



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

February 2008

Check us out at www.ellsaline.org

KASB DESIGNATES JANUARY AS SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

School board members are ordinary people who have an extraordinary dedication to our public schools. It is time we thanked them for their untiring efforts.

Too often we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members routinely make.

Too often we forget about the important role school board members play in assuring local control over our public schools is in the hands of people we know...people who are our neighbors.

Too often we forget that, in the tradition of a representative democracy, school board members are our connection to influencing how our public schools are governed.

Too often we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that went into any given decision.

Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized and unrewarded.

January is School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to show our appreciation to, and better understand how, school board members work together to provide leadership for our schools.

The school board works closely with parents, education professionals and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students.

The school board is accountable to the public. It is responsible for assuring the public that the money allocated to the public schools is providing a good return on the investment. Thus, the board oversees regular assessment of the district's students, staff and programs.

The school board is also a strong advocate for public schools and is responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the district.

In January, please join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools. **Our USD 307 Board of Education members are: Marty Kramer, President; Cheryl Higgins, Vice-President; Delbert Armbrust; Jamie Bradley; Geena Kejr; Jeff Parker; and John Schrock.** Make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is truly appreciated.

Thank you!

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

January 14 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

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

REPORTS

BOE –None.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: distributed a copy of her monthly newsletter; the school goal for the Salvation Army project of collecting 500 boxes of instant mashed potatoes fell short because of the ice storm; January 25 Pep rally activities; this year's testing theme of "Aim for the Goal"; and Krista Russell organizing the Jump Rope & Hoops for the Heart activities to include KWU athletes and MS/HS students.

Mr. Alexander – His report included: Olveus Bullying program; January 25 student in-services; state assessment timeline; PLATO math success with improving student math skills; many activities taking place; teacher instructional DVD's being ordered; and Senior Trip sponsors being selected (SRO Flesher/Rachel and Dave/Mary Alice Weed).

Mr. Minneman – His report included: KASB Governmental Relations Seminar and SQE breakfast; January 21 In-Service day activities; District Facilities Committee meeting; days left in the school calendar following the days lost for ice; baseball field meeting with a State Water Resources engineer; summary of the Tech/Steering Committee meetings; presented School Board Recognition certificates; read one Thank You; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Adopt 2008-2009 Calendar – Option 4 of those presented to the teachers by the calendar committee was adopted. It was the option favored by the staff in the final vote. (5-1 Geena Kejr voting no) A copy is enclosed as an insert in this ECHO and is also available on our district website.

Superintendent's Contract – Mr. Minneman's contract was extended for one more year. This keeps him on a 2-year contract that runs through the 2009-2010 school year. The salary will be set following the completion of teacher negotiations.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.

Tentative February Agenda Items

End-of-School Year Activities
Negotiations
Personnel

MONTHLY PARENT LEARNING TIPS #5 VISIT YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM

Children love to have their parent(s) visit them at school. It makes them feel important and increases their self-confidence. Also, it lets them know that you, as a parent, value education and are interested in what they are learning at school. This is a chance for you to become better able to help in your child's learning. Here are some tips

that will make your classroom visit be most successful.

- Unless you have been invited to visit the classroom at a particular time and date, contact the teacher to ask when your visit would be most convenient. If you want to observe a certain subject, such as reading, let the teacher know so that he or she can tell you when that subject is being taught.
- Take along some paper and a pen or pencil so you can take notes or write down any questions you have for the teacher.
- Try to arrive before the class begins so that you can better understand what the teacher and students will be doing that day.
- If at all possible, leave small children at home or arrange for a neighbor or another family member to watch them.
- Wait until the end of the class period to ask the teacher questions so that the flow of the lesson won't be interrupted.
- Be sure to ask how you can help your child at home with the lesson or other class work, if appropriate.

Submitted by Susan Stateham

Taken from RMC Research Corporation

BAND AND CHOIR NOTES

High School

The United States Navy Band will be performing in Salina at the Steifel Theatre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. The Salina Journal is sponsoring their performance and has provided an opportunity for two of the top band students from each of the local schools to play with this Washington, D.C., based band.

Ell-Saline will be represented by Amanda Reed and Michelle Kejr. These two young ladies are very involved in the band department and have already received many other honors this year.

Amanda, a freshman, auditioned for the KMEA District Band and was chosen as an alternate. She is also attending the K-State Band Clinic, working on a solo and ensemble for contest, and participating in her 4-H music opportunities.

Michelle, also a freshman, participated in the Heart of America League Honor Band and auditioned for the KMEA District Band. She also is attending the K-State Band Clinic and working on a solo and ensemble for contest.

Amanda and Michelle have started working on their parts in *The Washington Post March* by John Philip Sousa to be ready for this performance. Their names will be announced by the Navy Band narrator on the day of this once in a lifetime opportunity. The concert is open to the public. For ticket information, call the Salina Journal.

Middle School

Eight junior high music students went to Junction City High School on January 19, 2008, to participate in the North Central Kansas Music Educators District Convention. Amber Bird, Zach O'Shea, Melissa Wimer, and Jared Winter spent the morning in choir rehearsals and performed in the 2:30 concert as part of the seventy-six member choir.

Band members Whitney Albers, Nick Edgerton, Spencer Parker, and Keenan Toll spent the morning in band rehearsals and also performed that afternoon in the concert. Whitney was first chair, first part; Nick was fourth chair, first part; Spencer was third chair; and Keenan was third percussionist. The concert ended with their favorite piece *The Great Locomotive Chase* by Robert W. Smith.

The students and Mrs. Grover enjoyed the day and are looking forward to participating again next year.

Submitted by Joan Grover

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME

Girl Scout Cookies® had their earliest beginnings in the kitchens and ovens of our girl members, with mothers volunteering as technical advisers. The sale of cookies as a way to finance troop activities began as early as 1917, five years after Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouting in the United States. The earliest mention of a cookie sale found to date was that of the Mistletoe Troop in Muskogee, Oklahoma, which baked cookies and sold them in its high school cafeteria as a service project in December 1917.

In July 1922, The American Girl magazine, published by Girl Scout national headquarters, featured an article by Florence E. Neil, a local director in Chicago, Illinois. Miss Neil provided a cookie recipe that was given to the council's 2,000 Girl Scouts. She estimated the approximate cost of ingredients for six- to seven-dozen cookies to be 26 to 36 cents. The cookies, she suggested, could be sold by troops for 25 or 30 cents per dozen.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Girl Scouts in different parts of the country continued to bake their own simple sugar cookies with their mothers. These cookies

were packaged in wax paper bags, sealed with a sticker, and sold door to door for 25 to 35 cents per dozen.

AN EARLY GIRL SCOUT COOKIE® RECIPE

1 cup butter
1 cup sugar plus additional amount for topping (optional)
2 eggs
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder

Cream butter and the cup of sugar; add well-beaten eggs, then milk, vanilla, flour, salt, and baking powder. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Roll dough, cut into trefoil shapes, and sprinkle sugar on top, if desired. Bake in a quick oven (375°) for approximately 8 to 10 minutes or until the edges begin to brown. Makes six- to seven-dozen cookies.

Cookies Go On Sale January 12th!

Please see any of the following Girl Scouts to place your order!

Gabrielle Brindle, Madelyn Hayes, Kylee Jones, Milah Linenberger, Morgan Linenberger, Kimberly McCready, Madison Mick, Kennedy Mick & Emily Oberle.

The following dates we have scheduled for our future meetings. Please plan to be there!
January 17th 3:45pm to 5:00pm
February 21st "same"
March 13th "same"

Thank you so much!

Submitted by Kimberly Mick

AFTER PROM

The After Prom Committee met in the district meeting room on January 21. Those in attendance were Kirk & Connie Cates, Lisa Armstrong and Scott & Julie Rohrig. Julie reported a balance of \$6232.99 in the checking account. It was decided to ask all non attending junior and senior parents to donate food and/or money for After Prom activities. Lisa is checking on pricing for shirts and Scott is checking on pricing for pizza. The next meeting will be in the high school cafeteria on February 18 @ 6:30. Please plan to attend as there are only two meetings before prom.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Welcome to 2008! I hope that over the holidays you had time to enjoy family and friends. It was certainly good to have electricity back on by then following the ice storm. Although the electricity is back on I know there is still plenty to do with cleaning up downed limbs, trimming trees and fixing fences to name a few. In just a few weeks it will be spring and the weather will be better to get those things taken care of. Before then, though, we are likely to have more wintry weather.

Along with the certainty of winter weather this time of year is the annual reconvening of the state legislature. Two years ago the legislature passed, and the Supreme Court agreed to, a 3-year funding plan for K-12 public education. I know that their being able to put together such a plan was only possible through their communications with, and support from, you. Thank you for your active role in helping that to come to be. It is not expected that much additional funding will be available this year although our expenses will continue to increase beyond what is provided in the current plan. At this time it is not known what direction any discussion of school finance will take. In some legislative circles there has been talk of adding one more year to the current plan so that districts will know farther in advance how much funding they will have. This does help with long range planning. However, the amount of increase generating the most discussion is \$59 on the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) which is only about a 1.4% increase. This amount is below the projected Consumer Price Index of 2.3% for both 2008 and 2009 and well below the legislature's own cost studies that indicate that an additional \$300 needs to be added to the base to meet their own criteria. Communicating with our legislators again this year will play an important role in securing the necessary funding for us, as well as all other districts, to continue to make progress in meeting the requirements of NCLB. If our funding does not at least keep pace with inflation, then a larger percentage of our budget will need to go for non-instructional items (fuel, utilities, insurance, etc.), Therefore, some of the programs or strategies that we have been able to put in place in the recent years to meet those requirements may no longer be available for our students. To help you in contacting our area legislators I have included their contact information below.

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

Sen. Pete Brungardt
State Capitol Building
Room 522-S
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7390
brungardt@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Deena Horst
State Capitol Building
Room 136-N
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7653
horst@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Charles Roth
State Capitol Building
Room 431-N
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7646
roth@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Joshua Svaty
State Capitol Building
Room 322-S
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7656
svaty@house.state.ks.us

Counselor's Corner

Pre-Enrollment information and schedule of events. . .

- Feb. 7th – 7th through 11th grade students receive their copy of the enrollment guide and course book
- Feb. 8th – 6th grade student receive their copy of the enrollment guide and course book.
- Feb. 11th - meeting for 6th grade parents will be held at 6:00 pm in the H.S. Library
- Feb. 11th - meeting for 8th grade parents will be held at 6:30 pm in the H.S. Library
- Feb. 26-29 – return of students' enrollment papers

Parents, how you can help your student choose classes for next year.

- Talk with your student about classes for next year.
- Talk about what your student would like to do when they graduate (i.e. 2-yr, 4yr, tech. school, sports in college, etc.)

Please sign the enrollment form

Five reasons to take challenging courses

As you register for your fall classes, here are five good reasons why you should take challenging courses:

1. Colleges look at the high school courses you've taken and want to see that you weren't coasting through.
2. Tough courses give you the knowledge and skills you need to do college work.
3. Students who take challenging courses score higher on the ACT. You'll be less likely to need remedial courses in college, and you may be able to finish college sooner.
4. You will have more options for college and a career. ACT's list of high school course recommendations can serve as a guide for planning your choices (see article above or visit www.actstudent.org/college/plancourses.html). Be sure to check with the colleges and universities you're interested in to compare the requirements.

Juniors.....

If you are in the top half of your class and a young man you are eligible for Boys State. See Mrs. Rickman for the details.

ACT

Test Date	Registration	Late Registration
February 9		
April 12	March 7	March 21
June 14	May 9	May 23

Students may register for the ACT online at www.act.org or pick up a paper/ pencil packet in the counseling office.

Juniors should consider taking the ACT on the April or June testing dates.

Think ahead to relieve test-taking stress

When you head off to take the ACT, don't let forgetfulness or inattention surprise you with something unexpected and affect your test-taking abilities. Here are some true stories of unexpected events:

- One student bought a new calculator the night before the test. He didn't use it before entering the test room, only to find out it didn't work when he sat down to take the test.
- One student didn't look at her test admission ticket until the day before the test, only to find out that she wasn't taking the test at her school but an hour away. She had to rethink how her test day would go and factor in time to drive to the test.
- One student didn't look to see what type of calculator was allowed during testing. She came to the test with a banned calculator and had to take the test without a calculator.
- One student arrived at the test center without a photo ID card. He had to run home before the test started to get

his driver's license.

- One student left the lights on in a borrowed car he drove to the test. He worried throughout the test and found a dead battery when the test was over.

Obviously, unexpected events happen in our lives over which we have no control. But if you can take a few steps to prepare for test day, you'll be comfortable knowing you're prepared and you may even avoid an unwelcome surprise or two. Read your testing information from ACT early and visit www.actstudent.org/testprep to get familiar with test day procedures and what is allowed in the testing room. And don't forget to try out that new calculator before heading to the test.

Seniors.....

Seniors should be applying for admission to the colleges of their choice and locating scholarships.

How to apply for financial aid

If you're planning to attend college next fall, January is the time to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Information from the FAFSA is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid programs—grants, loans and work-study.

You can get the FAFSA:

- online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- from your school counselor
- from a college financial aid office
- from a local public library
- from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

Make sure you check financial aid deadlines! The FAFSA will list deadlines for federal and state aid. Also check the requirements at the colleges you're interested in applying to. Some require additional financial aid forms.

Student athletes – fall is time to register with NCAA

If you are a senior who is planning to participate in Division I or II sports as a college freshman, fall is the time to register to be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. You must do this in order to qualify for college athletics. You can register beginning in October. The NCAA also has new eligibility rules relating to the required high school core courses for student-athletes. You can register and check out the rules at the student information page at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/student/index_student.html. You also can read "The Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes" at the website, or you can order a paper copy of the guide by calling 1-800-638-3731. The guide provides a summary of the rules and regulations in an easy-to read form. Guidelines relate to recruiting, eligibility, financial aid and college freshman eligibility requirements for Divisions I and II.

Financial aid terms

Following are some key financial aid terms:

Aid package — A combination of aid (possibly including a scholarship, grant, loan and work) determined by a college financial aid office.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) — An amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward your education. It is used in determining eligibility for federal student aid.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) — The application required for students to be considered for federal student financial aid. Obtain a FAFSA form or electronic filing information from a high school or college for the appropriate year (usually available in November). The FAFSA is processed free of charge and used by most state agencies and colleges.

Grants — Awards, usually based on financial need, that do not require repayment. Grants are available through the federal government, state agencies and educational institutions.

Scholarships — Awards to students based on merit or merit plus need that do not have to be repaid.

Student Aid Report (SAR) — The information you will receive approximately two to four weeks after your FAFSA has been processed. It will report the information from your application, and if there are no questions or problems with your application, it will report your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Calling All Students,

Are you interested in volunteering? If you are, the applications to Salina's Volunteer Connection are in the counseling dept.

Underclassmen....

How to start your college planning

Seniors are busy right now applying to colleges and getting ready to file their financial aid forms. But if you're not a senior, you should start or continue planning for college. Below are ideas for things you can do. For more suggestions, visit www.actstudent.org/college/checklist.html

All students:

- Take challenging courses in English, social studies, math and science.
- Think about careers and investigate possibilities with ACT's DISCOVER®
- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Visit with your counselor and talk about your plans.

Freshmen:

- Think about reasons for attending college.
- Find out about the differences in the types of institutions you can attend after high school.
- Become familiar with college entrance requirements.
- Research college costs.

Sophomores:

- Find out what kind of education/training is needed for different careers.
- Start collecting college information.
- Visit colleges and start comparing them.

Juniors:

- Register for the ACT and visit www.actstudent.org to find out all about the test, how to prepare, what you need on test day, etc.
- Talk with your counselor and parents about colleges that interest you.
- Visit colleges and compare them.
- Investigate scholarship opportunities.
- Get a part-time job or internship in a profession that interests you

What does schoolwork have to do with the real world? ACT's News

Why do I need to know this? When am I ever going to use this in the "real world"? Do you often feel like that as you slog through another round of algebra problems? You might be surprised to know that, yes, you will use skills and knowledge from your high school classes in real life, even though it might not seem obvious now.

Here are some things you need to know:

- People who take challenging courses and study hard in high school tend to have better jobs and make more money in their careers. Some of the jobs that require the most education, such as doctors, lawyers and engineers, pay well and rarely suffer job layoffs.
- Having knowledge and skills in all areas helps you in all jobs. For example, if you want to be an attorney, you may not need to use calculus on a daily basis, but if you want to specialize in patent law or to represent a pharmaceutical company, the ability to grasp math and science concepts will be very valuable.
- If you want to work in construction, you may be surprised to learn that you'll use geometry, algebra and physics principles on the job day in and day out.
- If you want to be a journalist, math will help you to better understand corporate and government documents and see beneath the surface of the numbers to get a good story.

You never know exactly what career path you'll follow. By working hard in all the core subject areas, you will be prepared to make more choices about a career.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org.

Feb. 1 4:30 HS BB @ Remington
Feb. 2 TBA HOA League MS BB Tourney @ Little River
Feb. 4 TBA HOA League MS BB Tourney @ Little River
Feb. 5 4:30 HS BB @ Bennington
Feb. 7 TBA HOA League MS BB Tourney @ Little River
Feb. 8 4:30 HS BB @ Trinity Catholic
Feb. 9 ACT Test Date
Feb. 9 TBA State Scholar's Bowl @ Ell-Saline
Feb. 11 4:00 MS Quiz Bowl @ Ell-Saline
Feb. 11 TBA HS JV BB Tourney @ Ell-Saline
Feb. 11 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office
Feb. 12 Elementary Spring Pictures
Feb. 12 4:30 HS BB @ Goessel
Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 14 MS/HS Spring Pictures
Feb. 14 4:30 HS Girls' Blue and Gold BB Tourney (Makeup)
Feb. 14 TBA HS JV BB Tourney @ Ell-Saline
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 15 4:30 HS BB Peabody @ Ell-Saline Sweetheart game
Feb. 16 TBA HS JV BB Tourney @ Ell-Saline
Feb. 16 Sweetheart Dance
Feb. 17-23 National FFA Week
Feb. 18 6:30 CPTA Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary
Feb. 18 6:30 After Prom Meeting at Ell-Saline High School
Feb. 18 President's Day
Feb. 19 6:30-8:30 Elementary Skating Party
Feb. 19 4:30 HS BB Inman @ Ell-Saline Senior Parent Night

Feb. 20 4:15-8:15 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb. 21 NO SCHOOL
Feb. 21 7:00-7:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb. 22 NO SCHOOL
Feb. 22 Washington's Birthday
Feb. 23 FFA @ Ellsworth
Feb. 25 NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service
Feb. 25 7:00 HS BB Sub-State—Girls
Feb. 25 4:00 MS Quiz Bowl @ Goessel
Feb. 26 7:00 HS BB Sub-State—Boys
Feb. 28 6:00 HS BB Sub-State Semi-Finals—Girls @ Ell-Saline
Feb. 29 6:00 HS BB Sub-State Semi-Finals—Boys @ Ell-Saline
Mar. 1 6:00 HS BB Sub-State Finals—Girls & Boys @ Ell-Saline

Ell-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).

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

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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.