

# Board Briefs

September 2009

## *An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings*

**The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on Sept. 10, 2009.**

**CONSENT ITEMS.** All items listed on the agenda were approved without discussion.

**NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS.** Principals and directors introduced their new employees for the school year.

**TOBACCO POLICY PRESENTATION.** Chrissy Mayer, prevention specialist, presented a proposal with two students representing the T4 group at EHS (Teen Teams Talking Tobacco). The students explained tobacco policies currently in place around the district and proposed a policy that would make all school grounds and school functions tobacco free. They cited research that shows such a policy would help prevent student smoking.

The board commended the students for their work and courage to prepare and present the proposal. Board members and the district will further study the policy, review with legal counsel, consider possible educational opportunities (eg., signage and announcements) and bring it back for further discussion at the October board meeting.

**CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES UPDATE.** Don Swartz reported that the middle school and elementary school projects are in the final detail stages of the punch list and are nearly complete. For the purpose of safety, fencing will still be needed in some of the wetland areas on the elementary property.

The board also reviewed the bond budget to date. The only remaining project to be bid is the stadium; it is scheduled to go to bid in early 2010 pending further resolution of a few key issues, including budget and easements/rights of way.

**CURRICULUM REPORT.** Marla Johnson reported on the social studies SAC work to write assessments this week and next. The Curriculum Coordinating Council will begin meeting next week.

The Kansas Board of Education has released data on districts not making AYP, including Eudora. This is now public information. (As Marla reported at the August meeting, the district did not make AYP in reading, due to a subgroup of students (students with disabilities) in the district who did not meet the state's targeted reading goal in 2009. Work has already begun to address these students' needs and improve performance.

Finally, she reported on progress with the mentoring committee that was established through the negotiations process this summer. The group has set norms and begun studying mentoring programs in other districts, as well as the Kansas mentoring guidelines and requirements.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT.** Don Grosdidier discussed the ongoing collaboration with the Lawrence Douglas County Health Department to plan for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu vaccination clinics. The clinics are administered by the health department, with the help of district volunteers. The Sept. 16 clinic for seasonal flu vaccinations will be held at Eudora Elementary School from 4 to 6 p.m. and is open to the public. Clinics to provide the H1N1 flu shots are tentatively scheduled for dates in November, assuming that the vaccine will be made available to county officials in October as expected.

Don gave a preliminary enrollment update; he believes the district will come close to the projections used in establishing the budget. Official enrollment numbers will be reported to the state on Sept. 21 this year.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CO-OP REPORT.** The board welcomed new director Susan Christensen and reviewed some of the opportunities and challenges she already has faced this year. The co-op will be doing a needs assessment in all districts in the coming weeks; the assessment team will be visiting Eudora on Oct. 13-14.

**BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING.** Don Grosdidier shared some research he had done to identify services available to facilitate the strategic planning process, including a proposal from Greenbush. The board voted to use the Greenbush program, which includes focus groups and input from district staff at all levels, parents and patrons, in addition to board members. The final result of the process will establish district and board goals, as well as specific ways to measure progress toward the goals.

**POLICY FOR LOST KEY CARDS.** The board policy regarding key procedures and lost keys (Policy EBC) was updated to include information about key cards. The new policy includes a \$25 charge for lost key cards.

**PANDEMIC FLU PREPAREDNESS.** Don Grosdidier presented a document that explains the district's response plan during a serious flu outbreak, including how to handle any school closures that may be required in severe circumstances. (The current recommendations from federal and state officials do not indicate school closure, except in very rare cases.)

The plan adopted by the board identifies essential personnel at the district level and building level to maintain operations during a closure, as well as policies to handle pay for classified personnel. A complete copy of this preparedness plan has been posted at [www.eudoraschools.org/flu](http://www.eudoraschools.org/flu).

## Want to know more about board business?

- **Attend a board meeting!** Meetings are open to the public and usually take place at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Eudora Middle School. Check the calendar on [www.eudoraschools.org](http://www.eudoraschools.org) to see the date of the next meeting.
- **Go online!** A full, searchable record of minutes and agendas is available online through BoardDocs. The Eudora section of BoardDocs can be accessed from the district Web site under School Board > Meetings.