



HEADS UP

Eufaula Public Schools

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Expect the Best

Dan Edwards Named Eufaula School Superintendent



The new superintendent of Eufaula Public Schools is no stranger to Oklahoma education. Eufaula native and long-time resident of Eufaula, Mr. Edwards' career has taken him from classroom to administrator in schools across the state.

For the past fourteen years, Mr. Edwards has served as Henryetta Superintendent of Schools. In his tenure there, he implemented several building projects that include a new middle school, a new elementary annex, a new four and five year old preschool complex, an on-site day care center, a new softball field, and new tennis courts. A recent bond proposal includes the construction of a new gymnasium.

Those who have worked with Mr. Edwards say he is a leader who works tirelessly for his school district. His thorough understanding of Oklahoma school funding, his expertise in developing and implementing construction projects, in passing and administering bond proposals, and in facilitating innovative academic programs prove he has the ability and the experience needed for continued development of the Eufaula school district.

I am excited about the progress Eufaula has made in rebuilding their school district, and equally thrilled at the yearly increase in student API test results. While it is important to provide students with the best facilities possible, the highest priority must always be to provide educational programs that will ensure each student reaches their greatest potential. I am anxious to meet the challenges and opportunities of the Eufaula school district."

Mr. Edwards will begin his duties as Superintendent of Eufaula Public Schools in January, 2008, replacing the current Superintendent of Schools, Bill Wilson, who is retiring in December.

New Middle School

Dedication Ceremony

The cornerstone of the new middle school building located at 1707 West J.M. Bailey Highway is level, it is square, and it is plumb — the craftsmen have done their job well, stated Grandmaster Charles L. Dick of the Grand Lodge of Guthrie, Oklahoma, during the historic cornerstone ceremony and middle school dedication.

The date was August 6th, 2007, and the hot August morning brought a powerful sense of excitement as community leaders, board of education members, faculty and patrons came together once again in celebration of yet another Eufaula School District milestone.

The new school building includes high-tech classrooms equipped with smart boards and computers, safe rooms, computer labs, a band room, cafeteria, a library media center that hosts a variety of research capabilities for our students, and a two - court gymnasium that will allow room for simultaneous physical education classes. Still under construction, the gymnasium has a completion date of December, 2007.

Eufaula Mayor Dean Smith welcomed over 250 guests to the dedication ceremony, and acknowledged the school administration and board of education for their commitment to the school and to the community.

Superintendent Bill Wilson spoke briefly to the group giving credit to the community, teachers and staff, and to the Board of Education for the school district's positive direction.

The Key to our district's success has been Harmony, said Superintendent Bill Wilson. *School districts are capable of providing their students sound facilities if the entire community pulls on the same end of the rope.*

Our Board of Education personifies that harmony. They are a group of professionals who have made a tremendous difference in the direction of this school district and in this community. They include Dian Dawson, elected to the Board of Education in 1997, Dr. Mike Dew, elected to the Board in 1999, Charles Perry, elected to the Board in 2000, Chuck Boss, elected to the Board in 2001, and Margaret Dobbs, elected to the Board in 2005.

The Eufaula School district has not had a school board race in the past eight years. That indicates the confidence our community has in their school board members, and is the *Harmony* that generates energy for positive change.

Status of Construction Projects

- The middle school library media center shelving and furniture should arrive in late September.
- The middle school kitchen equipment, once installed, will allow meals for the middle school to be prepared and served on site eliminating the need for students to be transported to the high school cafeteria.
- The projected start of the additional 4th and 5th grade classrooms was delayed by August rains. The projected completion date is December 31.
- The work on the middle school gymnasium is progressing with the construction of the interior walls. Completion of the gymnasium is projected for December.

The Results Are In Student API Scores Continue to Increase

The API tests measure performance and progress of school districts based on several factors, including academic performance and attendance. The purpose of the API is to keep track of that progress.

For the seventh year in a row, our student API scores have increased with a 2006-2007 District Average of 1353. This district score is an all-time high for Eufaula students, and places Eufaula Schools among the *Top Ten Percent of Schools in Oklahoma*.

This success in the area of academic achievement does not surprise Superintendent Wilson.

“While most of the community’s attention has been focused on the bond issues and the new building projects, achievement and curriculum have always been first and foremost in the minds of the board, the teachers and the administrators. This unprecedented academic success did not happen by accident, but rather by design. In 2001, our district went through a rigorous curriculum alignment followed by new curriculum to address the state’s learner outcomes. The principals and teachers worked to implement several instructional strategies and programs. Always a work in progress, our district has made adjustments and changes each year to be academically competitive and narrow the achievement gap. This strategy, coupled with teachers who are among the best in the state and principals who remain focused on improving our academic standards have raised the bar for academic excellence in our school district. I applaud them.”

School Year	Elementary School	Middle School	High School	District Totals
2006-2007	1395	1326	1339	1353
2005-2006	1317	1269	1255	1297
2004-2005	1224	1163	1126	1204
2003-2004	1220	1374	1110	1212
2002-2003	1139	1163	1039	1118
2001-2002	NO SCORE	912	892	893
2000-2001	853	848	872	856

Enrollment Continues to Grow at Eufaula Schools

Preliminary enrollment numbers for all three sites show an increase in students. The high school enrollment on September 18th was 378 students, the middle school had 285 students enrolled and the elementary school had 518 students. These enrollments totaled 1181 students compared to an average membership of 1156 students in 2006-2007.

These additional enrollments will create some immediate over-crowding issues especially in the fifth grade where 100 students are enrolled. However, the construction of the additional elementary classrooms scheduled for completion in December should provide much needed relief for the second semester.

It’s customary for the enrollment in Eufaula to peak during the first nine weeks and then gradually decrease during the second semester. With that fact in mind, the over-crowding that we are currently experiencing could correct itself by second semester, but if it doesn’t, classrooms will be available to lessen the student/teacher ratios.



WELCOME COACH JOHNNY BOHANNON

Coach Johnny Bohannon comes to the Eufaula school district after holding the head football coach title for Dewar, Prague, and Okemah Public Schools. His most recent tenure of five years was with the Tulsa Union football program where the Redskins won three State Championships.

Coach Bohannon and his wife, Annette, have three sons. Kelby and his wife, Michelle, live in Dewar where Kelby is Dewar Public School's football coach. Son Ty is a senior Pre-Med student at the University of Oklahoma where he and his wife, Braidi, currently live. Son Antonio Grant is a member of the Bitt State Football team at Bitt State University in Missouri.

Coach Bohannon was a student-athlete at East Central University, where he excelled as a pitcher on the varsity baseball team.

Football Schedule

August 31: Holdenville - Away - 7:30
September 07: Checotah - Home - 7:30
September 14: Hilldale - Away - 7:30
September 20: Savanna - Away - 7:30 Thurs Game
September 28: Heavener - 7:30 Coronation 6:30
October 05: Vian - Away - 7:30
October 12: Wilburton - Home - 7:30
October 18: Hartshorne - Away - 7:30 Thurs Game
October 26: Stigler - Home - 7:30
November 02: Spiro - Home - 7:30 Senior Night 7:00
November 09: Playoffs TBA
November 16: Playoffs TBA

Fast Pitch Softball

Sept. 10: Conference Tourney Beggs TBA
Sept. 11: Haskell - Home - 4:30
Sept. 13 & 15: McAlester Tourney TBA
Sept. 17: Hilldale - Away - 2:30
Sept. 18: Porum - Home - 4:00
Sept. 20 & 22: District Playoffs TBA
Sept. 24: District Championships:
McAlester - Away - 6:00

To print a specific list of schedules and district activities, go to eufaula.k12.ok.us. Click *Calendars* located in the sidebar. Click the *District Calendar* Icon. Click the *Search* tab located on the right, middle side of the page. Make sure to Select a *Date Range* at the top of the page, or your list will not be complete. If you don't want a list of every scheduled event in the district, click *Uncheck All* Categories, then check the category that you want. Click *Search*. After the list appears, Click *Print*. Finally, Click the Printer icon at the top of the page.

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Heads Up

Bill Wilson, Superintendent