

The BOE RECAP 1/22/13

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Elizabeth School Board of Education met Monday, January 14, 2013. Here are the highlights.

Education Showcase

Tanner Thompson, EHS senior, shared with the board his acceptance into the Air Force Academy. The **United States Air Force Academy** is a competitive environment, just the application process requires focus and determination. Tanner participates in a variety of extra-curricular activities at EHS. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Track Team, Cross Country Team, Marching Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band just to name a few. Tanner thanked the teachers, the counselors, and the entire staff at EHS, for their support and numerous letters of recommendations.

Elizabeth Education Foundation

Mary Smith, chair of the Elizabeth Education Foundation reported the nominations are in process for the **STARS Award, Students Taking Accountability Seriously**. Teachers can nominate students in grades 5 through 12 that demonstrate the following characteristics.

- Model responsible behavior.
- Spend time involved with clubs or organizations at school or in the community, and/or spends time involved in music, theater, arts or sports.
- Committed to learning, motivated to do well in school and actively engaged in learning. Cares about his/her school.
- High value on caring and helping other people and accepts personal responsibility.
- Makes good choices. Has empathy, sensitivity and friendship skills, resists negative peer pressures.

Mrs. Smith also reported the success of the Safeway Reloadable Card fundraiser allowed the foundation to reward grant money making a direct impact in the classroom. **Congratulations to this year's grant recipients!**

Brenda Visioli	Singing Hills Elementary	Storytown books
Erynne Smith	Singing Hills Elementary	Doctor Beat
Rob Barbre	Elizabeth Middle School	Music stands
Jody Urbas	Elizabeth Middle School	Opera Colorado
LA team	Elizabeth Middle School	Reading Plus program
Stacy Millet	Legacy Academy	Telescope observatory
Greg Worthington	Elizabeth High School	Clay supplies
Emma Michel	Elizabeth High School	Monologues and scene books.

Report from Chief Financial Officer

Director, Ron Patera, provided the **financial report** to the board. In the general fund, revenues collected through the end of the month (November), stand at 33.31% and the district has expended 40.07%. Beginning with the January payroll, the districts match for PERA has increased from 15.65% to 16.55%, employee benefits will start to inch higher as a percentage of the expended budget, beginning with the January statement. The finance department received notice from IREA that there is going to be a rate increase starting in February. The potential impact could be a \$25K increase in our aggregate

yearly bill. A draft of the **budget goals for next year** was discussed at the board meeting. Director Patera provided some guiding principles for the board as they work towards finalizing the budget goals at the end of February.

Opportunity Update

Assistant Special Education Director, Kim Morrison and Principal, Steve Thiessen, provided an update to the board on the **SPED Opportunity Program**. The new Opportunity Program is designed to service students with behavioral needs that are currently placed out of district, bringing them back to the Elizabeth School District to more effectively meet their challenges. The program is **now up and running** and is located in a separate building behind the Elizabeth Middle School. **Heidi Wilkinson** is the programs Special Education Generalist and **Jenny Allen** is the Para Professional. Three students are now back in district, two are in the process of transitioning, and another two will be back by the end of this school year.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent, Douglas Bissonette, shared information on the **Give Kids a Smile** program, sponsored by the Colorado Dental Association, as part of the February Dental Health Awareness month. The program provides free dental attention to children who are without dental insurance and from low-income families.

Good news was announced with **two Elizabeth High School gymnasts** named to the Colorado Community Media All-Star Team along with four other gymnasts from around Colorado. **Kimmy Peterson and Danae Goldsbury were named on this 2012 team**, with Kimmy being the Gymnast of the Year. With more good news, five band members from the Elizabeth Middle School auditioned for the **Pikes Peak Honor Band** and all five were accepted with three making 1st chair.

Annabel Rider – 1st Chair Baritone Saxophone
Emmi Lindsey – 1st Chair Alta Saxophone
Nickolas Malwitz – 1st Chair Baritone Horn
Kyle Melchior – French Horn
Camissa Miller – Tuba

The superintendent discussed the **parent and staff safety survey**. A Safety Task Force will be put in place to look at the survey results and to recommend immediate action steps. The results of the survey will be provided to parents, principals, the IAC team, and the Elbert County Safe School Operations Group. Two parents of the school community addressed the board at the meeting regarding school safety. The parents expressed their concern on this topic, which is on so many minds after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School this past December. The board and superintendent reiterated that keeping **students and staff safe at school is our number one priority**.

The new **HR Director** for Elizabeth Schools, **Kin Shuman**, was introduced to the board members. Prior to coming to Elizabeth Schools, Kin worked for the city of Aurora. He comes to us with over 20 years' experience in the HR discipline and we welcome Mr. Shuman to our team.

BOE Upcoming Events and Activities

Several board members will be visiting the **Capital**. This is a coordinated meeting by the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) as an opportunity for school board members to connect with local education leaders about the issues that are most important to schools. Members of the board will be

attending the CASB Winter Conference in mid-February. Board members will learn the latest on school finance reform and its pending legislation. The Board of Education has established an online forum, The BOE Blog, to discuss matters that may be of public interest. The blog is intended for the Board of Education to conduct business in a forum that the public can view on an ongoing basis. The BOE Blog is targeted to go live by the end of this week. Coming up next week, the board members will conduct their first **Meet and Greet at Grumpys Coffee, on January 30 from 5-7:00 pm.** This is an opportunity for community members to have open and informal conversations with the board members. Any resident of the Elizabeth Community/School District are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The next Elizabeth School District Board of Education meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 28** at 7:00 pm, with a Meet and Greet of the District Accountability Committee starting at 6:00 pm. Some topics for the next meeting include:

- SPED Update
- Overview of School Unified Improvement Plans
- Infrastructure Assessment Committee Preliminary Report

Regards,
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