

Board Briefs

October 2009

An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings

The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on Oct. 8, 2009.

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

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES UPDATE. Don Grosdidier updated the board on developments in the projects on the EHS campus. The framing and pad is finished for the technical school. The plumbing and electrical rough-in work on the science addition is nearly done. Auditorium project is held up due to some ceiling joist design issues that are being resolved at this time. This should not delay the completion of the auditorium in time for next fall.

EES work is wrapping up. The playground opened this week, after rubber ground covering was delivered. (The rubber was purchased in large part with grant funding from KDHE, which delayed the process to an extent.) The final punch lists at both EES and West should be finished up during the day on Oct. 12.

Don said additional companies have expressed interest in the design-build project for the stadium, so he guessed there would be more than one company interested in bidding on the project if it is able to proceed.

CURRICULUM REPORT. Marla Johnson reported on the October inservice plans. There will be a required session on MTSS, as well as selections that address both instructional and technology issues.

The CCC has identified three goals for the year. One is to complete the K-2 report card project so that teachers can complete grade cards online. A second goal is to resolve issues that have come up with local summative assessments. The third goal is to work with building staff to determine how MTSS might fit in with classroom curriculum and instruction.

Marla said the mentoring committee is continuing to examine the qualifications, expectations and duties of building-level mentors.

In addition, official state report cards will come out next week from the state board meeting. She encouraged the board to watch the news, as the district should be receiving some Standards of Excellence at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT. Don Grosdidier highlighted budget information from the state and explained that additional cuts to base state aid per pupil are possible this year, due to a number of key factors (in particular, increasing enrollment statewide, increasing at-risk population across the state and a decline in tax revenues). Normally there could be a supplemental

allocation from the legislature to cover these increases; the current fiscal environment does not promise that supplemental funding would be available. Fortunately, the district experienced growth in enrollment slightly greater than what was initially projected, which may help offset some of the possible state budget changes.

Don reported on the economic development work session hosted by the city that he attended last week. He said there was a great deal of discussion about the value — both commercial and recreation — of the Laws Field and Nottingham properties in terms of economic development. A future school district central office was discussed as a critical piece of long-range downtown development. He added that there was a great deal of discussion among participants in the forum about the importance of the continued strength and success of our school system in the community's future economic prosperity.

Don updated the board on progress being made toward a paperless employee application process for Eudora Schools. The Web-based SchoolRecruiter system will be implemented for the district in the coming month and is expected to yield a significant savings in resources, both in terms of time and materials.

TOBACCO POLICY REVIEW. Students presented additional information to the board, including a document with 215 signatures from Eudora High School students, supporting a more restrictive tobacco policy that would make all school grounds and school functions tobacco free.

Don Grosdidier explained a legal opinion on the proposed policy; because the city of Eudora does not have a tobacco ordinance, district officials would not have authority for enforcement with patrons. After much discussion, the board asked Don to work with legal counsel to develop a resolution that focuses on signage and messages to discourage smoking on district grounds. If the city should add an ordinance, the board of education could reconsider a policy more like the one the students initially recommended.

BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING. Greenbush human resources director Bart Swartz addressed the board to explain the strategic planning process that is upcoming in the next two months. The board voted in September to begin this process, 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 and communicate progress to staff and patrons.

The board set the strategic planning work session dates in early November; Don is working to confirm participants that will provide a balanced representation among staff and patrons.

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 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.