

THE BOE RECAP 2/4/2013

The Elizabeth School Board of Education met Monday, January 28, 2013. Here are the highlights.

8th Grade student Emmi Lindsey, from Elizabeth Middle School, was recognized as the 1st place winner in the Elizabeth School District Spelling Bee. Students in grades 3 through 8 were eligible to compete in the bee. Emmi shared her spelling bee experience with the Board of Education. Emmi explained that all 12 finalists exceeded the districts 164-word spelling list, correctly spelling words such as Armadillo, philodendron, and delicatessen. After 40 rounds, the judges had to provide a new list of words to challenge the finalists. Emmi indicated that she enjoys spelling and encourages other students to do the Spelling Bee just for the experience. Emmi will be performing in the upcoming middle school play Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr which is a scheduling conflict with the state Spelling Bee competition. **Abby Mohlis, also from Elizabeth Middle School, the 2nd place winner in the district Spelling Bee, will represent the Elizabeth Schools at the Colorado State Competition on March 16.** Thanks to Teri Lindsey and Diane Marston for all the work and coordination of the Spelling Bee competition.

EHS Wrestling Team won the Colorado 7 League Championship on January 12, 2013. Congratulations to the team for winning the League Championship in the first annual Colorado 7 league tournament. The team placed 12 out of 14 weights and had 6 champions. The JV placed 2nd narrowly missing the championship due to a lack of bigger weights.

Tim Dore, State Representative addressed the Board of Education at the meeting. He encouraged the districts feedback on legislative issues centered around funding and accountability. Tim Dore acknowledged the importance of a good working relationship with school districts and plans to visit Elizabeth Schools again to provide periodic updates.

Andrea Duran, Director of Learning Services, received Employee Recognition for her good work in support of our Special Education (SPED) students, their families, and our staff over the last year and a half. Some key accomplishments with a lasting impact on the quality of education in our district include:

- Worked directly with SPED teachers to improve student achievement
- Worked with SPED parent group to identify issues and provided multiple levels of support
- Facilitated communication between the East Central BOCES, the district, and parents
- Oversaw the transition to incorporate the new Assistant Special Education Director position

SPED Update

The Elizabeth School District will begin a six-month application process to become our own Administrative Unit (AU) for Special Education. This will provide the district with a more streamline system for accountability, more choices for agencies and their services, and more direct line of communication and responsiveness to students, staff and parents. If approved by the state, the district would assume AU responsibilities in July of 2014.

Overview of School Unified Improvement Plans

Andrea Duran provided the board members with an overview of the School Unified Improvement Plan (SUIP). Andrea provided a one-page summary on each school, and indicated that these are living documents and the schools are actively working on the plans to be submitted to state in mid-April.

1338 Council – Advisory Personnel Performance Evaluation Council

The 1338 Council is currently being developed to advise the board on the districts new Educator Effectiveness Evaluation System. All school districts are required to implement an evaluation system that meets or exceeds new state requirements. Teachers and administrators have been working to align our system with state requirements. A new rubric system is being used to evaluate teacher proficiency levels. The 1338 Council will advise the board of the fairness, credibility, and professional quality of the performance evaluation system, the process, and the procedures and shall conduct continuous evaluation of the system. The Council will be comprised of teachers, administrators, residents of the school district with children attending our schools, and a resident of the community who does not have students in the school district.

Safety Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the Safety Survey; there were over 580 responses. Your feedback is very helpful. The results of the district parent safety Survey is available on the district website at this link **SAFETY**. A district Safety Task Force is in place and their first meeting is this week. The Task Force will review the surveys and make recommendations on immediate action steps.

The **next board meeting** is scheduled for February 11 starting at 7:00 pm in the board room of the district office. Agenda topics include:

- Safety Survey
- IAC Preliminary Report
- Map Scores
- High School Rodeo

I would like to highlight several tools that are in place in the spirit of continuing to improve our **communications**.

BOE Blog – An online forum for board members to discuss matters that may be of public interest.
elizabethschoolsboe.blogspot.com

Small Town Big News – The first edition district newspaper is available in the district office, each of the schools, and at businesses throughout the community.

BOE Meet and Greet – A series of community gatherings for public and board members to meet and have informal discussions on various topics regarding our schools. All community members are encouraged to attend

District Website – ongoing updates on the happenings and upcoming events in the district.

www.elizabeth.k12.co.us

Follow us on Facebook@esdk12 and Twitter@esdk12

BOE Recap – email to all parents sharing the highlights of the board meetings

If you have any suggestions regarding communications please do not hesitate to contact the district office.

Kind Regards,
Michele McCarron
Executive Administrative Assistant/Communication Specialist

