

Board Briefs

January 2012

An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings

The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on Jan. 12, 2012.

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

EUDORA HIGH SCHOOL REPORTS. Activities director Cara Kimberlin began by sharing highlights of the Scholars Bowl season, as well as news about numerous student musicians who have received regional and state recognition. One choir member, Mason Kelso, has been selected for state choir, and tuba player Hunter Trefz has been selected for state band — a first for EHS. She also commended the hard work of students and staff who helped make the fall musical a success. Cara followed up with highlights of the fall sports season, as well as participation rates for winter sports. She ended by inviting board members to stop by the EHS commons to see the newly displayed section of the old EHS gym floor that has been hung near the gymnasium entrance.

G.A. Buie continued the EHS report with an update on academic progress, as well as implementation of Positive Behavior Supports and Common Core State Standards. He also highlighted the strides being made to establish and strengthen collaborative building leadership, giving teachers the opportunity to lead through the Building Leadership Team, as well as with PBS, technology and several other important initiatives.

EHS FOOTBALL RESOLUTION. With the team in attendance, the board passed a resolution recognizing the success of the 2011 EHS football team. The team's accomplishments included a league championship, a first-ever 12-win season and first-ever sub-state win and trip to the state championship.

SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC PRESENTATION. Representatives of Schneider Electric (formerly TAC) reported to the board about work to improve energy efficiency across the district. There have been five phases to the projects to date that included everything from retrofitting of systems, mechanical replacements, installation of new systems and implementing heating/cooling and lighting controls. The \$7.2M in projects are cutting some \$240,000 from the district's energy expenses each year. The total savings to date is 1.436M, which surpasses Schneider's guaranteed level of savings. The environmental impact of these savings is comparable to taking 2,600 cars off the road for a year or planting 3,600 acres of trees. They finished by commending the work and pro-active approach by the district and explained the future financial savings that can be expected over time.

COMMON CORE PRESENTATION. Don Grosdidier and four teacher leaders presented information about the Common Core State Standards. Common Core is a state-led effort to better

ensure that public school students are college and/or career ready. He began by explaining that there are many different levels of knowledge, as well as many misconceptions, about Common Core that will be addressed with both district teachers and district parents in the coming months. Gloryanna Boge, Bonnie Daigh, Marla Johnson and Susan Schifflbein explained different key components of the new standards, including the exciting opportunities that they believe these standards will create for schools, teachers and students.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT. (Copies of all presentations and supporting documents are available on BoardDocs.) Don Grosdidier began by discussing key points of the governor's state of the state address, including significant restructuring of the state's tax code, KPERS changes and the governor's school finance formula proposal. He stressed that, while the governor's proposal may financially help Eudora in the short term, there are serious concerns about its effect on Eudora in the long term. It is essentially based on a static level of state funding, shifting nearly any increase in school funding to local taxpayers. He also highlighted the governor's proposals for changes to career and technical education funding. He then explained elements of the school finance proposal released by the Democratic leaders in the House and Senate. This proposal includes retaining the current formula and dedicating more appropriate funding to it beginning in the next year and continuing into the future.

Don shared the 5 to 1 initiative, including the kickoff video and posters that are being used in each building for 5 to 1 Month.

Next, he presented the report from a committee of teachers and administrators that met to discuss teacher planning and collaboration time, as agreed upon last fall by the board and the teachers' association. Don emphasized that the proposal is not necessarily a recommendation, nor is it language for the negotiated agreement; it can be a starting place for negotiations in the future. He also thanked Marla Johnson for her work to lead the committee's process.

Don then asked Dr. Daniel Dickerson to present an opportunity to help the school district ensure the health and wellbeing of athletes. This would include a continuation of the free sports physicals, but would further extend to evaluate and monitor concussions and/or cardiac-related risks. At the request of the board, Don agreed to research what other districts are doing and to be certain that any new procedure would appropriately meet or exceed the district's legal responsibilities.

Next Don reported that the district was one of only a few school districts across the state to receive a completely positive inspection by the state fire marshal.

He finished his report by recognizing the members of the board, in honor of School Board Appreciation Month.

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.