

Board Briefs

August 2010

An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings

The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on Aug. 12, 2010.

BUDGET HEARING. The proposed budget was approved with an increase in the overall mill rate of 3.337 mills, primarily in capital outlay. This translates to a tax increase of \$57.56 per year on \$150,000 home. Don Grosdidier explained that the increase is due in large part to lower-than-projected assessed valuation growth. He also pointed out that local taxes are a very small part of the overall district budget. In FY11, it is projected that local taxes will make up 15.97% of the budget, a slightly smaller share than in FY10.

CONSENT ITEMS. All items listed on the agenda were approved with brief discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT. The board heard a request by a Eudora parent whose student attends a virtual school but will also attend EMS this year for two hours a day. The parent requested permission for their child to play district sports, which is allowed by KSHSAA regulations for students in a home district taking at least one course, who are dually enrolled full time by another accredited school. After lengthy consideration, board members approved the request and plan to consider a policy addition at the September meeting to handle future such requests.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES UPDATE. Don Swartz updated the board on construction progress. The stadium work is wrapping up, with crews working nights to avoid the heat. It is expected that the project, including the track surface curing, will be ready for the first soccer game on Aug. 31. (Timing of rain in July significantly delayed the project over the past several weeks, but the project is now to the point where weather will not create further delays.) The final details are being finished in the science rooms, and some warranty work is being done at EES to correct lingering problems with doors and hand sinks. Don said he will give a bond budget update in September, once the stadium has finished.

NOTTINGHAM DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES. The board heard a presentation from city administrator John Harrenstein and Scott Michie of BWR Consulting about the future development guidelines for the Nottingham/Laws Field property. The guidelines were based on a market analysis to determine what types of retail growth the local community can and would likely support. The guidelines are intended to give the city planning commission specific criteria to consider when working with developers when the school district sells the property. Don Grosdidier commended BWR and the city for the level of cooperation with the school district to develop such an attractive community gateway. He also highlighted the board's wisdom

to wait to sell this property as one piece, rather than acting on previous offers to sell small bits of the property. The plans include both retail area and public recreation space and were designed to be pedestrian friendly.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT. Don Grosdidier updated the board about the Cardinal Craze back-to-school fair and estimated that approximately half of all district families participated. He said he has had a lot of positive feedback from parents, grateful to get all of the back-to-school paperwork done in one place for all students. He predicted it also could prove advantageous to school offices and food service lines when school starts, since a great deal of paperwork and lunch account payments already have been taken care of for many students. He concluded by reminding the board about Cardinal Kickoff on Aug. 16 and invited them to participate.

MORGAN HUNTER CONTRACT. Don Grosdidier updated the board on costs of the Morgan Hunter substitute teacher service, taking into account different types of substitute employees. After the recalculations, Don explained that, while this year's contract will remain, he was not comfortable entering into a two-year agreement with Morgan Hunter. Don said he will continue to look for the best solution to handle district substitutes.

SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS UPDATE. Christina Mann shared new materials with the board that reflect the partnership, known as The Bridge, that has developed between Eudora Schools and partner agencies. She also explained concerns with the evaluator service that was hired as part of the grant; the board voted to terminate the contract with the evaluator, on the recommendation of both Christina and Don Grosdidier, on behalf of the grant's core management team.

NAME FOR NEW STADIUM. Don Grosdidier shared possible names for the new stadium and encouraged the board to consider alternate ways to honor both Mr. Laws and Mr. Kerr, namesakes of the district's two past football facilities. The board will decide on a facility name at the September meeting.

INSURANCE CHANGES. Don Grosdidier explained work done by the insurance committee over the summer to select a plan for district employees. Due to increased premiums and decreased benefit coverage with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the ENEA selected a competitive plan offered by Coventry. The new provider offered the same types of plans, at a lower rate of increase, and with increased preventative care coverage and wellness services. The board approved the selection of Coventry, effective Oct. 1.

ASSISTANT SOCCER COACH. Due to high participation on the EHS soccer team, the board approved an additional assistant soccer coach to help ensure adequate supervision of students.

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.