

AUGUST 10 BUDGET HEARING AND BOARD MEETING REPORTS

Marty Kramer was the only board member absent. All action was approved on a 6-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

6:45 P.M. BUDGET HEARING

The 2015-16 budget was approved as presented. The overall mill levy decreased by .613 mills.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

Jeff Westover reminded everyone about the Cross Country teams' "Flat and Fast 5K" road race fundraiser that will be held in Brookville starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15.

REPORTS

BOE – Jeff Parker reported that the SHESC Board of Directors has three new members and the next meeting is Thursday, August 13.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: this year's elementary school theme being "**Find the JOY in Education**"; listing of new staff members; a Google Calendar created for individuals to schedule events in the elementary gym; 2nd grade teachers piloting Engage NY Math Modules which is a free resource; and building level in-service plans prior to school starting.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: Laptop/Chromebook Parent/Student meetings; school supplies donations; and thanked everyone for their help and patience during enrollment.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: this year's district theme being "**Cardinal Team—Pulling Together For All Students!**"; current enrollment numbers of 460 students; Elementary & Secondary Education Act possibly being reauthorized this year; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Approve New Hire—Erica Cyre was approved as the elementary school Title I para.

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

Staff Recognition Night—It was the consensus of the board to continue the tradition of recognizing all new, 5-year anniversary and any staff member that has been with the district for 30 years or more at the first home HS football game of the season. This recognition will take place at half-time of the game with Moundridge on Friday, September 11.

There were two Executive Session (Negotiations, Personnel).

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office in Brookville. If anyone wishes to have an item added to the agenda, please contact President Mitch Drees, Vice-President Jeff Parker or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

SORTING OUT THE BUDGET NUMBERS

Every year at the beginning of the budget hearing when we are starting to review the Notice of Public Hearing form, the board and everyone who is in attendance is cautioned to remember that the first two columns of numbers represent what we actual spent in the previous two years and that the last column is what is budgeted to be spent for the current year. The reason for the caution is that if the last column was looked at as representing the same thing as the first two, then it would appear that we were going to be spending a lot more money in the current year. But that would not be comparing apples-to-apples.

Because of some changes in the funding mechanism and how funds come to districts from the state this year, it is even more critical than usual to remember the differences in what the columns represent. At first look it appears that we will have about \$1.3M more dollars in our budget than we had last year going from \$8.9M to \$10.2M. Here is where the numbers get confusing and need to get sorted out. Is it really more money—or not?

The answer is, it is not. It is simply the legislature manipulating the way in which payments are made to schools so that it looks like the state is contributing more money as the Governor and some legislators claim it is doing.

Starting last year the local 20-mill tax levy from local property taxes was no longer sent directly to local school districts. Instead, the 20-mill levy is sent to Topeka and deposited in the state treasury. In turn it is transferred to the local school districts as "state aid". What is the purpose of this change? Did the state provide more aid? No, it simply makes it appear that it did.

One of the procedural changes for this year is that the state general fund now pays out funding for KPERS (Kansas Public Employee Retirement System) for the district's teachers and other employees and counts that as school funding. It goes directly into the General Fund and within minutes it is automatically withdrawn from the district's bank account and goes back to the state. It does not go into the classroom or be used for any local expenses. What is the purpose of this change? Did the state provide more aid? No, it simply makes it appear that it did.

Another of the changes this year is that the state aid for LOB (Local Option Budget or also known as Supplemental General) used to go directly into the LOB fund. Not so this year. This year it was deposited into the General Fund and then locally we transfer it to the LOB fund. What is the purpose of this change? Did the state provide more aid? No, it simply makes it appear that it did.

A third change this year concerns Capital Outlay. State aid for Capital Outlay used to be deposited into the Capital Outlay fund. Not this year. It also, now is deposited into the General Fund and then locally can be transferred to the Capital Outlay fund. What is the purpose of this change? Did the state provide more aid? No, it simply makes it appear that it did.

Because of the way the funds are now transferred to us as state aid, the total on the surface appears to be \$10,213,470 for this year as compared to \$8,972,196 last year for an increase of \$1,241,274. WOW!! The Governor can claim that Ell-Saline USD 307 receives more state aid this year. But not so fast. That supposed increase is only in the way state aid now comes to us so the Governor and some legislators can twist the numbers to make them say what they need for them to say. When our amount of state aid for KPERS, LOB and Capital Outlay are added together it amounts to \$1,160,208. When the increased amount of \$104,170 for Virtual Fund is added in then the new amount to be transferred from the General Fund is \$1,345,444. After those transfers we actually have less General Fund dollars than we had last year.

So although at first look it appears we have a lot more money this year than we've had in the past, it simply is not true. The truth is in understanding what the numbers mean.

WHAT ARE THE FIVE DOMAINS OF READING?

How can you help your child become a better reader? By exposing them to the five domains of reading! The five domains of reading are five components that all of us must master to become better readers. When reading with your child at home check to see how many of the five domains you are practicing!

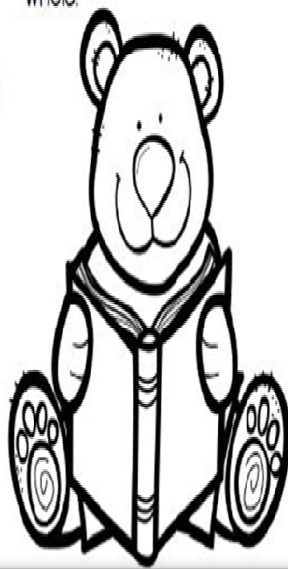
1. Phonemic Awareness:
The ability to understand that each word is made up of sounds. We can tell how many sounds are in a word, which words rhyme or even change a word by changing one sound.

2. Phonics:
The ability to know which letters make which sounds. We can decode (sound out) words while we read. We can spell words based on phonics patterns.

3. Vocabulary:
The ability to understand what a word means. We can give a definition or use the clues in the story to help us determine the meaning. The more words you know the more you will understand the story!

4. Fluency:
The ability to read quickly, accurately and with expression. We can read smoothly, we don't have to sound out each word and we can change our voice for different characters or punctuation.

5. Comprehension:
The ability to understand what happened in the story and why. Comprehension makes us dive deep. We analyze the characters, plot, and purpose of the story. We can answer questions before, during and after reading that show we understood the text as a whole.



Credited By: Debra Lakibary

Welcome back to another exciting school year at ESE! I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Emily Komarek, Title reading teacher at ESE, and I am very excited about the upcoming year. I have a passion for teaching students skills that will help them become successful readers. I will be sending reading articles periodically during the school year to assist you in helping your student continue reading practice at home. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help your family with reading practice. I look forward to working together to ensure your child's success in reading!

Emily Komarek

Title Reading Teacher

Ell-Saline Elementary

Lion's Club Spaghetti Dinner Brookville City Hall

FREE WILL

DONATIONS



50/50

Raffle

Saturday, September 19th
4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Proceeds go to help fund community projects.



Saline County Sheriff's Office

251 N. 10th St. P.O. Box 1606 Salina, Kansas 67402-6606

PHONE (785) 826-6500

FAX (785) 827-1050

Glen Kochanowski
Sheriff

TO: ALL PARENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, AND STUDENT DRIVERS:

Law enforcement will be patrolling around schools during National Child Passenger Safety Week (September 14 - 20), and will be issuing citations to drivers or passengers who are not buckled up properly. In 2013, Kansas lost 28 children ages 0-17 in vehicle crashes; 18 of those children were not using their seatbelt, and 16 of them were ejected. **THESE NUMBERS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

The fine for having a child under 14 who is not properly restrained is \$60 plus court costs. Remember, whether you're just going a couple of blocks or across the state, EVERYONE in the car is required to Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.

A MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE SALINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Glen Kochanowski



**Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, @
Ell-Saline MS/HS—the first home football game! GO CARDINALS!**

**When does the fun begin: 6PM in the commons
What's there to do?**

Meal: pulled pork sandwich, chips, iced tea, your choice of dessert = \$5.00

Bake sale: a variety of prices marked for your convenience

Raffle: Lowe's, Waters True Value, Walmart, Hog Wild, Hickory Hut, Gutierrez, Chili's, Daimaru, Freddy's, Orschelns, Cozy Inn, Jim's Chicken, Sandstone Saloon, Target, Buffalo Wild Wings, All-Star Lanes, StarPlex Cinemas, Olive Garden, Walco Animal Health, Red Lobster, and many more...

Fish Pond for the kids: a quarter a turn and get some candy and a prize!

Ring Toss for the kids: a quarter for 3 tosses and get some candy and a prize.

Donate some change: "A CARDINAL PLAY, THEN PAY." During a Cardinal play, if the team makes an interception—1 quarter; a quarterback sack—1 quarter, a first down—1 quarter, and of course ——— a touchdown — 2 quarters!!! GO TEAM!

This event is sponsored by the faculty of Ell-Saline Middle/High School. The money we make on this night will help our own students tomorrow! Thank you in advance for your support and your attendance. It will be a great night!

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Greetings and Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at Ell-Saline USD 307. Another summer has come to a close and a new school year has opened up. Again this year we had only a partial week to start the year and everyone seemed to hold up well. The cooler than normal weather has also been a help. The year has started very smoothly in each building.

Each year the district selects a motto to help keep all of us focused and moving in the same direction. This year's district motto was selected because we, again, have a number of challenges ahead of us that only by working together will we be able to overcome them and do what is best for our students. To name a few: this year there is an increased emphasis on technology at both buildings which will take some individuals out of their comfort zone; there is continued work with the new assessments and getting scores from last year that will help guide us in our teaching; all staff members will have been through the new evaluation system at least once; there is a large increase in the health insurance premiums that will put more pressure on our budget; there is the loss of several general education, special education and classified positions that in turn puts more responsibilities on all of us; there is the perception by some students that they have been bullied and as a result some have left the district and we have to overcome that perception. To be successful in meeting these challenges it will take all of us (teachers, secretaries, administrators, cooks, custodians, bus drivers, paras, board members, parents and patrons) pulling together! All of this led to selecting this year's Ell-Saline USD 307 district motto of "**Cardinal Team: Pulling Together for All Students!**"

Every year brings new beginnings with the accompanying excitement and apprehension. The excitement stems from: having several new staff members sharing either their prior experiences or fresh out of college ideas; 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; and new students and families to our district with us. The apprehension stems from: having all of the materials/supplies that were ordered come in; is all of the technology working as it is supposed to be; 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 again has been no different. We appear to be off to a GREAT start!

This year's enrollment is almost identical to last year which is the lowest it has been after several years of enrollment increases. As of now we have 461 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 apply to attend with us. At the August board meeting, 31 new out-of-district students were approved and many more potential students were not even brought to the board for approval because our class sizes are already at capacity. Again this year between 40 and 45% of our students are from out-of-district. When that many students are attending here by family choice rather than simply by living here, it is apparent that word continues to get out about the many great 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 6 teachers, sponsors and classified staff members that are either new to the district or are in a new role this year. New at the elementary school are: Meghan Norris who was a Full-Time Title Reading Teaching Assistant last year is now a 5th Grade Teacher; Seth Lamborn, who was a substitute teacher last year is a 2nd Grade Teacher; Erica Cyre, who was a substitute teacher last year is a Full-Time Title Reading Teaching Assistant; Dalton Eastep, Special Education para; New at the MS/HS are: Amanda Murray, English Student Teacher under Amanda Little; and Erin Hecker, Asst. HS Volleyball Coach. We welcome each of these individuals and look forward to many good years of working together. You might recognize one of those names as a recent Ell-Saline graduate.

A challenge every year is in building a budget that provides us with the resources necessary to continue to provide the opportunities that help our students be successful. We also balance that with being mindful of not placing too much additional tax burden on our patrons. Again this year I feel that we have been able to meet both of those criteria. This year school funding is not based on the formula that had been in place since 1992 which factored in the number of students and various weightings but has been changed to a Block Grant system under which schools receive the same amount of funding as they received last year regardless of the number of students enrolled or their needs. So the number of students we have this year isn't as critical as it has been in the past but we still want to maintain our level of student enrollment. A positive for us this year is that our Assessed Valuation went up by a considerable amount, nearly \$3.5M. Part of that increase was in Saline County but the vast majority was in Ellsworth County and is a result of the pipeline that was laid last year. For the second year in a row we have been able to lower our mill levy. This year it decreased by .613 mills over what was budgeted last year! We are appreciative of the support our patrons continue to give us as we strive to be good stewards of your tax dollars. For more information on the changes in the method of funding schools this year please see the article titled "SORTING OUT THE BUDGET NUMBERS" also in this issue of the ECHO.

The same as the last few years, I again have some concerns with our budget as we move through the year. The concerns, again, are with things that are out of our control. The main one is in the millions of dollars less than is projected that continue to be received in tax collections by the state. The concern is that with the loss of state revenue, during the year there will be a cut in the Block Grant as has happened in past years when the state was short on money. Once we are into the year, it is difficult to make any adjustments as our budgets are very tight to begin with. Will we receive the full amount on time or will the check be held up because the state has had to use the money to fulfill other obligations? I know that we all hear Governor Brownback and legislative leaders say that the state is on the right path to economic growth but so far the revenue coming in to the state is not proving that to be correct.

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 your district.

MORE ACCOLADES FOR OUR DISTRICT

Last year Ell-Saline was noted as being one of the best districts in Kansas for students to get a quality education. This year Ell-Saline is ranked **#5 in the Best Places to Teach in Kansas in 2015** according to niche.com! We are behind only Blue Valley, Olathe, Manhattan and Auburn Washburn Rural which are all large districts in the eastern part of the state. Several factors are included in arriving at the ranking including: Average teacher salary; Overall teacher experience; Administration and policies; Health and Safety; Resources and Facilities; Student:Teacher ratio; Teacher absenteeism; Teachers in 1st/2nd year; and Academics. More specific information can be found at k12.niche.com. This is another example of what can happen when dedicated staff members, visionary board members and supportive patrons/parents can accomplish when they all work together. Thank you to everyone for all of your help and work in making Ell-Saline be one of the top districts in the state to teach in and for students to learn in. Great Job!! **Cardinal Team: Pulling Together For All Students!**

Ell-Saline USD 307

District Office
412 E. Anderson P.O. Box 157
Brookville, KS 67425-0157
(785) 225-6813

Middle/High School
414 E. Anderson P.O. Box
97
Brookville, KS 67425-0097
(785) 225-6633

Elementary School
1757 N. Halstead
Rd.
Salina, KS 67401
(785) 827-8891

Return Service Requested

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

Sept 1	4:00 HS VB @ Goessel	Sept 18	NO ESE After School
Sept 1	ESE After School Begins	Sept 18	ACT Registration Deadline
Sept 2	Soph/Srs Jostens	Sept 18	7:00 HS FB Sedgwick @ ES
Sept 3	8:00 MS/HS Individual & Fall Sports Pictures	Sept 19	K-State Band Day
Sept 3	3:30 HS CC @ Tescott	Sept 19	9:00 HS VB Invitational @ Tescott
Sept 3	4:30 MS VB @ Sedgwick	Sept 20	3:00 Outdoor Learning Center Work Day
Sept 3	6:00 MS FB @ Sedgwick	Sept 21	6:00 ESIC Mtg.
Sept 4	NO ESE After School	Sept 21	6:00 HS JV FB @ Sedgwick
Sept 4	7:00 HS FB @ Inman	Sept 21	6:30 CPTA Mtg. @ ESE
Sept 4	PALS Breakfast (1st hour)	Sept 22	NO ESE After School
Sept 7	NO SCHOOL/Labor Day	Sept 22	4:00 HS VB @ Sedgwick
Sept 8	4:00 HS VB @ Ellsworth	Sept 22	4:30 HS CC @ Southeast of Saline
Sept 8	6:00 HS JV FB Inman @ ES	Sept 22	5:00-6:30 ESE Book Fair
Sept 9	MS/HS Band Fundraiser	Sept 23	First Day of Autumn
Sept 10	9:00 Kids Ag Awareness Day @ Ag Hall	Sept 23	Parent/Teacher Conf. 4:15pm-8:15pm
Sept 10	4:30 MS VB Remington @ ES	Sept 23	9:00 FFA @ TBA
Sept 10	6:00 MS FB Remington @ ES	Sept 23	NO ESE After School
Sept 11	NO ESE After School	Sept 24	NO SCHOOL/Parent/Teacher Conf. 7:00am-7:30pm
Sept 11	State Fair Begins	Sept 24	4:30 MS VB @ Bennington
Sept 11	7:00 HS FB Moundridge @ ES	Sept 24	6:00 MS FB @ Bennington
Sept 11	Staff Appreciation Night	Sept 25	NO SCHOOL
Sept 12	8:00 HS VB Tournament @ Lincoln	Sept 25	7:00 HS FB @ Marion
Sept 12	ACT Test Date	Sept 26	9:00 HS JV VB @ Inman
Sept 14	FFA to State Fair	Sept 28	NO SCHOOL/ Teacher in-Service Day
Sept 14	7:00 BOE Mtg. @ DO	Sept 28	6:00 HS JV FB Marion @ ES
Sept 14	6:00 HS JV FB @ Moundridge	Sept 29	4:00 HS CC @ Lyons
Sept 15	9:00 Jr Class Magazine Sales	Sept 29	4:00 HS VB @ Berean Academy
Sept 15	4:00 HS VB Remington, Canton/Galva @ ES	Oct 1	4:30 MS VB Marion @ ES
Sept 16	9:00 FFA @ Chapman	Oct 1	6:00 MS FB Marion @ ES
Sept 17	3:30 HS CC @ Bennington	Oct 2	NO ESE After School
Sept 17	4:30 MS VB @ Moundridge	Oct 2	7:00 HS FB Trinity Catholic @ ES
Sept 17	6:00 MS FB @ Moundridge	Oct 2	Homecoming/Dance following game until 11:30
		Oct 3	9:00 JV VB Tournament @ Sylvan
		Oct 3	CPTA Carnival 3:30-7:00