

Board Briefs

November 2011

An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings

The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on Nov. 10, 2011.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT. A parent addressed the board in support of EHS head volleyball coach Jill Stutler.

EHS VOLLEYBALL. Following some time in executive session, the board voted not to renew the supplemental coaching contract of Jill Stutler, effective at the end of the current school year.

HORIZON AWARD. The board recognized fourth grade teacher April Peavey, the district's Horizon Award winner. April is now being considered for the Kansas Horizon Award, which recognizes outstanding first-year teachers during their second year of teaching.

EUDORA ELEMENTARY REPORT. Principal Jan Irby and assistant principal Shelley Dougherty shared an update with the board about the work being done at the elementary school, highlighting both academic and behavioral MTSS programs.

STATE ASSESSMENT REPORT. Marla Johnson began the district's annual assessment report, based on last spring's testing results released in the 2010-11 KSDE report. Eudora met AYP at all buildings but did not make AYP at the district level because the students with disabilities subgroup did not meet the targets in reading and math. A complete report of the district's assessment results can be found under the *District News* section of the district website. Don Grosdidier reminded the board that the targets and AYP system may drastically change, depending on decisions pending at the state and/or federal levels.

Representatives of each school then presented building results, focusing on how scores compare to target and state averages, as well as their building improvement plans. EES school improvement chairs Emily Jamison and Shannon Hayden discussed EES results and mentioned the increasing focus on math as MTSS implementation continues. They also mentioned how the effects of positive behavior supports have created additional instructional time, thanks to improved student behavior.

Next, EMS teacher Denise Kendall shared an overview of highlights from middle school assessment scores. She and principal Jerry Henn also discussed an ongoing shift toward greater inclusion of special education students in the general education classroom. Finally, EHS principal G.A. Buie presented on behalf of school improvement chair Bonnie Daigh, who was at a scholars' bowl event. In addition to state assessments, G.A. shared ACT results from last year, which were down from previous years. He explained a new series of strategies designed to help improve students' abilities to prepare for and succeed on the exam.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT. Don Grosdidier began with a school finance update, reporting that the state is again facing increases in students and at-risk needs, requiring increases in state finance to fund all district budgets. This could result in a mid-year reduction in base state aid per pupil if the governor doesn't use projected revenue surpluses to fund the difference. He then updated the board members on an invitation that had been extended to Rep. Anthony Brown and Sen. Tom Holland to attend the Dec. 8 board meeting. He said this will be a good opportunity to stress the importance of equalization and state aid to the future of the district and the Eudora community. Rep. Brown and Sen. Holland also will be invited to share their priorities with the board.

Don reviewed some technology issues, including the addition of a few printers at EMS and EHS and the current work by the IT department to address computer slowness. The IT department also is beginning to develop a strategic plan that will address the district's future needs for computing and technology.

He also announced that the district will be recognized in Kansas City on Dec. 2 as a "sustainable success story" for resource conservation with the heating and cooling systems.

Next Don updated the board on the work to identify and embrace appropriate social media opportunities in the district and the classroom. A social media expert will be working in the coming months with a variety of district employees to develop policy, professional development and implementation strategies.

He then gave a short report on the holiday dinner that was provided to senior citizens earlier in the day and emphasized the importance of this annual event in maintaining a positive relationship with Eudora's seniors. He commended Sharla Flakus and her staff, as well as the band students who helped serve. He also recognized Heather Lawrence and Mac Knight for their efforts to present an outstanding musical.

He finished by telling the board that next week is the 90th American Education Week, which will be celebrated locally in conjunction with the Love Eudora Schools campaign.

EUDORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION. Joe Hurla reported on the Teacher Excellence grants that were presented on Oct. 28.

DISTRICT FACILITY REQUESTS. The board revisited some concerns about the facility fees charged to outside organizations, particularly in light of the increasing requests for public use and the resulting expenses for the district. Mike Kelso agreed to work with Don Grosdidier on developing a set of recommendations for the board to consider in a few months. The board then voted and approved the remaining facility use requests, waiving fees.

CLIMBING WALL DONATION. The board approved a donation from the Eudora Elementary PTO that will fund a climbing wall to be added to the physical education area adjacent to the gym.

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.