



HEADS UP

Eufaula Public Schools

VOLUME 5 - ISSUE 2 - NOVEMBER, 2004

“Expect The Best”

The Vision of Tomorrow

Voters Face An Important Decision That Could Affect This District For Decades

The Eufaula Board of Education is asking voters of this district to once again join the teachers, support personnel, and school administrators in the Spirit of Community Progress. With your vote in favor of this proposal, the Board of Education and I will immediately begin to implement the plan of construction outlined in the proposal and face the tasks at hand with a commitment to hard work in the complete fulfillment of this Board’s vision.

Bill Wilson, Superintendent

The Architect’s schematic drawing of the proposed projects



Middle School to Include
Twenty Classrooms
Library Media Center
Two Restrooms/Safe Rooms
Cafeteria & Gym

Elementary School Addition
Five Elementary Classrooms
One Restroom/Saferoom
One Physical Education Classroom

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Voters will be Given the Opportunity to Vote
For or Against

This Proposal on January 11, 2005

Members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools want this community to understand the details of this proposal and the funds that will be used to pay for the project.

Please read the Question & Answers on the following pages.

Why Should I Support this Proposal? For a New Middle School Building

The need for a new middle school building is crucial. The fire marshal's report verifies that fact. The school district has made the required renovations necessary to temporarily occupy the structure, but the building still represents a significant danger should there be a fire or heavy snowfall. The hallways and the stairways are much too narrow for our growing enrollment of students to move safely from class to class, and the failing electrical, heating and cooling systems become more difficult to manage each year.

For Five Elementary Classrooms

The elementary school was constructed for the 450 students who were enrolled in the 99-2000 school year. Today, we have 514 students attending Eufaula Elementary School. Twenty students per classroom is a state requirement. If the proposal is passed, five additional elementary classrooms will be built along with an additional restroom built to safe-room specifications.

For a K-8th Grade Gymnasium/Auditorium

A thunderstorm in the spring of this year took part of the Cooper McClain roof. The rain poured through the roof off and on for three days, and had it not been for the effort of our maintenance personnel, the gym floor would have been destroyed. Many of you may not know that our basketball programs still rely on that old gymnasium for daily practices. Had the floor been destroyed, our 2004-2005 basketball program would have been lost. If the January proposal is passed, a new multipurpose building that will double as a gymnasium/auditorium for elementary and middle school students will be constructed. This building will eliminate the need to bus students to other school sites.

Did Eufaula Withdraw from Vo-Tech?

NO, Eufaula Schools did Not Withdraw from Vo-Tech. Eufaula students have full rights to continue attending classes in McAlester without any change from prior years. However, Eufaula Schools did negotiate a new agreement with Kiamichi Career Tech where Kiamichi provides classes at the Eufaula High School campus in addition to the classes offered to our students in McAlester. Ninety high school students are now enrolled in Kiamichi Career Tech and attend classes on the Eufaula campus in addition to thirty high school students who attend career tech on the McAlester campus.

If the proposal passes, what will become of the Houston Homan building?

Initially, it will be empty, but it will eventually serve as the Eufaula Board of Education and Administration Building.

How Will The Middle School Project Be Funded?

By taking advantage of the record low interest rates and maximizing the benefit of the agreement with Kiamichi Career Tech, the school district is able to finance the construction of the middle school and additional elementary classrooms with a significantly low cost to our taxpayers.

What Will It Cost ME?

There are two assumptions in calculating the cost. The first assumption is that Eufaula will continue to grow at the same rate we have grown over the last twenty years. The second assumption is that we will pass this election before the interest rates increase. With those two conditions, this proposal will cost the taxpayer an additional 33 cents per month per 100 dollars of taxes paid.

How is that possible?

The Eufaula School Board is agreeable to commit all Revenue from the Vo-Tech agreement toward the construction expense in order to keep the cost to the taxpayer at the lowest possible figure.

How will this tax rate compare to the 2000 Elementary School Bond?

The cost in 2000 for the elementary school bond was about 8 mils. By 2005, the taxpayers will have reduced that mileage to 5.69. Passing this proposal will return your taxes to the 2000 mileage rate of 8 mils.

What is the cost of the project in dollars?

The projected construction cost for the elementary school classrooms, the new middle school, additional restrooms and the multipurpose building is 5.3 million dollars. The Eufaula taxpayers will only have to pay 1.6 million of the total cost.

Can This Be as Good as it Sounds?

YES. Eufaula residents have an **Unusual Opportunity** to provide much needed educational facilities at virtually no additional cost to them.

T E A M W O R K
The Fuel That Allows
Common People to Attain
Uncommon Results

Great Schools Occur When Uncommon Momentum Collides With Uncommon Results

Great Schools Don't Just Happen. They are created over time by parents and teachers, school administrators and civic leaders who combine their own common sense, vision, and enterprising instincts that produces Uncommon Momentum. Eufaula Schools has enjoyed this kind of momentum for the past few years and the results have truly been Uncommon. This school year has been No Exception.

Academic Performance Soars Above State Target of 790
Elementary 1220 Middle School 1374 High School 1110

A Productive Vo-Tech Partnership
Revised Vo-Tech Agreement; Vo-Tech Classes offered at EHS Campus; Students retain full rights to attend McAlester Vo-Tech; Vo-Tech compensates Eufaula School District

Softball Team Makes History: One Game away from State! Muskogee Phoenix All-Area team; Brooke Helms - catcher, Kristin McKeefer - shortstop, and Summer Brown - pitcher. Summer Brown was also chosen Big School Player of the Year by the Muskogee Phoenix and the Southern Region.

Ironhead Football: Another Winning Season 9-1
Heading to Playoffs

Amazing Number of Federal Grants Awarded Eufaula School District

**Carol M. White
Physical Education
Grant**

**One of 16 Districts to
Receive This Grant
(3 years): \$ 541,525.00**

Being one of 16 districts state-wide and among only 237 school districts awarded this grant nationwide, Eufaula Schools is excited to begin the plan for a state-of-the-art physical education program. This will provide funds for new and innovative opportunities in health and physical fitness. This grant supports initiatives aimed at helping children eat healthy and to help them learn to make healthier choices.

**Library Media Improvement Grant
Eufaula School District
One of Seven Districts Awarded This Grant
(1 year): \$98,683**

Great media centers are a vital component of great schools. This \$98,683.00 grant is designed to improve student literacy skills and academic achievement by providing schools with up-to-date materials and to ensure that school library media centers are staffed by well-trained and professionally certified school media specialists. There is a clear link between the quality of library media programs and academic achievement. Today's library media centers have become the hub of great schools across the nation. Today's media specialist work closely with their faculty to provide materials that teachers need in developing and enhancing comprehensive lesson plans and class projects. This grant will provide funds that will be used to align the library's holdings to the curriculum and to instructional needs.

**21st Century Community Learning Center
Eufaula One of 15 Districts Awarded this Grant.
(5 years): \$1,056,061**

This grant enables the school district to reopen the BEACON program beginning in December. The BEACON after school program began in the 2000-01 school year with a three-year grant. During those years, over 300 of our children were provided homework assistance, one-on-one and small group tutoring, a wide variety of creative arts, computer, and physical activities, a nutritious snack, family fun nights, and field trips. Academic tutoring and enrichment activities of all varieties will again be the corner stone of BEACON. Certified teachers, support personnel, student, staff and peer tutors, community mentors and volunteers will again be recruited to serve Eufaula's school children in grades K-8. Each school year brings the task of challenging students to achieve test scores that are higher than last year's scores. This is a challenge that requires a great deal of hard work and planning by teachers and administrators. The 21st Century Community Learning Center and the BEACON program will be helpful in meeting those yearly challenges.

**Community Technology Center Grant
Eufaula School District
Only School in the State Awarded This Grant
(1 year): \$295,696**

This grant will widely expand access to computers and technology programs to high school students and to the entire Eufaula Community. It will provide before-school, lunchtime, after-school, evening and summer academic enrichment activities for students in grades 9-12. In addition to technology, course content offered to students will focus on three core subject areas; language arts/reading, mathematics, and science. The technology grant is designed to increase student academic performance by increasing access to technology. This, in turn, will assist the school district in meeting the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind regarding adequate yearly progress. Improving teacher skills in technology and instruction is yet another goal of the grant. For the community as a whole, the grant will provide the opportunity to improve technology, career and life skills through classes offered throughout the year.

Great Schools
Occur When
Uncommon
Momentum
Collides With
Uncommon Results.
Get Ready
For The
Excitement!

Ironhead Basketball 6-7-8-9th

Nov 11	Wilburton	7-8-9	5:00	Girls A	Boys H
Nov 11	Quinton	6th	4:00	Girls A	Boys A
Nov 15	McAlester Tnmt			Girls A	Boys A
Nov 18	Quinton	6th	5:00	Girls H	Boys H
Nov 29	Checotah	7-8-9	5:00	Girls H	Boys A
Nov 29	Whitefld Tnmt			6th Grade	
Dec 2	McAlester	7-8-9	5:00	Girls A	Boys H
Dec 6	Hilldale	6-7-8-9	5:00	Girls A	Boys H
Dec 9	Checotah	6th	5:00	Girls T	Boys T
Dec 13	Checotah	6th	5:00	Girls H	Boys H
Dec 16	McAlester	7-8-9	5:00	Girls H	Boys A
Jan 03	Wilburton	6-7-8-9	4:00	Girls A	Boys H

Ironhead Basketball Schedule

Nov 30	Henryetta	Home	6:30
Dec 03	Ft. Gibson	There	6:30
Dec 06	Connors Tourn	There	TBA
Dec 14	Checotah	Home	6:30
Dec 17	Wagoner Homecoming		6:30
Jan 06	Stigler	Home	6:30
Jan 10	Morris	Home	6:30
Jan 11	Choteau	There	6:30
Jan 14	Hilldale	Home	6:30
Jan 17-22	Ft. Gibson Tournament		TBA
Jan 25	Ft. Gibson	Home	6:30
Jan 28	Checotah	There	6:30
Feb 01	Wagoner	There	6:30
Feb 04	Choteau	Home	6:30
Feb 05	Henryetta	There	6:30
Feb 10	Stigler	There	6:30
Feb 11	Hilldale	There	6:30
Feb 15	Morris	There	6:30
Feb 18	District Tourn		TBA

NOTES FROM THE COACH

BOYS BASKETBALL: After a rebuilding season last year, the Eufaula Ironhead basketball team is looking forward to this year's schedule. With four starters and a group of players returning who saw significant playing time last season, the atmosphere around the team is exciting. The maturing process coaches like to see with young teams was on display during summer league play and during summer camps.

The kids' attitudes and work habits last summer were exceptional and they have carried these positive attitudes into the school year. Provided a few things fall into place, we are optimistic that a successful season is around the corner. The opening game isn't that far away and we are ready to get started. However, it looks like our Ironhead Football Tradition is still Going Strong and our first basketball game could be delayed. Until that time, we will continue to support the football program and use the extra time to prepare for an exciting season of Ironhead Basketball.



Bradley Campbell, Coach

GIRLS BASKETBALL: The Lady Ironheads Basketball Team is excited about the upcoming season. First of all, we are thrilled to have Coach Laura Gragg on board with us. She brings a great deal of playing experience and knowledge of the game to our program. Second, a lot of hard work and preparation has taken place over the past eight months. We have drilled over the fundamentals of basketball since April. We look for improvement in that area as we begin this year. Our expectations are always high as we look to see more experienced and mature basketball players on the floor this season. The chemistry among this group of girls is incredible. They want to succeed and they work extremely hard to achieve that success. Even through the learning experiences of last year, this team's character shone through. I could not have asked for any more effort than what our girls gave each night of competition. Look for all of that plus more as we strive each day to get better.



SOFTBALL: It has been another fantastic year for the Lady Ironhead Fastpitch Softball Team. For the 3rd year in a row, the fastpitch team has won over 20 games in a single season. Their 2004 record was 25 - 11. The Lady Ironheads won 1st

place in the Checotah Tournament, placed 2nd in the McAlester Tournament, losing in the finals to the ranked 2A team, Red Oak, 2 - 1 in the 10th inning. The Lady Ironheads traveled to Oklahoma City to participate in the Hall of Fame Shoot-out against top-ranked teams in 2A - 6A. Eufaula won 3 out of 4 games which was great for their first trip to OKC. The Hall of Fame games were played in The College World Series Complex. For the 2nd time in school history, the Lady Ironheads were District Champions beating Muldrow in the finals. Advancing on to regional play in Inola and defeating 12th ranked 4A team, Wagoner and 3rd ranked 4A team Inola, the team met Poteau in the finals and fell short of State competition by a score of 3-1.

Staacy Helms, Coach



FOOTBALL: The 2004 Ironhead football season has proven to be yet another successful one. Currently, the Heads are 9-1, ranked # 4 in the Class 3 A Polls.

Of the nine victories, two have been against ranked 4A opponents; Sallisaw and Hilldale, 2A ranked Holdenville, and class 3A ranked Roland. Our only loss has been to # 3 ranked Victory Christian, a private Tulsa school. Our goal, as always is to be the *Best We Can Be*, and hopefully contend for a State Championship. Even with one loss, we still feel we are just as capable as anyone in the state to *Bring Home the Gold Ball*. Please come and support the Heads, our young men expect it, but more importantly, they deserve it.

Kerry Roberts, Coach

Eufaula Public Schools

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Heads Up

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