



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

SEPTEMBER 2011

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2011-2012 BUDGET UPDATE

At the Budget Hearing on August 15 the Board of Education adopted the budget for 2011-2012. 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 Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) of \$3,780 which is \$232 less than last year. Fortunately for us, we are able to use all of the new classrooms this year and the amount we will receive from the New Facilities Weighting will help to offset this loss in BSAPP. Although it is not the case in USD 307 or in Saline County, the assessed valuations across the state have continued to decrease 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. Also, the state will not be receiving any America Recovery and Restoration Act (ARRA) funds this year. On a positive note, the state has taken in more in sales and income tax receipts than had been projected. We are hopeful that this trend will continue so that a decrease in the BSAPP is not needed during the year to balance the budget. 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 56.178 which is up slightly from last year's 55.794. The mill levies that we have control over are as follows: Bond & Interest, 9.6, which is the same as last year; Capital Outlay, 0, although we are authorized to levy 4 mills; Local Option Budget (LOB), 26.578, which is up from last year's 24.211.

Again this year there is no state aid for Capital Outlay but there is for LOB which is the reason for dropping the Capital Outlay levy. By shifting that to the LOB we are able to take some of the tax burden off our local patrons and transferring it to everyone across the state. 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 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 mill levy is increased over last year by .384 mills. However, when the final assessed valuation is determined by the county the levies may be changed slightly which is pretty common.

As you've read this report that says our budget continues to get ever tighter with decreasing revenues you might have been wondering how it is, then, that we are able to spend all that we are on construction and facilities improvements. Our general fund budget is shrinking but visibly we're spending money. We are able to do the construction and facilities improvements only because of the support of our patrons in April 2009 when you approved the bond issue. All of the money for that is coming from those bond proceeds and not from the General Fund or LOB. We are very appreciative of our patrons for having voted to allow us to make the much needed facilities improvements. After the construction is completed we will be setting some Open House dates where everyone will be invited to come and see what your tax dollars have been used for.

AUGUST 15 BOARD MEETING REPORT

All board 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 56.178 which is .384 higher than it was last year.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

REPORTS

BOE – None

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: Beginning of year activities; Enrollment; New staff members; 3rd through 6th graders and staff met AYP in both reading and math last year; August 23 building level in-service day focus; Back to School Night; and future scheduling of community tours of the new facilities.

Mr. McDaniel – His report included: AYP reports show the building is on track for NCLB legislation; classroom I-Pad set has arrived; August 23 building level in-service day focus; MTSS will be implemented this year; enrollment; and School motto.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: construction update; Before School Teacher Contract days agenda; enrollment (currently at 481 K-12); student teachers; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Approve New Hires—The following were approved: Joy Allison, elementary Title Reading Paraprofessional; Katie Novack, HS Asst. Girls' Basketball coach; Josh Farrell, MS Asst. Football coach; and Spencer Clark, MS/HS custodian.

Ratify Negotiations—They were ratified. The teacher average salary increase was 1.6%.

Classified and Administrative Salaries—Classified and administrative staff were given a 1.6% salary increase which is the same as the teacher average salary increase percent.

Act on Propane Bids—The low bid of \$1.607 per gallon from Propane Central was accepted.

Act on Bus Bids—The bid of \$74,975.00 for a new 2012 65-passenger Blue Bird bus from Kansas Truck was accepted.

Act on MS/HS Signage Bids—After considerable discussion it was decided that our current fiscal condition did not justify purchasing a lighted, scrolling message board sign to be placed in the southeast corner of the school grounds, therefore those bids were all rejected. This could be brought back up in the future for consideration. The low bid of \$1,070.00 from PowerAd for non-lighted signs directing people to, and identifying the District office was accepted.

Out-of-District Students—The list of 32 new out-of-district students was approved.

MS/HS Summer School Program—It was approved to raise the MS/HS test out level to 10% above the minimum standard.

Band Fundraisers—The list of potential band fund raisers was approved as presented.

Staff Recognition Night—It was the consensus of the board to again hold the recognition night for all new staff members and all returning 5-year increment staff members at half-time of the first home HS varsity football game which is Friday, September 9, with Hutchinson Trinity Catholic.

Accept Resignation—Kim Martin's resignation as MS Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach was accepted.

There were two Executive Sessions (Negotiations and Personnel). No action took place following either of them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Following adjournment the board toured the MS/HS construction. The board will tour the elementary school at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 22.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 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.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Greetings and Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year at EII-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. There were many smiles, wide eyes, WOWs and positive comments when staff, students and parents first saw all of the changes that took place over the summer. All of that added even more excitement than normal to the beginning of a new 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; 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; do we have everyone on a bus route that is supposed to be; 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 up a little from 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 five students over last year. 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 EII-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 many more potential elementary students were not even brought to the board for approval because our class sizes are already at capacity. This number of new out-of-district students has remained pretty consistent for the past several years. Overall, roughly 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 13 teachers, administrators, sponsors and classified staff members new to the district this year. New at the elementary school are: Kayla Herrman, 6th grade; Nathan Burgess, Physical Education; and Joy Allison, Title I para. New at the MS/HS are: Kacia Marrs, Jr/Sr English, Forensics and Drama, Brandy Rudy, special education para, Becky Jones, secretary; and Spencer Clark, custodian. New MS Cheerleading sponsors are Nikki Davenport and Michelle Griffin; HS cheerleader/dance sponsors are Amber Fouard and Cathie Norris; MS Asst. Football coach is Josh Farrell; and HS Asst. Girls' Basketball coach is Katie Novack. Also with us from Bethany College this fall at the elementary school are student teachers Emerald Wills (Mary Ellen Muninger) and Bruce Schmidt (Susie Omlil). 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 being in our new facilities. Although there are still a few areas being worked on and kinks to be worked out, the entire project should be completed within a matter of weeks. Seeing the nearly finished product makes all of the inconveniences during the process pretty trivial. I am very confident that when you see what your tax dollars are paying for you will be impressed. We have facilities that are greatly improved and that will serve our needs for many years to come. Before long we will be setting dates for Open Houses at each building and we hope that everyone will be able to attend and see the facilities first hand. Thank you for supporting your district schools and making these much needed improvements possible.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Eil-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.

FFA NEWS

Eil-Saline FFA had a busy and successful summer.

The summer started with State FFA Convention held at Kansas State University. Clay Gorrell was recognized as the State Proficiency Award winner in Specialty Animal for his work at Rolling Hills Wildlife Refuge. He received a plaque and cash reward of \$150.

Amanda Reed and Jordan Pieschl received National FFA Scholarships and Jordan also received a State FFA Scholarship.

Jordan also placed in several State activities. She was 6th overall in FFA information and 4th overall in an essay competition on why Agriculture should be taught in the high school.

Cain Fouard and Jordan competed in State speaking competitions also.

The FFA chapter also received honors of being the 5th overall program in the State for the chapters many community service activities and member opportunities.

Faith Rasmussen was selected to the State FFA choir and she performed a solo singing the National Anthem in front of over two thousand guests at the State Convention.

Jordan also ran for State FFA office. After four days of intense interviewing with KSU professors, Agribusiness professionals and FFA alumni, Jordan was slated for FFA President. She addressed the delegation of members and was elected the State FFA President. She will lead over 8000 FFA members and 165 FFA chapters from across the State.

During the summer Jordan represented the FFA by traveling to Washington DC and working with other State Presidents and the Secretary of Agriculture. Traveled to Iowa and worked with other State officer teams. Put on two state leadership conferences for State members. She also had the chance to work with other FFA programs and develop leadership teams for their chapters. She also helped with a State FFA Foundation Charity Golf Tournament. She was a busy young lady.

The Chapter would also like to wish all graduating seniors a successful year in their new activities.

Chapter members also attended State Conference for Chapter Leaders in July where they had the opportunity to develop ways of getting members involved and informed.

The officers traveled to Hoxie Kansas where they planned upcoming activities. They also toured Fort Hays State University, Sternburg Museum, Cathedral of the Plains and Hoxie Feeders feedlot. Officers also attended the Sheridan County fair.

Several chapter members did very well at the Saline County Fair. Both Cain and Amanda were selected as 4-H King and Queen of the Saline County Fair. Collyn and Cain Fouard both showed beef and dairy projects and Collyn also had a sheep project. Levi Chermack showed beef and poultry. Justin Schmutz had a beef and horse project.

The Eil-Saline FFA Chapter has received notice that the chapter has earned the ranking of a Three Star Chapter which is the highest honor that a chapter can receive. This makes the second straight year that Eil-Saline has received this honor. It is based on the accomplishments that the chapter has accomplished over the past year.

In other National FFA news, we are pleased to announce that Morgan Lindsay 2009 graduate has received the American Degree. This is the highest honor that an individual can receive from the FFA. Morgan will receive her degree at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Morgan is a Junior at Kansas State University majoring in Agriculture Business.

Morgan is the first Eil-Saline student to ever receive the American Degree.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

Sept 1 4:30 MS VB @ Sedgwick
Sept 1 6:00 MS FB @ Sedgwick
Sept 2 7:00 HS FB @ Bennington
Sept. 5 NO SCHOOL—Labor Day
Sept. 6 MS/HS Fall Pictures
Sept. 6 4:00 HS VB @ Moundridge (Remington)
Sept. 6 6:00 HS JV FB Bennington @ ES
Sept. 8 FFA/Farm Bureau Ag Awareness Day
Sept. 8 4:30 MS VB @ Moundridge
Sept. 8 6:00 MS FB @ Moundridge
Sept. 9 State Fair begins
Sept. 9 7:00 HS FB Trinity Catholic @ ES (District Staff Recognition Night)
Sept. 10 ACT Test Date
Sept. 10 TBA HS VB Tourney @ Sylvan Grove
Sept. 11 6:30 After-Prom Meeting at ESEL
Sept. 11-18 State Fair Week
Sept. 11 Grandparents Day
Sept. 12 State Fair Trip
Sept. 12 6:00 HS JV FB @ Trinity Catholic
Sept. 12 7:00 BOE Meeting at ESDO
Sept. 13 4:00 HS VB Berean Academy/Canton-Galva @ ES
Sept. 13 6:30-8:00 ESEL Book Fair
Sept. 15 4:30 MS VB Remington @ ES
Sept. 15 6:00 MS FB Remington @ ES
Sept. 16 NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service Day
Sept. 16 7:00 HS FB @ Remington
Sept. 17 Jr/Sr KSU Band Day
Sept. 17 TBA HS VB Tourney @ Tescott
Sept. 17 Citizenship Day

Sept. 19 6:00 HS JV FB Remington @ ES
Sept. 19 6:30 CPTA Meeting at ESEL
Sept. 20 FFA @ Abilene
Sept. 20 4:00 HS VB @ Bennington (Sedgwick)
Sept. 20 4:30 MS VB Trinity Catholic @ ES
Sept. 20 6:00 MS FB Trinity Catholic @ ES
Sept. 21 Life Touch—Seniors
Sept. 21 4:15-8:15 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sept. 22 NO SCHOOL
Sept. 22 7:00am-7:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
Sept. 22 TBA Bethania
Sept. 23 NO SCHOOL
Sept. 23 ACT Registration Deadline
Sept. 23 7:00 HS FB Sedgwick @ ES (Little Cheerleaders Night)
Sept. 24 KSU Band Day
Sept. 24 TBA HS JV VB @ Inman
Sept. 26 6:00 HS JV FB @ Sedgwick
Sept. 27 MS/HS Fall Picture Retakes
Sept. 27 4:00 HS VB @ Marion (Inman/Trinity Catholic)
Sept. 28 FFA @ Mankato
Sept. 28 10:30 HOA Leadership @ HCC
Sept. 29 4:30 MS VB @ Inman
Sept. 29 6:00 MS FB @ Inman
Sept. 30 7:00 HS FB @ Ellenwood

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).

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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