

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

How about these last few days for reminding us that it is summertime in Kansas? It's been several years since we've had this many hot days in a row and the forecast looks like several more to go. Looking back to the early part of the summer it's hard to remember how cool it was then. But then, the changes in the weather are partly what make Kansas such a great place to live.

The weather hasn't slowed down our preparations for the beginning of this school year. The custodians (David, Merle, Zandra, Albert, Trena) are doing a great job of "cleaning up and sprucing up" all of the buildings and grounds. Their work shows a great sense of pride in the work they are doing and it will present a positive image of the district to everyone who visits us. Also helping with the positive image is that of the construction crews. At each building work continues at a fast pace to have everything complete in time for the beginning of school—which is only about a month away!! You will need to check out the new look of the schools when the construction is completed. Brian and Amber are busy with all of the computer set ups in the new classrooms and computer lab as well as installing a new operating system. Along with that they continue to make progress with the yearly servicing and maintaining of our hardware and software. Another successful summer school session by many of our elementary and middle/high school teachers is taking place and drivers' education is drawing to a close. Here in the office the vast majority of the textbooks and materials that were ordered have arrived and Brenda has processed them and they've been sent to the buildings. Ann has closed out last year's budget and is starting to set up next year's. New staff members have been interviewed and hired. People sometimes ask whether the District Office is open during the summer. In many ways summer is one of the busiest times of the year in this office.

One of the tasks that keep us busy each summer is getting increasingly more difficult to do. That is in setting next year's budget and the reason is that we continue to have less budget authority to work with. Between just last year and this current year, our General Fund and Local Option Budgets combined have dropped by \$262,857. This is roughly a 6% decrease. This decrease is not a result of fewer students enrolled. Our enrollment has remained basically flat. This decrease is not a result of our assessed valuation going down. Our assessed valuation has gone up slightly. It is a result of decreased funding at the state level. The Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) has dropped from \$4,012 when we built our budget last year to \$3,780 as we build our budget this year. Couple that decrease with ever increasing costs in fuel, utilities, insurance, etc. our budget will be really tight again this year. Our challenge lies in determining what services, what materials, what professional development opportunities, what utilities, what positions, etc. can we cut back on and still provide what our students need. Balancing our students' needs with maintaining a stable mill levy is always our objective. It is our hope that we will be able to keep our mill levy very close to where it was last year.

Something else that keeps us busy is in preparing for the start of the new school year. Although it's hard to imagine, in just a few short weeks school will be starting. Enrollment at both buildings is on Monday, August 1. Classes begin on Wednesday, August 24, and fall sports practices start the previous Monday, August 15. That means that once again there will be many more vehicles with young drivers on the road in the morning and afternoon. I encourage everyone to be attentive and exercise caution as they are on their travels.

Again this year I look forward to the opportunity to work with everyone in the education of our students. Last year again verified to me that Ell-Saline USD 307 is a district where students truly do receive a quality education. When people ask where I work, I'm proud to tell them that I work for the Ell-Saline School District. Stop by or give me a call so we can talk about the good things going on in your district.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS PICTURES

It has been a flurry of activity at each building this summer as they push to have everything ready for staff and students when school starts. We have continued to meet with them at least once each month to check on issues that have come up and on progress. The focus at the elementary school has been on the office areas and library. At the Middle/High School it has been on the commons, locker room and weight room areas. Headway is finally being made on the grass for the playground area at the elementary school, also.



The above pictures on the right are of the interior wall in the library and the pictures on the left are looking in to the office area at the elementary school.



The above pictures (left to right) are of last year's cafeteria being converted to a classroom, commons area ceiling (the black is the high ceiling and the white are the acoustical clouds), commons area floor (pattern in the tile) and boys' locker room at the MS/HS.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

3rd Annual Ell-Saline Friends and Alumni Golf Tournament
to benefit Ell-Saline Softball.

Friday, August 5, 2011.

8:00 am Registration

8:30 am Shot gun start

Registration forms available online at www.ellsaline.org.

Help support softball field improvements.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

July 11

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

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

Jeff Parker was elected President and Anita Bird was elected Vice-President for this year.

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

REPORTS

BOE – None

Mr. Minneman – His report included: budget closeout update; construction update; football field sprinkler system and sod progress; summer school; auditors and budget preparation; requests for propane bids will be sent this week; more signage information for the Brookville site should be available by next month; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Appointments and Adoptions—These were all approved the same as last year with the following exceptions: Marty Kramer to the Cardinal Foundation Board of Directors; board meeting dates will again be the 2nd Monday of the month except for August which will be the 3rd Monday and for April which will be the 2nd Tuesday; and adult meal prices were raised from \$2.90 to \$3.10 to meet federal lunch guidelines.

School Food Service Agreement—This was approved.

Approve Wellness Policy—Becky Walters presented a summary of last year's activities and the goals for this year. This was approved.

Approve Handbooks—All handbooks were approved.

Accept Resignation—Nick Taylor's resignation as MS Asst. Football Coach was accepted.

Set Budget Hearing Date and Time—This was set for 6:45 p.m. on Monday, August 15, (just prior to the August board meeting) in the District Office.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, August 15, 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.



Call your agent for more information



Community Partner



Your Student Can Receive FREE Supplies If:

- 🍏 They are a resident of Saline County.
- 🍏 They will be a K-12 student in the 2011-12 school year.
- 🍏 They qualify to receive **free or reduced** school lunches.

🍏 Register to receive the supplies at
Trinity Lutheran Church, 9th and Crawford,
Wednesday, August 3rd, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



On August 3rd, Trinity Lutheran Church is the only registration site for supplies!

Supplies are on a first come first served basis.

Pick up the supplies at the
Back to School Fair on Friday, August 5th at
Lakewood Middle School from **5 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

For additional information, please contact
The Salina United Way 827-1312