

## February 8 Board Meeting Report

Jamie Bradley and Marty Kramer were the only board members absent. Jeff Parker participated via a conference call/speaker phone. All action was approved on a 5-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

### **REPORTS**

BOE – There was no report.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: information on state assessments; professional development opportunities for staff; Winter Wonderland Decorating Contest taking place; and student activities.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: Scholars' Bowl team (Sr.-Kody Came, Jrs.-Duncan Anglin, Levi Harapat, Emily Wagner, Sos.-Jordan Werner, Colton White) qualifying for state; state assessments; 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball parent night being rescheduled to February 9; and FFA Week is February 22-26.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: legislative updates; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

### **BUSINESS**

- A. MS Cross Country Request—Mr. Westover made a request to begin MS Cross Country next year. No action was taken. This will be brought back at the March meeting for possible action.
- B. MS Wrestling Request—This item was tabled until next month.
- C. Accept Resignations—The following resignations effective at the end of the current contract year were accepted: Mary Ellen Muninger's as an elementary teacher; and Darcy Bradley's as a HS cheerleader sponsor.
- D. Superintendent Contract—Mr. Minneman's contract was extended through June 30, 2017. The amount will be set following the completion of negotiations.
- E. Set Special Meeting Date—A special meeting for the purpose of hearing about the possibility of refinancing one of the construction bonds that will save the district money was set for Wednesday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office.
- F. Authorize Use of Contingency Reserve Funds—Authority was given to use Contingency Reserve Funds for the purpose of replenishing the Corporate Plan Management account.
- G. Board Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading—Since this was the first reading no action was taken. They will be brought back at the March meeting for possible action.
- H. End-of-School-Year Activities—Thursday, May 19, at 12:00 at the Elementary School was set for the annual staff appreciation luncheon.

There were no Executive Sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office in Brookville. This is one week later than normal because of Spring Break. 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.

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Is this really February? With the very mild to warm temperatures it has felt much more like late March or early April. Many of the trees have budded out, some flowers are coming up and the wheat fields are starting to turn green. It is looking like nature is coming out of its winter dormancy early this year.

Activity within our State Capital has been anything but dormant. There is a push by the leadership this year to complete the work prior to first adjournment much sooner than normal so that there will be additional days when they come back for the veto session. The goal is to avoid another extended session like last year that was an added expense to the State. With this sense of urgency has come the passing out of committee several bills that will have an impact on public K-12 education and/or the already desperate situation of the State's finances. Listed below are three bills that are my **first concern** as they would have the greatest negative impact.

**HB** = House Bill

**HB 2292** – Development and establishment of K-12 curriculum standards. This bill prohibits the use of any funds to: adopt, implement or align programs, assessments, testing, surveys or any educational materials or activities that align with common core standards; social, emotional and character developmental standards; national curriculum standards for social studies; national health education standards; national sexuality education standards; core content and skills; K-12 or any other academic standards not in the public domain. In essence it would prohibit schools from teaching basically anything that we currently do including our vocational courses and college dual credit courses.

**HB 2457** – Amends the tax credit for low income students scholarship program act. Expands the definition of eligible students, changes from only allowing for corporations to all taxpayers, increases to \$10M the total amount of allowable tax credit each year with an automatic increase of 25% each year that the amount of credits used reaches 95% of the authority in the previous year (this could result in the annual loss of up to \$116M to the state's General Fund within the next 10 years).

**HB 2504** – School district realignment. This bill would require that in all counties that have fewer than 10,000 students to consolidate all school districts into one district. This bill has not yet made it out of committee and the Chair has said that it won't. However, it's work keeping an eye on as if it were to pass then USD 307 Ell-Saline would cease to exist and would become a part of USD 305 Salina.

**My second concern** in the Capital that we will be keeping our eye on is what direction will the legislature take with any of the recommendations from the Alvarez and Marsal Efficiency Study that was conducted last summer. As of now the recommendation causing the most concern is that of targeting the carryover balances that school districts have built up to sustain us during these times of decreased operational funding. The recommendation is that districts maintain no more than a 15% carryover and until the carryover is reduced to that amount that state aid would be reduced by 20% of the excess yearly until the carryover is at that maximum. So far there has not been a bill presented on this but my prediction is that one will be since this would be a means of "sweeping" funds from schools the same as is being done from KDOT to help fill in the budget gaps from the loss of state tax revenue.

**My third concern** that I will mention is in what action will the legislature take in regard to the Supreme Court's ruling on the Gannon case that the State is not providing equitable funding of schools in the way that capital outlay and local option budget (LOB) state aid are funded. The Court has given the legislature until June 30, 2016 to correct the inequity or it will not allow operation of an unconstitutional system. This would mean that if it is not corrected by then, the Court will close down schools since they will have no authority to expend any money and pay the bills. Possible remedies for the legislature are: fund the previous formula; adopt a new formula and show how disparities in mill levies have been corrected; or eliminate capital outlay and LOB state aid but in eliminating these they would still have to prove how the adequacy portion of funding would be met. So far the legislature has not addressed this issue either in presenting potential bills or when it passed this year's budget and sent it on to the Governor for his signature. This is an issue that should be high on their list of priorities.

I encourage you to contact your local legislators, share your thoughts with them and encourage them to provide the equitable distribution of, and the adequacy of, funding for education as well as the other social service programs that are important to Kansas residents. Contact information for our local legislators is provided.

Despite the uncertainty of everything that is going on in Topeka, our staff is doing a great job of maintaining their focus of doing what is best for kids. Within a few short weeks, our students will begin taking the state assessments. This year various grade levels will be tested in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and History/Government. The assessments this year are based on the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards and will be in basically the same format as last year. Unlike previous year's when we received the assessment scores shortly after they were taken, this year's scores won't be received until likely next August. If you remember, last year's scores were never released because of all the technological difficulties students experienced during the assessment window. With this being the first year to receive data from these new assessments, we won't be able to compare this year's assessment scores with a student's, as well as grade level or building level, scores from previous years. This set of scores will provide feedback on our continued implementation of the new standards. Our staff continues to use quality teaching techniques and covering content. We ask that you encourage your children to do their best, get adequate sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast during these testing days.

We appreciate all the parents that took the time to come and visit with us during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. That communication and support is very important in your child's education.

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 many good things going on in your district and we can get to know each other.

Sen. Tom Arpke  
 State Capitol Building  
 Room 135-E  
 300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Topeka, KS 66612  
 785-296-7369

Rep. J. R. Claeys  
 State Capitol Building  
 Room 274-W  
 300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Topeka, KS 66612  
 785-296-7670

Rep. Diane Dierks  
 State Capitol Building  
 Room 519-N  
 300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Topeka, KS 66612  
 785-296-7642

Rep. Steven Johnson  
 State Capitol Building  
 Room 286-N  
 300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Topeka, KS 66612  
 785-296-7696

**Business Professionals of America Bound for Nationals**



From February 25th—27th, 22 high school students participated in the State Business Professionals of America competition. Of those 22 Students, 14 qualified for the National competition to be held in Boston from May 5th—9th. Congratulations and best of luck at Nationals.

**Front Row left to right: Ashley Hanson, Sponsor**

**Lyndsi Weems-** 1st place—Basic Office Systems and Procedures

2nd place—Intermediate Word

**Reilly Brin-** 2nd place— Basic Office Systems and Procedures

**Katelynn Winter-** 5th place— Integrated Office Applications

**Catelyn Richards-** 1st place-Integrated Office Applications  
 3rd place-Legal Office Procedures

**Kodee Christensen-** 2nd place-Desktop Publishing  
 Top 10 Parliamentary Procedures

**Baleigh Griffin-** 2nd place-Desktop Publishing  
 Top 10 Parliamentary Procedures

**Megan Northcutt-** 3rd place Fundamental Word

**Back Row left to right:**

**Colton White-** 2nd place-Administrative Support Team

**Jordan Werner-** 2nd place-Administrative Support Team

**Levi Harapat-** 2nd place-Administrative Support Team  
 5th place-Fundamental Accounting

**Duncan Anglin-** 4th place-Computer Security

**Hunter Hayes-** 2nd place-Administrative Support Team

**Dakota Came-** 1st place-Payroll Accounting

**Spencer Came-** 4th place-Fundamental Word

**Ell-** **Saline**  
**announces a school wide**  
**event:**

**HOOPS FOR**  
**HEART!**

**Monday, April 11, 2016**

**10Am—3:45PM**

**in the ESH big gym**

©Grades 7-12—every student is eligible to participate.

©Teams will compete to win prizes, food, and bragging rights!

©If you would like to donate money to help us save lives, contact Terry King or Lori Scuitte at the high school at 1-785-225-6633 before Monday, April 11, 2016. Any donation to the American Heart Association would be greatly appreciated!



**February Students of the Month**

February MS Student of the Month:

**Hailey Garman**



Hailey Garman is the daughter of Shawn and Joan Garman, and the sister of Desiree Garman. In school, Hailey is involved in Volleyball, Basketball, Track, and FCCLA. Hailey is also a member of the Falun/Salemsborg Lutheran Church Jr. High Youth Group. In her spare time, Hailey enjoys spending time with her family and friends, playing sports, and helping out her Grandma Sally and her Grandpa Iven. After high school, Hailey plans to attend college to study medicine. Great job Hailey!

February HS Student of the Month:

**Reis Jennings**



Reis Jennings is the son of Norm and Jen Jennings, and the brother of Alivia and Katelee Jennings. In school Reis participates in FFA, Football, and Baseball. In his community, Reis enjoys volunteering and building and restoring buildings. He enjoys lifting weights, participating in sports, playing videogames, and working. After high school, Reis plans to attend college to become an athletic trainer, and would like to be a professional or semi-professional football player. Way to go, Reis!

# 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](http://www.ellsaline.org)

- |         |   |            |   |
|---------|---|------------|---|
| Mar. 1  | 7:00 HS BB Sub-State Boys @ Moundridge        | Mar. 14-18 | NO SCHOOL Spring Break                  |
| Mar. 2  | FFA @ Minneapolis                             | Mar. 20    | 3:00 Outdoor Learning Center Work Day   |
| Mar. 3  | 6:00 HS BB Sub-State Girls Tournament @ ES    | Mar. 21    | 6:30 CPTA Mtg. @ ESE                    |
| Mar. 4  | NO ESE After School                           | Mar. 22    | 6:00 MS/HS Spring Sports Parent Meeting |
| Mar. 4  | ACT Registration Deadline                     | Mar. 23    | NO ESE After School                     |
| Mar. 4  | 6:00 HS BB Sub-State Boys Tournament @ ES     | Mar. 24    | NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service            |
| Mar. 5  | 6:00 HS BB Sub-State Finals Tournament @ ES   | Mar. 25    | NO SCHOOL—Easter Break                  |
| Mar. 5  | 1:45 HS Girls Bowling State @ Wichita         | Mar. 27    | Happy Easter                            |
| Mar. 8  | FFA @ Concordia                               | Mar. 28    | NO SCHOOL—Easter Break                  |
| Mar. 8  | MS HOA League Music Festival @ Berean Academy | Mar. 29    | 4:00 MS Quiz Bowl @ Moundridge          |
| Mar. 9  | HS BB State Girls Tournament @ KSU            | Mar. 29    | 3:00 HS BSB Smoky Valley @ ES           |
| Mar. 10 | NO ESE After School                           | Mar. 31    | HS Band @ Breckenridge, CO              |
| Mar. 10 | HS BB State Boys Tournament @ KSU             | Mar. 31    | MS TR @ Tescott                         |
| Mar. 10 | End of Quarter                                | Apr. 1     | HS Band @ Breckenridge, CO              |
| Mar. 11 | NO SCHOOL                                     | Apr. 1     | NO ESE After School                     |
| Mar. 11 | Teacher Work Day 8:00-12:00                   | Apr. 1     | April Fools Day                         |
| Mar. 11 | HS BB State Tournament @ KSU                  | Apr. 2     | HS Band @ Breckenridge, CO              |
| Mar. 12 | HS BB State Tournament @ KSU                  | Apr. 2     | State Science Olympiad @ Wichita        |
| Mar. 13 | Remember to Spring forward one hour           |            |   |



**The Most Realistic Award**  
**GRAND PRIZE WINNER**



**The Best Special Effects Award**



**The Cardinal Spirit Award**



**The Student Inclusion Award**



**The Best 3D Award**



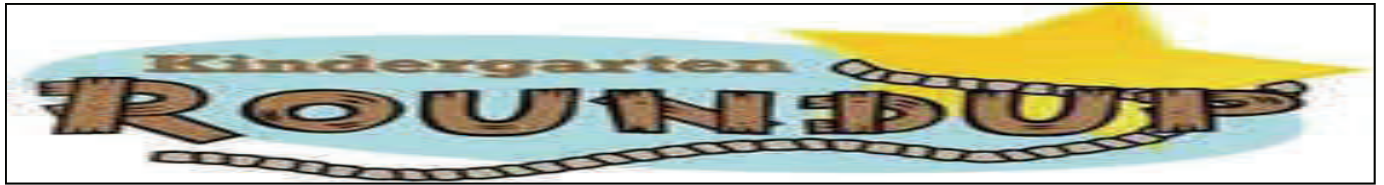
**Best Christmas Tree Award**



**The Winter "I Wish I Was On The Beach Somewhere" Award**

**WINTER WONDERLAND FUN**

This month many of the elementary staff participated in an activity meant to further assist in developing staff collegiality, enhancing moral, and creating a fun atmosphere within the building. The activity entailed teams of staff members (teachers, paras, custodians, cooks, secretary, bus drivers) using their creativity in decorating a section of a wall in the cafeteria. The decorating time allowed staff members to have fun together, laugh together, and spend time on non-school activities. Secret judges, the building parents, voted to determine the winning team. All entries received an award, and the winning team received a lunch bunch award where they enjoyed "lunch out" with an extended lunch break during the school day. Congratulations to the team of Susie, Dawn, Shondra, Albert and Susan for winning the overall design as well as the "Most Realistic Award"! The activity was enjoyed by all and the students certainly liked the extra decorations in the lunchroom.



**WEDNESDAY**  
**APRIL 27, 2016**

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before August 31, 2016, please contact Ell-Saline Elementary School for details (785) 827-8891 or e-mail Anita at [anita.bird@ellsaline.org](mailto:anita.bird@ellsaline.org). You can also go online to [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org) for information and to print off the Kindergarten Round Up Form.



### **STATE WRESTLING**

After a few years of not having wrestling as an activity, it started back up this year with great success as two of our wrestlers competed at the state tournament. Junior Donivyn Will at 145# and freshman Nick Davenport at 182# both competed on the two days of the meet. They both lost in the opening round but bounced back in the consolation round later on Friday and picked up wins. In the cross-bracketing round on Saturday morning they both lost and were then out of the tournament. Donivyn finished his season with a 22-6 record and Nick with a record of 21-7. The experience they gained by competing in the state tournament will only help prepare them as they both return next year. Congratulations to both of you on a great season! Cardinal Proud!

### **STATE WRESTLING**



### **MAKING BOWLING HISTORY**

In our inaugural year of having bowling as an activity, one of our athletes has qualified for the state meet. Andrea Howard placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall at the regional meet last Friday with a 3-game total of 573. This qualified her for the state meet to be held in Wichita on Friday, March 4. Congratulations and Best of Luck at State Andrea! Cardinal Proud!