



HEADS UP

Eufaula Public Schools

Volume 7 - Issue 1 - November 2006

“Expect the Best”

*It's
Still
a
Good
Deal*

December 7th
Questions
and Answers
7:00 PM
Eufaula Elementary
School

December 12th
Voters of Eufaula
School District
Will Decide Whether
to Complete the
Middle School
Gymnasium
And
Add Four Classrooms
for 4th and 5th
grade students.

Twenty million dollars of new school buildings for five million dollars is still a good deal. Sure, there's some disappointment over the endless escalation in construction prices, but I remain excited about what Eufaula has accomplished in the modernization of its school system.

Last October when we opened the bids for the new middle school building and gymnasium, I knew we would be unable to finish the gym. The architectural estimate for the middle school proposal was eighty dollars per square foot. The bids for the middle school and gymnasium were one hundred dollars per square foot or twenty-five percent higher than the estimate. The school board and I agreed to proceed with the construction as planned and see how far we could get. After all, construction prices could come down.

They haven't. Construction prices today are higher than they were last October.

The school board entered into contracts totaling \$4,461,892. The total construction bids for the middle school complex received last October was \$5,938,384. We contracted as much of the building as possible, leaving the gymnasium, parking lots and bus loop unfinished. Now our student growth is placing demands on us to expand the 4th and 5th grade classroom wing as well.

If the people allow us to finish what we have started (to include the gymnasium and additional classrooms for the elementary school), Eufaula will have added 150,000 square feet of new classrooms. The current construction value of \$125/square foot places the value of the new buildings at \$18,750,000. When fully equipped with furniture and telecommunication equipment, the value is easily over \$20,000,000. The voters will have been asked to repay \$5,090,000. In order to maintain the current tax rate, the bond payments will be spread over thirteen years rather than the normal ten year cycle.

Eufaula will have quickly overhauled its total school system with a 70,000 square foot elementary school, a 64,000 square foot middle school, and a 16,000 square foot addition to the high school building. It's been a remarkable seven years and we are within twelve months of finishing a school project that will make Eufaula Public Schools known for having facilities among the best in the state.



Impact On Middle School Students

Completion of the middle school gymnasium is essential to the athletic and academic development of our middle school students.

Currently middle school students are transported two blocks for all physical education or athletic activities. Transporting students from the new middle school site west of town to available gym space at the high school will negatively impact the instructional time for basketball and physical education classes.

A large part of the upcoming bond question is whether Eufaula Public Schools will complete the middle school gymnasium at this time.

It's essential to the overall development of middle school students to have on-site access to a gymnasium. The long term impact of our students having only twenty to twenty five minutes per day in basketball practice or physical education classes would negatively impact their overall physical development and limit our students' ability to compete favorably with other schools.

Our failure at the middle school to properly prepare students will be evidenced when the students compete athletically at the high school level.

The completion of the middle school gymnasium is essential for the continued development of middle school students for the challenges of attending Eufaula High School.

article by Chris Whelan, Middle School Principal

Impact On Elementary School Students

Enrollment at the elementary school has continued to rise. The increase in enrollment coupled with the change to full day kindergarten, has increased the number of full time students at Eufaula Elementary School to 528.

With the 2006 opening of the third grade addition, we now have five teachers (five classrooms) in kindergarten thru grade three. Grades four and five have four teachers (four classrooms) each.

This year in grade four there is an enrollment of 101 students and the fifth grade enrollment has remained between 95 and 100 students.

Since these grade levels only have four classrooms, individual classrooms are extremely overcrowded with at least 24 students per teacher. Ideally, class sizes at every grade level should be 20 or less.

When class size exceeds twenty students, individual instruction is lost and student achievement limited.

The bond question will provide the elementary school with four new classrooms in the 4th & 5th grade wing.

article by Rita Ford, Eufaula Elementary Principal



Middle School Hallway



Middle School Main Entrance

To the west (*left side in above photo*) of the middle school main entrance are the reception area and the principal's office.

The hallway leading to the west passes middle school classrooms and leads to the proposed gymnasium. Though the gymnasium steel is being erected, the increased construction costs will prevent the completion of the gymnasium without the passage of the December 12th bond proposal. The proposal to complete the gymnasium requires an extension of an additional three years to our current payment schedule.

The hallway leading to the east passes the library media center and leads to the cafeteria and band room. A fire exit at the end of the east hallway separates the two schools and prevents students from entering the other building.

With the roofing in place, the electrical contractors are busy wiring the building. Next, the drywall company will begin the task of sheet-rocking the walls. Soon, the ceiling grid and the heating/air conditioning ducts will be installed.

With the growth in McIntosh County's oil and gas industry, as well as the increased demand for real estate near the lake, Eufaula's future has never been brighter.

A panel of ten business leaders were asked to examine the middle school construction project and recommend a course of action in dealing with the escalating cost of construction. The business leaders agreed with the faculty and staff of Eufaula Public Schools and asked the Eufaula Board of Education to complete the project now. **A bond election has been set for December 12th for the people to vote.** Listed below are the names of those having petitioned the Board for an election to complete the middle school gymnasium and adding four classrooms for 4th and 5th grades.

Kay Luna
Christy Helms
Tracy Stubbs
Andy Campbell
Kelly Smith
Jan Pipkins
Pam Jennings
Delicia White
Vanessa Gilley
Tisha Morgan
Stephanie Fox
Bettye Cooper
Redia Doyle
Paula Galbraith
Carol Campbell
Phyllis Wheeler
Susan Wood
Sandra Harris
Sonya Proe
Shelley Sharp
Sherry Rippy
Pam McDonald
Kristi Colbert
Liz Steele
Janice Duke
Robyn Burris
Angela Lawson
Cheryl Adsit
Vicky Caldwell
Diana Goodwin
Jean Spencer
Vicki Efurd
Susan Miskovsky

B U S I N E S S L E A D E R S

Randy Peterson	Brian Speligene
Bruce Sanders	Thomas Foresee
Julie Huff	Mike Scifres
Doug Howell	Tom Daniel
Tim Pendley	Tim Burke

Bevela Pierce
Victor Salcedo
Gwen Johnson
Sue Shrum
Jonnell Burgess
Billye Martin
Carolyn Sullivan
Sandra Farrow
Diane Whelan
Robin Montgomery
Dusty McKeefer
Vanessa Clark
Bradley Cox
Josh Luna
Rita Ford
Penny Pratt
Gaynelle Anderson
Ella Dean Nixon
Kathy Canada
Carolyn Eldridge
Mari Kingfisher
Susan Newton
Casaundra Dan
Carolyn Grayson
Kari Montgomery

Pam Bailey
Kim Sanders
Christy Richards
Tandi Efurd
Jan Votravis
Heather Combs
David Johnson
Joy Salcedo
Brad Campbell
Sherrie Flud
Debbie Jones
Mitch King
Michael Campbell
Kathy Kasson
Cory Adcock
Mekia Burns
Carolyn Harjo
Marty Stinnett
Terri Dunn
Robert Nixon
Jared Efurd
Mary Burnham
Preston James
Chris Whelan
Norma Adcock

Steve Butcher
Lori Curtis
Sherrye Satterfield
Theresa Andrews
Janice Linnens
Stephanie Layman
Lesia King
Allison Aday
Monica Cox
Arlene Babylon
Gale Applegate
Valerie Schaeffer
Lori Bevenue
Theresa Akers
Darrell Ray
Larry Callison
David Holt
Darrell Blackman
Jim Haskett
Barnabus Grayson
Dwight Porter
Austin Cox
Roger Thompson
Viki Ridge
Gary Asher

Frank Farrow
Shasti James
Barbara Reynolds
Glenn Sizemore
Cryse Burns
Michael Palmer
Lisa Butcher
Cheryl Henderson
Dennis Linnens
Cecelia Ray
JoAnn Bradley
Diane Bertone
Jeannette Smith
Bonita Warren
Kim Smelser
Ina Anderson
Ed Kennedy
Tina Stearman
Frank Farrow
Byrd Farrow
Mark Gideon
Larry Newton
Marshall Montgomery
Josh Carey
Leonard Luna
Mike Jones
Bill Hooten
Wayne Proe
Lamar Armstrong
Nick Pendley
Emma McConnell
Hershel Bumgarner

Head s Up

Bill Wilson, Superintendent

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PAID Permit No. 16
U.S. Postage
Nonprofit Organization

Eufaula Public Schools

District I-001
215 North 6th Street
Eufaula, Oklahoma 74432-2428
918.689.2152 fax 918.689.1080
www.eufaula.k12.ok.us

Board Of Education

Ms. Dian Dawson
Ms. Margaret Dobbs, Vice-President
Dr. Mike Dew, Clerk
Mr. Chuck Boss, Member
Mr. Charles Perry, Member