

An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings

The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on Dec. 8, 2011.

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

FOOD SERVICE REPORT. Food and nutrition services director Sharla Flakus updated the board on several successful changes that have been implemented in the past year since she assumed leadership of the department. Student participation with the food service program is up at all buildings, and she continues to identify foods and programs that will be popular with students but also meet high nutritional and wellness standards.

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION. The board welcomed Senator Tom Holland and Representative Anthony Brown for a presentation about the school district's priorities in the upcoming legislative session. Eric Votaw and Joe Hurla spoke about the critical importance of state aid to the district and the community. A copy of the board's presentation and handout can be found on the district's BoardDocs site (see address at the bottom of this page).

Sen. Holland and Rep. Brown also were given opportunities to speak and answer questions from board members. Topics discussed included the existing school finance formula and proposals to change it; the state's sales, property and income tax programs; plans for KPERS benefits; and the role of equalization of resources between wealthier and poorer districts. A variety of opinions were voiced on these issues.

Both legislators concluded by encouraging the board members and patrons to contact them any time with questions or concerns. Their contact information can be found on the district website at www.eudoraschools.org/gov.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT. Don Grosdidier began with a brief update on the governor's plan for school finance. Details of the proposals are not yet available, but general concepts are now being released to the public, including a provision that would grant much greater authority for local districts to raise revenue. He cautioned again that such a plan would be detrimental, especially over time, to property-poorer districts, such as Eudora. He said that it will be impossible to know the effect of the governor's proposals on Eudora until the details are released and KSDE can run through financial computations for individual districts.

He then shared news about the recognition the district received at the Sustainable Success Stories program last week in Kansas City. The district was one of just seven regional projects honored by the Mid-America Regional Council through a program that promotes example of projects, policies and practices supporting sustainability. He also commended Scott Keltner, who attended

the event with him, for being a strong ambassador for the district by talking about the wind turbine that was recently installed on the EHS campus.

Next, Don informed board members that the three defendants in the stadium vandalism case have been sentenced. Each individual was sentenced to community service hours, many of which will be served with the county's graffiti removal program. In addition to being put on probation, the three also are jointly accountable for full restitution of the district's \$5,000 insurance expense. He also updated the board on vandalism that recently occurred in an unoccupied portion of Nottingham and said that additional security measures have been taken to help discourage future trespassing and vandalism.

He ended by informing the board that arrangements are being made to recognize the EHS football team during the January board meeting for their historic season.

CENTRAL OFFICE & IT DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION.

Don Grosdidier shared details about the plans to absorb one position in the central office following Eva Deonier's upcoming retirement. He described the changes that essentially involve going from four positions (administrative services director/board clerk, district secretary, data quality support specialist and communications director) to three. Amy Shanks will assume the functions of human resources, as well as responsibility for the board's investments and reports. Some of her current duties will be redistributed to positions outside of the district office. Kristin Magette will assume duties with board meetings and board policy; some existing communications functions will be eliminated, and Vicki Johnson will facilitate the district's awards programs. Vicki also will manage personnel files as they relate to employee hiring.

Next, technology director Ron Long discussed plans to restructure the IT department, in light of the current vacancy. In the short term, he proposed hiring a support specialist to provide front-line technology support to district employees. Beginning next school year, he also proposed hiring an additional support specialist and moving Becky White to a new position that will be primarily dedicated to managing district data and PowerSchool. He also explained some longer-range staffing plans for the department that further specializes technology duties and provides a more productive level of professional development for district staff.

Following Don's and Ron's proposals, the board approved the new and revised job descriptions and granted permission to advertise for and hire the new computer support specialist.

BUS AND MOWER BIDS. The board approved bids to purchase two buses and two mowers.

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.