

Board Briefs

November 2009

An informal report from Eudora Board of Education regular meetings

The following are highlights of discussion and action from the board meeting on November 12, 2009.

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

TOBACCO POLICY PRESENTATION. In response to the proposed change in board policy by the T4 (Teen Teams Talking Tobacco) group at the last board meeting, a policy on tobacco education was adopted by the board.

CONSTRUCTION & FACILITIES UPDATE. Don Swartz reported that projects at the middle school and West Elementary Early Childhood Family Center are completed. Roof at technical school is 99% completed and science wing is progressing. Sections of the auditorium walls are ready to be installed. Outside work at elementary school has been delayed due to weather. Don recommended that the district move forward with the next stage of roof repair at the middle school with this going out to bid before the next board meeting. Work will be completed over the winter.

Discussion continued regarding the stadium project. The board agreed to move forward with ATG developing the design and "shopping list" for the stadium, which would allow the board to evaluate various options and whether or not to move forward with the project.

CURRICULUM REPORT. Marla Johnson reported on the 2009 ACT scores for last years graduating class. Our averages looked good compared to the state and national average. Math and science scores showed the highest improvement. Our students are making significant progress in regard to college readiness based on their core curriculum scores. Testing through the PLAN and EXPLORE tests also prepares students for taking the ACT. Over the past five years over three-fourths of our students have taken the ACT.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT. Don Grosdidier updated the board on the strategic planning process. Focus groups will meet with Patron Insight on November 17 to evaluate the plan at this stage and offer feedback. Report will be available at the December board meeting.

Don reported progress with the SS/HS grant-Parents University was offered through the Family Resource Center and the after school program is in the beginning stages.

Coaches for Positive Behavior Supports are in place at the middle and high school. This program will address issues with behaviors of high risk students.

Don discussed the technical school agreement with DeSoto and budgetary considerations for looking at next year's enrollment. We are looking at recruiting possibilities with neighboring districts. He stressed the importance of districts working together to provide vocational technical education opportunities for students.

School finance update-Don updated the board on the state fiscal situation. K-12 education is faced with a \$100 million deficit requiring a \$150 cut to base state aid per pupil. This cut is expected within the next few weeks.

The Senior Citizen dinner and matinee was held today-Don commented that both the meal and play were well received. He commended Cindy Johnson, Food and Nutrition Services Director, and Linda Riedel, school play director, on the great job they do in planning and coordinating this event.

Don commented on recent accomplishments of district staff and students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CO-OP REPORT. Eric Votaw reported that budget issues have been the topic of discussion at recent meetings. Inservice opportunities for employees have also been discussed.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT. Joe Pyle reported that a permit for an office building was recently approved as well as three residential building permits. He has been encouraged by the positive working relationship with the city administrator.

EUDORA SCHOOLS FOUNDATION REPORT. Mike Kelso reported that the board was pleased to award grants to three teachers.

CHANGE OF RESIDENCY FOR BOARD MEMBER. Keith Nowland notified Mr. Grosdidier that he has a change of residency, which will not allow him to remain on the board. Mr. Grosdidier reviewed the process for replacing a board member when a resignation is submitted. Kenny Massey suggested a special board meeting in December which would include addressing this issue.