

# Board Briefs

July 2010

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

**The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on July 8, 2010.**

**BOARD ORGANIZATION.** Kenny Massey was elected board president, and Joe Pyle was elected vice president. Mark Chrislip and Eric Votaw were elected negotiations representatives, and Nancy Jackson will serve on the Curriculum Coordinating Council. Other board assignments also were set for the year.

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

**CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES UPDATE.** Don Swartz updated the board on the stadium construction, which is progressing rapidly. The entire facility is expected to be complete by the end of July.

The auditorium finally is moving ahead, and the final precast panel is scheduled to be installed by the end of the month. The completion of this project has been delayed until fall for a variety of reasons, including weather, inconsistent contractor schedules and the timeline of ordering seats, which cannot be ordered until the concrete forms are poured.

The technical education center is complete. Trees, seed and sod will be planted after Aug. 1 so that they are in before students arrive but also to ensure that the landscaper's guarantee on the plants will last past the hottest part of the summer.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT.** Don Grosdidier reported on a legislative concern that could affect the state budget. The Kansas Legislature built the FY11 budget on the assumption that Congress would approve reimbursement funds for Medicaid. This still has not happened and could create state budget shortfalls early in the year. The same issue affects the special education cooperative, which stands to lose some 40% of its Medicaid reimbursement if the measure does not pass. As it stands, this change will increase the district's financial responsibility to the coop.

Next, Don presented some research on player-to-coach ratios. He said the board can choose to consider any changes in these ratios later in the year. He then continued with an update on the district's strategic plan, following the administrative team meetings in June. A detailed document that measure progress in the plan can be found in this meeting's agenda in BoardDocs (<http://www.boarddocs.com/ks/usd491/Board.nsf/Public>) Future updates also will be available on an ongoing basis at [www.eudoraschools.org/strategicplan](http://www.eudoraschools.org/strategicplan).

Student fee funds have been assigned a line in the budget; this line will finance instructional supplies, including student flash drives that will be implemented this fall. The flash drives will enable students to log in with their profile without having to sync to the network, allowing for greater instructional time.

He spoke about the development guidelines that are being created for the Nottingham property. While they are still being

finalized, he said he is excited to share it with the board and the community after the plan is adopted by the city council.

He continued by explaining that there will be a need for paid bus stop supervisors at two shuttle stops that will continue this year at West and at the Eudora Recreation Center (rather than Nottingham). This is expected to be a part-time hourly position, paid similarly to the city's crossing guards.

Don finished by sharing the good news that the district was presented the K-10 Corridor Association's 2010 award for economic development for the community collaboration and construction of Eudora Elementary School.

**COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES.** Don explained changes to Board Policy KG, including a set rate of pay (\$25/hour) for the district employee who is required to be on site. The board also adopted new fees for district resources, in order to protect the community's investment in high-quality facilities: \$100 per use of the new district stadium and \$250 for the EHS auditorium. Use of the auditorium also will require paying a district employee who is trained to operate sound system. Don said that increased use of the new turf will not degrade the field quality. He also stated that district events will take precedent over community events and that high school events will take precedent over other district events. While the Laws Field field and track will remain open to public use and minimally maintained, they no longer will be used by the district, nor will they be available to be scheduled by community groups.

**SUICIDE PROTOCOL IN CRISIS PLAN.** Don explained that events over recent years make it advisable to have specific protocols in place to handle suicide intervention. The board adopted a suicide procedure addition to the crisis plan, which has been reviewed by legal counsel. The protocol includes awareness training for staff on an occasional basis.

**ADULT MEAL PRICES.** To meet state requirements for reimbursements, the board voted to increase adult meal prices to \$1.60 for breakfast and \$3.25 for lunch.

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET.** Don shared the preliminary FY11 budget with the board. It includes an increase in the overall mill rate of 3.507 mills, which translates to a tax increase of a little more than \$3 a month on a \$100,000 home. This increase primarily was needed to cover lease-purchase expenses that were shifted from the bond budget to capital outlay in order to complete all the bond projects. The budget includes a projected enrollment increase of approximately 25 students, as well as a slight increase in school district's assessed valuation. The final published budget will be voted on at the Aug. 12 budget hearing.

## 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 website under School Board > Meetings.