

May 13, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Board of Education held their last meeting on May 6, 2013. Here are the highlights.

Teacher Appreciation Week

The board passed a resolution for Teacher Appreciation Week. President, Chuck Williams read the resolution that stated teachers mold future citizens through guidance and education, teachers encounter students of widely differing backgrounds, our country's future depends upon providing quality education to all students, teachers spend countless hours preparing lessons, evaluating progress, counseling and coaching students and performing community service. Our community recognizes and supports its teachers in educating the children of this community. The Elizabeth School District would like to express appreciation to all our teachers for their dedication and devotion to their work. Thank you for all you do for our students and their families.

District Wellness Committee

The Wellness Committee for the Elizabeth School District presented the board their mission and accomplishments this year. Their goal is to make our district A Wellness District. The wellness program is designed to give students the opportunity to participate in physical activity and to make healthy choices throughout the school day. The Wellness Committee is comprised of committee chair, Janet Hatt, District Nurse, parent volunteers Sharon Diviness and Tim Van Puten, PE Teacher Lynne Watt, Food Services Director Susan Stevens, Health Tech at RCE Jen Wimler, and Superintendent Douglas Bissonette. The Wellness Committee is looking for volunteers for the next school year to serve on this committee and to support our Wellness District. The Board of Education President Chuck Williams presented District Nurse Janet Hatt with a certificate recognizing her leadership and contributions in bringing health and wellness to our students and staff. The Wellness Committee key accomplishments this year include:

- Developed a Wellness Brochure which promotes our district as a Wellness District. The brochure encourages healthy foods and snacks for parties, events, birthday celebrations, and rewards. The brochure also includes brain breaks and the benefits for teachers and students to take a 1 to 3 minute breathing and movement break to get re-energized and re-focused.
- Elizabeth Middle School hosted the Channel 9 Health Fair in the classroom which included a variety of hands on health and fitness stations for all EMS students.
- Healthy Foods Healthy Minds with salad bars, fresh fruit and vegetables served everyday at every school.
- A donation of \$200 was made to supply schools with healthy snacks in the school concession stands.
- Students, staff, and community members participated in a 5K Run for Life to promote back to school fitness.
- University of Colorado nursing students visit our district and lead discussions with students. Topics of discussion include staying hydrated with H₂O, and discussions on reasons to visit the Health Clinic and when to take care of yourself.

The 1338 Council

The purpose of the 1338 Council is to consult with the board as to the fairness, effectiveness, credibility and professional quality of the new Educator Effectiveness Evaluation System. The new system developed by Colorado Department of Education (CDE), uses multiple measures where 50% of the evaluation for all teachers and principals is based on academic growth of students and 50%, using a rubric, on professional practices. The following are the recommendations by the 1338 Council:

- To move forward, as a district, with the CDE rubric and growth models for Educator Effectiveness
- To monitor the evaluation system by collecting feedback and input from staff to the rubric and growth committees
- To continue rubric and growth committee meetings on a quarterly basis
- To continue 1338 council meetings on a quarterly basis
- To report to the BOE on the progress of the Educator Effectiveness system
- To monitor the work load of the evaluations at the elementary level and consider the possibility of additional resources to support elementary administrations

Craig Blackham, teacher at EHS, addressed the board during Public Participation in support of the Evaluation System. "For the process to work, its not a one time deal, it requires ongoing feedback and effective monitoring all the time. Drop by classroom observations can be very effective, it fosters the desire to always be on top of your game," said Blackham.

Report from the Chief Financial Officer

Ron Patera, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the draft budget for the next school year. Mr. Patera indicated that the three main components that comprise the additional expenditures in the proposed draft budget are increased salary and benefits, mandatory PERA increases, and growth in health insurance costs. Mr. Patera also indicated that when he started working on the draft budget several months ago, the Governor originally submitted a budget with Elizabeth School District receiving an additional \$221 per pupil more than the current year. Unfortunately as the School Finance Act made its way thru the legislature, the amount was reduced to \$167 per pupil, a reduction of about \$130,000 for Elizabeth Schools. As indicated, the budget is a draft and is a work-in-process.

Online Exit Interview Process

Human Resources Director, Kin Shuman, shared with the board his intent to establish a new online process for exit interviews to be implemented for next school year. The process will help us learn from people leaving the organization what we are doing well and what we can be doing better. The online process will not preclude face to face meetings. Also from Human Resources, Mr. Shuman indicated that interviews will be taking place this week for the Early Childhood Director position.

Events Around the District

Douglas Bissonette discussed events and activities going on throughout the district. Last week EHS held their Academic Awards Banquet where various students from every grade level in the high school were recognized with Department Awards, Principal High Honor Roll Award, and Scholarship Awards. Family, Career, and Community Leadership Association also held their

banquet to celebrate their accomplishments this year. This year's art show awards took place May 7th at EHS. Close to 200 pieces of artwork were displayed this year. The competition is juried by a set of judges provided by the Air Academy Federal Credit Union, who are the sole sponsors for the show. On May 13 at 7:00 pm the EMS theater students are hosting Opera Colorado performance Barber of Seville. Jody Urbas, Drama Teacher at EMS, asked her students to develop a press release to promote the event. Connor Wooten's press release was selected and sent to our local media. In addition Jody Urbas' students created some spectacular posters to help promote the event. Mr. Bissonette also congratulated our seniors on their upcoming graduation. Elizabeth High School graduation will take place on May 25 and Frontier High School Graduation is May 31.

Activities by the Board

Deb Spenceley continues to represent our district at the Capital and has weekly conversations about the district with our state representative Tim Dore. Several board members plan to attend Chamber of Commerce events, including Elizabash, Chamber Luncheons, and sponsoring an Elizabeth School District table at the Town Hall. President Chuck Williams also mentioned the Elizabeth Education Foundation. He congratulated them on the Reloadable Grocery Card which now includes both Safeway and Kings Sooper. This has been and will continue to be a successful fundraiser for the foundation. The Elizabeth Education Foundation is also looking for additional volunteers to help support their efforts. For more information please visit their website, <http://www.elizabethef.org> A resolution was approved by the board to declare a vacancy with the acceptance of a letter of resignation submitted by Cindy Miller. This vacancy is planned to be filled by appointment by the board within 60 days. Interested persons are invited to send a letter with statement of interest and related experience with a notarized affidavit for candidacy to the district office by close of business on Tuesday, May 14. If you are interested, email the information to mmccarron@esdk12.org or mail in/drop off at 634 S. Elbert Street, Elizabeth, CO 80107. Director Deb Spenceley was approved to serve as Vice President to the Elizabeth School District Board of Education. The board also approved a number of employment contracts for next year.

The next **Board of Education meeting will take place May 20, 2013** starting at 7:00 pm in the board room of the district office. The **next BOE Meet and Greet is scheduled for May 22, 2013** from 5-7pm at Grumpy's Coffee all school and community members are encouraged and invited to attend.

Regards,
Michele McCarron
Executive Administrative Assistant/Communication Specialist
Elizabeth Schools