

Board Briefs

June 2010

An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings

The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on June 10, 2010.

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

STAFF ACCOLADES. Don Grosdidier introduced Holly Bohardt and Eric Magette, Eudora Schools Teachers of the Year, who were recognized by the board.

EUDORA HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS. EHS administrators Ron Abel, Dale Sample and Dave Durkin reported on the past year at the high school. Ron began with an update on the Eudora-De Soto Technical Education Center and future goals of the partnership with De Soto. EDTEC enrollment from both districts, as well as other districts, look strong for next year. All career and technical education programs are undergoing a transition to align programs with state guidelines that emphasize career options for students. Several of these programs completed this process in the past year. He gave an update on the plans for the new technical education center facility and commended the board on their work to complete the project. Ron concluded by recognizing the year's accomplishments of the EDTEC staff over the past year.

Next Dale reported on staffing at EHS, which is complete for fall. He then discussed his five priorities over his time as principal and the success and points of pride in each: personnel, academics, activities, student conduct and building appearance. He concluded by thanking the board for his rewarding years in the district.

Dave finished with a report on school activities and began by reflecting on the performances of the band and choir this spring. He commended the teachers and students for the increasing program strength and enrollment growth. He also spoke about spring sports teams and their success during the season. Dave pointed out all of the camps and other opportunities for students throughout the summer. He also concluded by thanking the board for 38 great years as an employee and emphasizing how proud he is of the district.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES UPDATE. Don Swartz updated the board on progress with the bond projects at the EHS campus. Furniture is being moved into the science wing and technical education center. The new tech center has passed fire inspection, and the culinary arts kitchen has passed inspection with the health department. The auditorium is beginning to move forward quickly now, and the last precast panels likely will be installed in late July.

The stadium project has completed interior drainage work. Bleacher pads are prepared and should be poured very soon, and Laws bleachers will begin being moved when the pads are ready. The board finalized plans for field markings, and a sponsorship by Kaw Valley Bank helped upgrade the scoreboard. Don finished with a bond budget report, including some areas of savings and some smaller additional charges and changes.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT. Don Grosdidier reported on a meeting he attended with many local, regional and state leaders, to outline development guidelines for the property at 14th and Church. The guidelines will be basic expectations of design stringent enough to protect the wishes of the community but not so much that development is discouraged. Joe Pyle, who also attended the meeting, added the board's focus should be selling the entire parcel of land to a developer that understands and will adhere to the development guidelines that are being finalized.

Don commented on the Eudora Schools Foundation golf tournament and commended the efforts of coordinator Jason Hoover. With a total of 17 teams, the Foundation raised more than \$5,500. Next, he highlighted the new Cardinal Craze back-to-school fair, Aug. 5 and 10. This event will allow the district to collect the new instructional supply fees in a customer-friendly fashion. Staff members are working to create a festive atmosphere by featuring many other benefits, such as transportation information, school lunch account deposits, PTO and booster club booths and people representing many of the Safe Schools initiatives.

Don concluded by explaining that the state has repeatedly been late in paying state aid to districts this year. As of this meeting, the state has not made payments for the second half of May or for the month of June. As a result, the only way for the district to make payroll and pay bills is to violate the cash basis law — the district has enough cash to pay, but lacks adequate authority to pay from the general fund. Obligations will be met in violation of this law, with no funds coming from bond and interest. While this has not been uncommon in districts across the state, the district's auditor has been notified. Don commented that being able to make the payments and make payroll on time far outweighs being in violation of the cash basis law and that this is a perfect illustration of why district cash balances are so important.

COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES. Don reviewed facility fees in other Kansas districts and then explained proposed changes to the procedures of renting district facilities, including insurance requirements and what buildings are available. The board approved the revised process and decided to set fees for the new auditorium and district stadium at the July board meeting.

NON-CERTIFIED STAFF SALARY FREEZE. The board approved a recommendation to freeze salaries of all non-certified staff, including classified and administrative for next year.

DATA QUALITY SUPPORT SPECIALIST. The board approved the addition of a classified staff position to ensure quality district data is entered in compliance with state and federal reporting, including student data, payroll support, discipline records, transportation, fee collection and free/reduced meals. The board later approved a recommendation that Amy Shanks fill this position.

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.