

## Spring Parent Enrichment Night Canceled

Parent Reading Enrichment Night scheduled for Thursday, February 26th, has been canceled due to low parent interest.

### February 9 Board Meeting Report

Marty Kramer was absent so Vice-President Mitch Drees presided. Action taken was on a 6-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

The board expressed appreciation for the snacks that were furnished by Ell-Saline KNEA in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

### II. AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

### V. REPORTS

BOE – Jeff Parker reported on the process of filling the Smoky Hill Education Service Center’s Executive Director position. Jamie Bradley reminded the board about the Cardinal Foundation’s fundraiser that will be on April 11 at Rolling Hills Zoo and that the “Save the Date” cards had been mailed out.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: Karter Adam nominating Mrs. Muninger for the Kansas Teacher Hall of Fame; explained that elementary student art grades will be entered into PowerSchool only at the end of the 9-weeks; Reading Parent Enrichment Night will be February 26; and Pennies for Patients has started.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: Mr. Laas will be presenting at the State Counselor’s Convention; Morgan Parker making the KMEA State Band playing first chair tympani; Rylee Schrock being featured in the *Salina Journal* for a winning photo that is now on display in the Capitol rotunda; Relay for Life activities; and that “Break KITE Day” went smoothly with very few problems.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: savings last year of \$29,997 in utility costs as a result of the energy savings measures (programmable thermostats, resetting of room temperatures, energy efficient lighting) begun last year; district-wide “Break KITE Day” was successful; encouraged the board to stay abreast of legislation that is beginning to be introduced in the legislature; read one thank you note; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

### VII. BUSINESS

- Adopt 2015-2016 Calendar—The calendar recommended by the teachers was adopted. **(It is now posted on the district website.)**
- Principals’ Contracts—Mrs. Sprinkle’s and Mrs. Wildeman’s contracts were both extended through the 2016-2017 school year. Salaries will be set following the completion of teacher negotiations this year.
- Approve Supplemental Position—Since it is anticipated that there will be 30+ boys out for baseball this spring, Chencho Arceo was approved as the second assistant baseball coach.
- School Board Election Process Resolution—A resolution was adopted that opposes SB 171 that moves school board elections, as well as all other current spring elections, to the fall on the same ballot as the other elections.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution—A required resolution was passed stating that USD 307 supports the Saline County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- End-of-School-Year Activities—The annual staff recognition event was set for Wednesday, May 20, at the elementary school.
- Approve Classified Position—Phillip Brown was approved as the MS/HS evening custodian effective Friday, February 13.

There were two Executive Sessions (Personnel, Negotiations).

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office in Brookville. If anyone wishes to have an item added to the agenda, please contact President Marty Kramer, Vice-President Mitch Drees or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

# 3

## Key Ideas for Parents about the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards

### Thinking Deeply

The Kansas College and Career Ready standards emphasize critical thinking. It requires students to analyze more, discuss more, evaluate more, justify more and explain their thinking & understanding deeply, especially in writing.

*Take - Away: Really thinking deeply is hard. Let it BE hard, help them talk it out.*

### Integrating Learning

The Kansas College and Career Ready standards emphasize learning across disciplines (reading with math & social studies standards combined into one task). Students spend more time working together with different settings, structures, & tools.

*Take - Away: Problems & Solutions happen every day in the real world.*

### Showing How They Know

The Kansas College and Career Ready standards emphasize proof & evidence. Long gone are the days of worksheets, fact memorizations and skill & drill. Students are not taught this way and they are not assessed this way.

*Take - away: The new tests will require students to explain how they know.*

## Supporting the Standards at Home

1. Ask **\*why\*** when children tell you they want something or want to do or not do something
2. Use the word **\*because\*** after “No” or “Not tonight...”
3. Give reasons – you to them and them to you
4. Encourage questions & explore answers (especially questions whose answers **are not** yes or no)
5. Explain & discuss issues or problems in your house, neighborhood, & community. Brainstorm solutions together.
6. Compare how things are alike and different-videos, movies, food.
7. Look for patterns.
8. Describe & categorize stuff.
9. Tell your children what you value & why.
10. Encourage & celebrate opinions.

[www.helloliteracy.blogspot.com](http://www.helloliteracy.blogspot.com)

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Friends of Rachel and Business Professionals of America student groups at the high school thank the community members who contributed to our bake sale on February 13, 2015.

Your support was greatly appreciated and the \$713.50 made for the kids was just the best thing ever! Special thanks to

the kids who baked goodies for this event. Your dedication was awesome and so are each of you!!!



If you have a child who will be 5 years old before August 31, 2015, please contact Ell-Saline Elementary School for details (785) 827-8891 or e-mail Anita at [anita.bird@ellsaline.org](mailto:anita.bird@ellsaline.org).

You can also go online to [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org) for information and to print off the Kindergarten Round Up Form.

Wednesday, April 22,  
2015



# Students and Staff Member of the Month

February HS Student of the Month:  
Alleigh Weems



February's high school student of the month is senior Alleigh Weems. Alleigh is the daughter of Tricia and the late Pat Weems, and has a younger sister named Lyndsi. In school she participates in volleyball, softball, FOR, FCA, Yearbook, Scholars' Bowl, BPA, STUCO SAFE Squad, and dance team. Alleigh is involved in the community with Sunflower Bank Community Ambassadors, K-State Salina Upward Bound, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She also enjoys photography, volleyball, and hanging with the "CLC". In the future Alleigh plans on attending Kansas Wesleyan University to major in Marketing and play volleyball.

February MS Student of the Month:  
Connor Anglin

February's middle school student of the month is seventh grader Connor Anglin. Connor is the son of Robbyn and Madonna Anglin, and has one brother Duncan. In school he is involved in football, Science Olympiad, Scholars' Bowl, and was in the school play. Connor also helps at the Salina Food Bank, is a Pheasants Forever youth program volunteer, and volunteers at the Smoky Hill River Festival. He also enjoys baseball, reading, videogames, and lifting weights. His future plans are to attend Wichita State University to study engineering and be a part of the baseball program. Good job Connor!



February Staff Member of the Month:  
Erica Jensen



Erica Jensen has been the Head High School Volleyball Coach for 5 years. She has organized a Smash Club Volleyball Club and helped organize volleyball tournaments for a friend that was diagnosed with cancer. She enjoys attending Ell-Saline activities, reading, going to the lake, and spending time with friends and family. As well as coaching at Ell-Saline, she works full time at United Capital Management of Kansas, Inc. Way to go Coach Jensen!

# Ell-Saline USD 307

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Middle/High School  
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Elementary School  
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Salina, KS 67401  
(785) 827-8891

Return Service Requested



## An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Ell-Saline U.S.D. 307 Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or age in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs or activities. Any questions regarding in the board's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 may be directed to the Title IX coordinator, who can be reached at (785) 225-6813, 412 E. Anderson, P.O. Box 157, Brookville, KS 67425, or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)

Mar. 2	4:00 MS Scholars' Bowl @ Little River	Mar.17	NO SCHOOL—SPRING BREAK
Mar. 2	TBA HS BB Sub-State Boys Tournament	Mar.18	NO SCHOOL—SPRING BREAK
Mar. 2	Spring Sports Practice Starts	Mar.19	NO SCHOOL—SPRING BREAK
Mar. 3	TBA HS BB Sub-State Girls Tournament	Mar.20	NO SCHOOL—SPRING BREAK
Mar. 4	10:00 FFA @ Minneapolis	Mar.20	FFA @ Junction City
Mar. 5	TBA HS BB Sub-State Boys Tournament @ Central Plains	Mar.21	FFA @ Junction City
Mar. 6	NO ESE After School	Mar.23	6:30 CPTA Mtg.
Mar. 6	TBA HS BB Sub-State Girls Tournament @ Central Plains	Mar.24	6:00 MS/HS Spring Sports Parent Mtg.
Mar. 7	TBA HS BB Sub-State Finals Tournament @ Central Plains	Mar.25	9:00 FFA @ Beloit
Mar. 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins	Mar.26	6:30 FFA Banquet
Mar. 9	7:00 BOE Mtg. @ DO	Mar.27	NO ESE After School
Mar.10	8:00 MS HOA League Music Festival @ Trinity Catholic	Mar.28	KSHSAA Regional Solo/Sm Ensemble @ Hillsboro
Mar.10	9:00 FFA @ Concordia	Mar.30	7:00 K Vocal Program @ EL
Mar.10	6:30 Booster Club Mtg.	Mar.31	4:00 MS Scholars' Bowl @ Trinity Catholic
Mar.11	TBA HS BB State Boys Tournament @ KSU	Mar.31	4:00 HS BSB @ Smokey Valley
Mar.12	NO ESE After School	Apr. 1	9:00 HOA League Art Festival @ Canton/Galva
Mar.12	TBA HS BB State Girls Tournament @ KSU	Apr. 2	NO ESE After School
Mar.13	NO SCHOOL—Teacher Work Day	Apr. 2	1:00 6th Grade Band Contest @ EL
Mar.13	ACT Test Registration Deadline	Apr. 2	2:00 MS TR @ Tescott
Mar.13	TBA HS BB State Semi-Finals Tournament @ KSU	Apr. 3	NO SCHOOL—Easter Break
Mar.14	TBA HS BB State Finals Tournament @ KSU	Apr. 4	State Science Olympiad @ Wichita
Mar.16	NO SCHOOL—SPRING BREAK	Apr. 5	Happy Easter!

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

With the cold temperatures of this past week we have been reminded that winter is not yet over! Maybe Punxsutawney Phil was right when he saw his shadow and we will have another 6-weeks of winter. Although the really cold temperatures are sometimes hard to stay warm in, it would be nice to see more snow as it has been a very dry winter. Going into spring with everything coming to life it would be nice to have some moisture in the ground.

This year the legislative session is proving to be even more challenging than was anticipated. Compared to last year when early progress was very slow, this year there have been new bills being presented almost from the very beginning. It appears that the main purpose of this legislative session is to find ways of handcuffing schools' efforts in educating students rather than to address the main challenge of the state's decreasing revenues as a result of previous year's tax cuts. A bill we've been anxious to see, but so far has not been presented, is that of the details on the Governor's proposed "Block Grant Funding" of schools for the next two years that he mentioned in his State of the State Address in January. We are hopeful that it will come out before the late hours of the session so that there will be time for feedback and debate. Of the many bills that have already been introduced very few of them would have a positive impact on Ell-Saline students or K-12 education in general. Several of them require extra administrator time and are mandates that will come with no additional funding which would result in further stretching our budget that has already been decreased this year and is projected to be reduced again next year. A bill (SB 178) that would have a negative impact on many of our patrons is one which would increase the valuation of farm ground on average almost 450%! This would place a tremendous financial burden on all farmers and ranchers. Bulleted below are some of the bills that would have the most serious consequence on both schools and/or all taxpayers.

**SB** = Senate Bill, **HB** = House Bill

- **SB 2** - Authorizing school districts to offer multi-year contracts to teachers.
- **H Sub for SB 4** - Appropriation revisions and supplementals for FY 2015 and FY 2016 for various state agencies (rescissions and supplementals); delays payment of \$20 million of capital outlay state aid to June; does not contain additional funding for Local Option Budget state aid. Passed House 88-34; Senate Concurred 24-13.
- **SB 32** - Requiring school district and state department of education audits; creating the efficient operation of schools task force; amended to require audits in six districts in 2016-17, 50% of cost paid by districts.
- **SB 33** - Creating the Kansas education standards study commission.
- **SB 60** - Requires participation by home schooled students in activities regulated by the Kansas state high school activities association.
- **SB 67** - Development and establishment of K-12 curriculum standards; prohibiting use of Common Core standards.
- **SB 70** - Background checks and licensure of teachers; other school employees.
- **SB 71** - School districts; amending the supplemental general state aid calculation.
- **SB 81** - Appropriation revisions and supplementals for FY 2015 and FY 2016 for various state agencies.
- **SB 136** - Professional negotiations act; agreements between KASB, KNEA, USA, KSSA.
- **SB 137** - Amendments to the school district finance and quality performance act; the virtual school act; the student data privacy act; and the tax credit for low income student scholarship program act.
- **SB 158** - Establishing a CARE family program for foster care.
- **SB 165** - Open meetings, statements required regarding a closed or executive meeting.
- **SB 168** - Issuing \$1 billion of pension obligation bonds to finance a portion of the unfunded actuarial liability of KPERS.
- **SB 171** - School board and municipal elections; spring to fall; partisan voting; other changes.
- **SB 176** - Limiting negotiations under the professional negotiations act.
- **SB 178** - Changes the valuation of farm land.
- **SB 179** - Limiting negotiations under the public employer-employee relations act.
- **SB 188** - Specifies certain compensation information in district budget documents; specifies how budget documents must be displayed with links on district websites; financial penalties for non-compliance.
- **SB 206** - Enforcement of open records and meetings; attorney general; fund
- **HB 2016** - Amending the school sports head injury prevention act.
- **HB 2027** - Requiring school district and state department of education audits; creating the efficient operation of schools task force.
- **HB 2028** - Creating the Kansas education standards study commission.
- **HB 2034** - Reduces negotiable terms and conditions in the professional negotiations act; not agreed-upon changes proposed by KASB, KNEA, USA and KSSA.
- **HB 2035** - Amending the tax credit for low income students scholarship program act
- **HB 2076** - Sales tax holiday.
- **HB 2078** - Requiring school districts to adopt school safety and security policies and plans.
- **HB 2095** - Issue \$1.5 billion pension obligation bonds to finance a portion of the unfunded actuarial liability of KPERS.
- **HB 2099** - Authorizing school districts to administer certain surveys/questionnaires under the student data privacy act.

- **HB 2133** - Appropriation revisions and supplementals for FY 2015 and FY 2016 for various state agencies.
- **HB 2170** - Grades K-12; use of seclusion and restraint of students with disabilities.
- **HB 2174** - Tax credit for low income students scholarship program act amendments.
- **HB 2185** - School buildings must be available as polling places; teacher inservice days.
- **HB 2199** - School districts human sexuality education; policies and procedures; requires “opt in.”
- **HB 2203** - School district agreements for consolidation of administrative services.
- **HB 2207** - Development and implementation of ethnic studies in schools.
- **HB 2220** - Teachers' contracts; due process.
- **HB 2232** - Personal financial literacy course as a requirement for high school graduation.
- **HB 2253** - Extending special employment after retirement provisions under KPERs for certain retirants who are teachers
- **HB 2257** - Amendments to the professional negotiations act; agreement between KASB, KNEA, USA, KSSA.
- **HB 2262** - Providing a compliance deadline and penalties for non-compliance with the student data privacy act.
- **HB 2266** - Requiring postsecondary education institutions to adopt a policy on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.
- **HB 2288** - Enacting the Kansas deferred retirement option program act.
- **HB 2292** - Development and establishment of K-12 curriculum standards.

I encourage you to contact your local legislators. and share your thoughts with them and encourage them to provide the necessary amount of funding for education as well as the other social service programs that are important to Kansas residents. Contact information for our local legislators is provided below.

I'm sure that by now you have heard of Governor Brownback's announced 1.5% "allotment", aka "cut", to K-12 education. This is not something proposed for next year but rather will take effect on March 7—next week and then with only four months left in this budget year. For us, the 1.5% amounts to \$34,440. This is not good news. Many of you might also be aware of SB 71 which would change the factor that the LOB State Aid is calculated on. If this bill passes in it's current form it would also take effect this year. Sorry to say, but this would not give us additional LOB State Aid but rather we would see a decrease of another \$34,000. Again, this is not good news. Yes, this is very disconcerting news and causes apprehension for us. Yet, because of the direction the state finances have been heading for the past several years, it is not news that we were not anticipating. Our Board of Education through adopting budgets that allowed for us to have a Contingency Fund and for all of our staff in being conscientious of the requests for materials and supplies, conservation on use of utilities, etc. has allowed us to be in a position to weather the storm for now. In the short term we are not looking at having to let staff members go or to cut programs as many districts across the state will be forced to do. However, until the Governor and legislature choose to restore revenue streams, we as well as all districts across the state will suffer. In the meantime we will continue to look for ways to make the best possible use of our resources that will have the least amount of negative impact on our students.

Despite the uncertainty of everything that is going on in Topeka, our staff is doing a great job of maintaining their focus of doing what is best for kids. Within a few short weeks, our students will begin taking the state assessments. This year various grade levels will be tested in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and History/Government. The assessments this year are based on the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards and will be in basically the same format as last year. Unlike previous year's when we received the assessment scores shortly after they were taken, this year's scores won't be received until likely next August. If you remember, last year's scores were never released because of all the technological difficulties students experienced during the assessment window. With this being the first year to receive data from these new assessments, we won't be able to compare this year's assessment scores with a student's, as well as grade level or building level, scores from previous years. This set of scores will provide feedback on our continued implementation of the new standards. Our staff continues to use quality teaching techniques and covering content. We ask that you encourage your children to do their best, get adequate sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast during these testing days.

We appreciate all the parents that took the time to come and visit with us during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. That communication and support is very important in your child's education.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children are receiving a quality education. Please call or stop in so we can visit about the many good things going on in your district and we can get to know each other.

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