovery and Restoration (ARRA) stabilization funds but not nearly the amount we received last year. Unless the federal government approves granting additional monies this will be the last year that we will have dollars to help us. For the last several years we have been able to transfer money to the next year in preparation for these tight budget times. As is the case at home, we've not had as much left at the end of last year to make those transfers and we won't be able to transfer as much at the end of this year because we are starting the year with less. Unless there is a noticeable turnaround in the economy, this is likely to be as good of a budget year as

it's going to be for several years.

The overall mill levy this year is 55.846 which is up slightly from last year's 55.244. The mill levies that we have control over are as follows: Bond & Interest, 9.6, which is lower than last year's 10.572; Capital Outlay, 2, which is only half of what we are authorized to levy and what we have levied for many years; LOB, 24.246, which is up from last year's 20.683.

Again this year there is no state aid for Capital Outlay but there is for LOB which is the reason for decreasing the Capital Outlay levy. The two mills decreased from Capital Outlay were added to the LOB with the intent of transferring the amount to Capital Outlay so that we still have a revenue stream for the Capital Outlay fund. The rest of the LOB increase was in raising it to the maximum of 30% for the purpose of placing us in better financial condition for next year when the federal ARRA funds are no longer provided.

The 9.6 mills on Bond & Interest is what we originally had in the projections for this year and based on our current and projected carryover, as well as the increase in the principal payments, this will still give us sufficient carryover for next year.

Our overall proposed mill levy is increased over last year by .602 mills. However, when the final assessed valuation is determined by the county the levies may be decreased slightly which is pretty common.

BOARD REPORT

August 9 Board Meeting Report

Jeff Parker was the only board member that was absent. Action taken was on a 6-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

6:45 P.M. BUDGET HEARING

The budget was approved as presented.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

REPORTS

BOE – None

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: Halstead Road bridge being closed; enrollment; construction; and beginning of year activities.

Mr. McDaniel – His report included: enrollment; construction; and beginning of year activities.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: before school teacher contract days; enrollment; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Resignation—Steve Stegman's resignation as the Elementary School Building Operator was accepted.

Approve New Hire—Kayla Herrman was approved as the Title I Tutor at the Elementary School.

Out-of-District Students—The list of new out-of-district students was approved.

Approve Calendar Changes—The following changes to the district calendar were approved: September 20 will be an a.m. In-Service Day and a p.m. Work Day (NO STUDENTS); April 21 was changed from an In-Service Day to a Student Contact Day (STUDENTS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE); October 22 and March 4 were changed to only an 8:00 to 12:00 Teacher Work Day. These changes were already made on the Activity Calendar that was distributed at Enrollment.

Staff Recognition Night—Half-time of the HS football game on Friday, September 3, will be the time that all new staff and returning staff with 5-year anniversary dates will be recognized.

Tour Facilities—The board toured the facilities to see the construction progress.

There was one Executive Session (Personnel). No action was taken following it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary School Band Room. If anyone wishes to have an item added to the agenda, please contact President Geena Kejr, Vice-President Jeff Parker or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

ESE BOOK FAIR

You are invited to our Scholastic Book Fair, a reading event packed with excitement for students and families. Join us between the hours of 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. The elementary school gymnasium is the setting. It's a come and go event.

Our Book Fair theme – *Here's to Our Heroes! Reading Saves the Day!* – is an event that brings the books kids love to our school in an atmosphere of fun. The Book Fair connects students with books at affordable rates and makes reading a positive experience. Children love to read books they personally get to choose and the more they read, the stronger their reading skills get.

Students will preview the books during their library time at school. They will be able to purchase books the day before and the day after the Book Fair during times arranged with their classroom teacher.

An ice cream social is held along with the Book Fair so load up the family and spend some time with us at the Ell-Saline Elementary gymnasium on Tuesday, September 14 from 6PM until 8PM.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Amber Fouard or Kathy Randolph at the elementary school. See you there!

DRAMA CLUB

ESHS Drama Club got together on August 19 to meet the new faculty advisor for the drama program. Ms. Trish JuAire has served in this capacity in a previous district for two years. The titles and a brief synopsis of each of the 2010-2011 plays were discussed. The district felt it would be better to do only two showings this year, making the fall performances on November 13 & 14 at 7 pm & 2 pm, respectively. The fall production will be open to high school students only; however, should any 8th grade students want to help as part of the production crew that will be greatly appreciated. The spring production will be open to 8th grade; however, high school students will receive priority when casting roles. The spring production will be on April 9 & 10 with the same times. The title of the fall play is *A Thurber Carnival*, which is an episodic comedy. The spring play will be a drama entitled *The Birds That Stay*.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Greetings and Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at Ell-Saline USD 307. Another summer has come to a close and a new school year has opened up. These first few days in each building have appeared to go very smoothly even with the changes created by construction. The rain and cooler weather 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.

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 or fresh out of college 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 very close to what it was last year but only the number of students with us on September 20 will count toward state funding. At last count we are up by two 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, and the reputation that Ell-Saline USD 307 has, is in the large number of out-of-district students that choose to attend with us. At the August board meeting, 32 new out-of-district students were approved and several more potential elementary students were not even brought to the board for approval because our class sizes are already at capacity. Last year we gained 36 out-of-district students at enrollment. Overall, just over 42% 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 9 teachers, administrators, sponsors and classified staff members new to the district this year. New at the elementary school are: Susie Omli, 5th grade; Kayla Herrman, Title I para; Melanie Watson, special education teacher; Della Tomanek, special education para; and Vicki Farney, special education speech. New at the MS/HS are: Ashley Hanson, business/computer; Trish JuAire, Jr/Sr English; Kim Martin, MS At-Risk Math para; and Amy Allison, special education para. Also with us this fall is Jeremy Sisco, a student teacher from KSU working with Mr. Weis in VoAg. We welcome each of these individuals and look forward to many good years of working together.

Something else that we are looking forward to this year is the continuing of the construction that began last spring. As I say that I know that during the year there will be considerable number of inconveniences and changes to what has been our routine for many years. What we will all need to keep in mind as we work through those is that by this time next year the project will be completed and we will have facilities that are greatly improved and that will serve our needs for many years to come.

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. Please call or stop in so we can visit about the good things going on in the district.

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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

- Sept. 2 4:30 HS CC @ Lincoln
Sept. 2 4:30 MS VB Sedgwick @ ES
Sept. 2 6:00 MS FB Sedgwick @ ES
Sept. 3 7:00 HS FB Bennington @ ES (*MS/HS Pep Band; District Staff Recognition Night*)
Sept. 6 NO SCHOOL—Labor Day
Sept. 7 4:00 HS VB Remington/Moundridge @ ES
Sept. 7 6:00 HS JV FB @ Bennington
Sept. 9 3:00 MS Fall Sports Pictures
Sept. 9 4:30 MS VB Moundridge @ ES
Sept. 9 6:00 MS FB Moundridge @ ES
Sept. 10 State Fair begins
Sept. 10 7:00 HS FB @ Trinity Catholic
Sept. 11 8:00 HS VB @ Sylvan Grove
Sept. 12 Grandparents Day
Sept. 13 State Fair Trip
Sept. 13 6:00 HS JV FB Trinity Catholic @ ES
Sept. 13 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary School
Sept. 14 4:00 HS VB @ Berean Academy (Canton-Galva)
Sept. 14 6:30-8:00 Ell-Saline Elementary Book Fair
Sept. 15 FFA @ Belleville
Sept. 16 4:30 HS CC @ Bennington
Sept. 16 4:30 MS VB @ Remington
Sept. 16 6:00 MS FB @ Remington
Sept. 17 7:00 HS FB Remington @ ES (*MS/HS Pep Band; Little Cheerleaders Night*)
Sept. 17 Citizenship Day
Sept. 18 9:00 HS VB @ Tescott
Sept. 20 NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-service—AM; Teacher Workday—PM
Sept. 20 6:00 HS JV FB @ Remington
Sept. 20 6:30 CPTA Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary
Sept. 21 FFA @ Concordia
Sept. 21 4:00 HS VB ES/Bennington @ Sedgwick
Sept. 21 4:30 HS CC @ SES
Sept. 21 4:30 MS VB @ Trinity Catholic
Sept. 21 6:00 MS FB @ Trinity Catholic
Sept. 22 LifeTouch—Seniors
Sept. 22 4:15-8:15 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sept. 23 NO SCHOOL—7:00am-7:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sept. 23 TBA Bethania
Sept. 24 NO SCHOOL
Sept. 24 ACT Registration Deadline
Sept. 24 7:00 HS FB @ Sedgwick
Sept. 25 KSU Band Day
Sept. 25 9:00 HS JV VB @ Inman
Sept. 27 6:00 HS JV FB Sedgwick @ ES
Sept. 28 4:00 HS CC @ Lyons
Sept. 28 4:00 HS VB ES/Marion/Trinity Catholic @ Inman
Sept. 29 10:30 HOA Leadership @ HCC
Sept. 30 4:30 MS VB Inman @ ES
Sept. 30 6:00 MS FB Inman @ ES (*8th Gr. Parent Night*)

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 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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