

# EAGE UP Phone (402) 843-2

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Volume XXIV, Issue 8

Home of the Eagles

March, 2009

## DATES TO REMEMBER



March 6 NO SCHOOL 1/2 day Teacher Inservice



March 11 LifeTouch Spring Pictures 8:15 a.m.







March 25 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony 3:00 p.m.



## SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMPLETED



Mr. Steve Dennis

The Elgin Public Schools Board of Education has recently announced their decision to hire Mr. Steve Dennis of Ord, NE as the new superintendent of the Elgin district effective July 1, 2009. The hiring decision came at the end of a Superintendent Search facilitated with the assistance of the Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB).

Superintendent Dr. Gayla Fredrickson became ill last spring and was unable to perform her duties. In July the Board hired Mr. Lee Hall on an interim basis to perform the superintendent duties until Dr. Fredrickson could return. Dr. Fredrickson resigned her position due to health reasons in October, and the Board extended Mr. Hall's contract through June 30<sup>th</sup>, which is the traditional end of a superintendent's contract year. Board President Steve Heithoff stated the Board is very appreciative of the job Mr. Hall has done. He said "We were in a bind. Mr. Hall came in, put a budget together, filed the necessary reports, and got the year off to a great start. He has been exceptional with our students and we appreciate the job he has done for us."

Mr. Dennis is currently the elementary principal at Ord, NE where he oversees the Ord Elementary building in addition to three Class I rural schools. He has held this position since 1991. Prior to Ord he was the elementary principal at Creighton Community

Schools. He has also taught a variety of classes including 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at Ansley and Wallace. Mr. Dennis obtained degrees including Bachelor of Arts in Education, Master of Arts in Education, and Master of Arts in Educational Administration; all from Kearney State College. He obtained an Education Specialist degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, allowing him to become a superintendent.

Steve Heithoff stated the Board felt Mr. Dennis was a good fit for Elgin because of his experience with curriculum, using the NDE portal for online reporting, technology implementation, and his experience working with a parochial school, St. Mary's Elementary in Ord. In addition to his principal duties, Mr. Dennis was in charge of Title 1, textbook loan, and other programs that apply to both public and parochial students. Mr. Dennis was also a recent finalist for the superintendent position at Boone Central in Albion.

Along with attending high school activities, Mr. Dennis enjoys reading, fishing, golf, gardening and hunting. His wife, Mary, is currently teaching kindergarten at St. Mary's. They have 3 college age sons. Benjamin attends the University of South Dakota at Vermillion and Andrew and Derek attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Mr. Dennis is very excited about his new opportunities with the Elgin Public Schools. He is looking forward to their move to Elgin and becoming a member of our community.

#### Elgin Public PASS System



Parents and students can access student's current grades through the EPS website:

www.elgineagles.org

Click on Schoolmaster and enter the student ID number and PIN. If you have questions, please call the school.

Check our website
for the most current
news and calendar:
www.elgineagles.org



## ACCOUNTING CLASS RUNS THE BUSINESS

For the past month, Accounting I students have been working in the accounting world as accountants for Fitness Junction, without even leaving the classroom! Fitness Junction is an envelope simulation of a merchandising business that sells exercise equipment. The students were responsible for completing all accounting work for the business, which was a partnership owned by two people. The simulation packets provided all of the documents needed to complete all daily accounting transactions and month-end reports for the owners and was a great lesson to reinforce all concepts the students previously learned in class. They also completed several end-of-fiscal- period reports and two payroll periods for the business, figuring all taxes, to give the "owners" an overview of how their company was doing! Because it was a completely manual simulation, the students now know the fundamentals to complete accounting practices to run their own businesses in the future.

Now we will begin our focus on accounting practices for a corporation and using special journals for businesses. We will end the semester with another simulation titled "Putting Green Golf Supply" wherein the students will once again put their knowledge from class to work!

#### YEARBOOKS FOR SALE

2009 Yearbooks are on sale now and during the month of March! Check the

EHS website under "Activities" to download an order blank or check with a staff member. Yearbooks are \$30 without personalization.

Personalization is available for an extra fee and is due by April 1st. Make checks payable to Elgin Public Schools. Order a lifetime of memories today!



### ELGIN FCCLA MAKES A DIFFERENCE DURING NATIONAL FCCLA WEEK

Elgin Public members of the Nebraska association of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) will join more than 220,000 members in celebrating National FCCLA Week February 8-14, 2009. This year's theme is "Motivation in Motion." During National FCCLA Week, members plan and carry out activities to highlight FCCLA and Family and Consumer Sciences education.

This week the members of the Elgin chapter will be promoting FCCLA through a variety of activities: Monday members will wear their FCCLA T-Shirts, promote and publicize their yearly program of activities online as well as creating a bulletin board and putting up locker signs. Wednesday is staff appreciation day and Friday they will cap the week off by delivering Candy grams in school and throughout the Elgin community.

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience



The Elgin FFA Chapter has had a busy and productive month of February up to this point. On February 5<sup>th</sup> the Nebraska State FFA Secretary Ms. Lauren Perry was in Elgin for a Chapter visit. Lauren shared the day with chapter members and students in agricultural education classes. She conducted lessons and team building activities with the students in each Ag class. Ms. Perry who is originally from Kimball Nebraska is currently a freshman at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and is studying Animal Science. The Nebraska state FFA officers conduct visits with all 131 Nebraska FFA Chapters across the state during their year of service.

The months of January and February also found FFA members busy updating their Supervised Agricultural Experience Record Books. These books are tools used in helping students progress through the varying degrees in the FFA program. This year four seniors recently applied, interviewed and took a test in efforts to earn the Nebraska State FFA Degree. This degree is the highest honor a member can earn in the State of Nebraska in FFA. The

students who applied were Linsey B., Carlie R., Tyler R. and Nathan N. all four students met the listed criteria to earn their State Degrees and will be awarded these degrees during the Nebraska State Convention held in early April. Senior, Tyler R. had a very successful day during the State FFA Degree interviews as he was selected as a District Star in the Agricultural Placement Award Area. He also received a gold on his



Tyler Reestman

Proficiency Award in the Agricultural Mechanics – Fabrication and Design Area. Tyler will be representing the Elgin FFA Chapter and District 10 in both of these award areas at the Nebraska State FFA Convention in April

Upcoming Chapter Activities include National FFA Week which will be highlighted by an Ag Community appreciation Pancake Feed to be held in the School Gym on February 26th. The Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Workshops held in Kearney February 27th and 28th and the District 10 Career Development Events contest to be held at Northeast Community College in Norfolk on March 2nd.



Elgin FCCLA wishes to thank everyone who purchased candygrams for Valentine's Day!

Thank you for your support!

## Counsglor's Corngr

by Mrs. Barb Bode



#### Check out the new EducationQuest video -"The FAFSA Made Easy"!

Seniors...for a humorous and comprehensive overview of how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), check out our new 10-minute video – "The FAFSA Made Easy."

#### What happens after you submit the FAFSA?

If you have already submitted your FAFSA, here's what will happen next...

#### **Expect your SAR and Award Notification**

- You'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) after you submit the FAFSA. This acknowledges that your form was
  processed and can be used to make corrections to your FAFSA. You'll need the PIN you used to file the FAFSA to
  make electronic corrections.
- The colleges you listed on the FAFSA will send you a financial aid award notification detailing the assistance they're
  offering. They may offer a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans.

#### Compare award notifications

Compare award notifications from the colleges. Some may offer more in scholarships and grants, while others rely on student loans. Calculate your out-of-pocket expenses for each school to get the whole financial picture. Use our <u>Award Letter Comparison Calculator</u> to determine which school offers the best deal. Sign and return the award letters.

#### Keep looking for scholarships!

Many local, state and national scholarships have deadlines in March, April and May. Talk to your guidance counselor about scholarships that meet your criteria. For local and state scholarships, visit *ScholarshipQuest* at EducationQuest.org.

#### Juniors: It's time to start your campus visits

Start looking at colleges your junior year so you can narrow your choices by the time you're a senior. Follow these tips for successful campus visits.

- Visit your top college choices while the schools are in session. You won't get the true flavor of the school during breaks or finals week.
- Schedule your visits at least two weeks in advance. Ask for appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor and a faculty member in your area of interest.
- Talk to a faculty member about upper-level classes in your anticipated major.
   Many students change majors because they don't understand the subject matter or the degree of difficulty.
- Ask the financial aid counselor how the college may offset tuition costs and about college-based scholarship
  applications and deadlines.
- If possible, stay overnight in a residence hall and eat in the cafeteria. Ask about the personality of each hall so you can request one that suits you.
- Check out college Web sites. You'll find admission requirements, academic and social information, and campus
  photos or a virtual tour.

#### College Profiles can help with college search

March "To Do" List

Find information about Midwest colleges in the **College Profiles** section at EducationQuest.org.

E	rs you haven't already done so, complete your FAFSA! xpect college acceptance letters during March and April ontinue applying for scholarships.
Junio	rs
R	egister by February 27 for the April 4 ACT.
R	egister by March 31 for the May 2 SAT.
	chadula campus visits

FOR THE LATEST IN SCHOLARSHIP NEWS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.elgineagles.org.



#### Mark Your Calendar:

April 16 - Kindergarten Round-up
April 18 - Jr./Sr. Prom
May 16 - Graduation





Full Name: Linsey Ann Bode Parents: Stan Bode & Eileen Bode

Sister: Megan Bode

Pets: 2 dogs; 1 cat (Miss Kitty); 3 horses

Favorite School subject: Art Favorite teacher: Miss J

School activities: Volleyball, FFA, PALS, dance, track student

manager, quiz bowl, speech, NHS

Greatest honor: being on the All A Honor Roll for 5 yrs. straight Favorite school activity: FFA because you get to meet and know

so many people.

Most educational experience: Going to Washington, DC for

NYLC

Most inspirational person: Michael Phelps

Favorite color: green

Favorite thing to do in spare time: watch movies Pet Peeve: People who "know everything".

If I could go back in time I would go: Back when I was 5 be cause I was cool, life was easy and mom did everything

for me!

Favorite saying: No one can make you feel inferior without your

consent. -- Eleanor Roosevelt

Something most people don't know about me: I can be shy.

Favorite movie: Little Miss Sunshine Dream car: A Black Lincoln Navigator Favorite Food: sour cream raisin pie Favorite school lunch: Burritos Favorite pop: Dr. Pepper Favorite TV show: The Office Favorite type of music: everything

Future plans after graduation: attend college

Full Name: Andrew John Bauer Parents: Mary & Robert Bauer Sisters: Nichole & Michelle

Pets: dog (Ace)

Favorite School subject: Spanish III Favorite teacher: Mrs. Walsh

School activities: FFA, football, basketball

Greatest honor: Being an All-State selection in football, and

winning the Eagle Award

Favorite school activity: Football because it's fun and a good

stress reliever

Most educational experience: Miss J's classes

Most inspirational person: Grandparents because they both had

9 kids

Favorite color: orange

Favorite thing to do in spare time: hunt

Pet Peeve: Girl drama

If I could go back in time I would go: to the dinosaur age

Favorite saying: That's not appropriate.

Something most people don't know about me: I enjoy being

around little kids

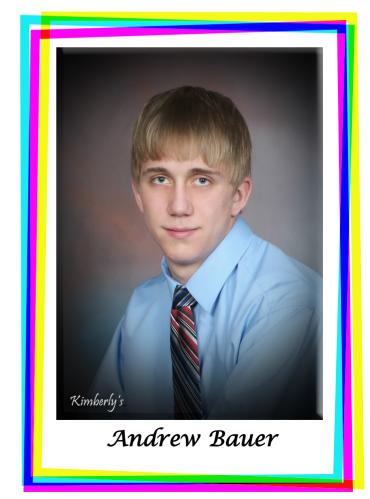
Favorite movie: Never Back Down Dream car: Dodge Cummins Favorite Food: Cheesey Rice Favorite school lunch: Hamburgers

Favorite pop: Mt. Dew

Favorite TV show: Family Guy Favorite type of music: rock

Future plans after graduation: play college sports and graduate

with a degree





Full Name: James Daniel Lierman Parents: Darryl and Julie Lierman

Brothers: R.J.

Sisters: Tia, Ashleigh, Breanna Pets: dog (Olivia) cat (Bear) Favorite School subject: science Favorite teacher: Mrs. Shoe School activities: Acadeca

Favorite school activity: Acadeca because I like learning

all the facts of history Most inspirational person: my mom

Favorite color: red

Favorite thing to do in spare time: play on my computer Pet Peeve: People who act first and ask questions later. Favorite saying: Life is like a river, it never stops flowing. Something most people don't know about me: I like to

plan inventions

Favorite movie: Lord of the Rings Trilogy

Favorite Food: pizza

Favorite pop: Mt. Dew Code Red Favorite TV show: Stargate SG-1

Favorite type of music: rap

Future plans after graduation: going to college to be a

computer technician.

Full Name: Christopher Joseph DeWald Parents: Stacey Renner, Lance DeWald

Brothers: Dustin, Wyatt

Sisters: Ashlyn Pets: Webster

Favorite School subject: Mechanical Systems

Favorite teacher: Mr. Wells

School activities: football, basketball, track, FFA Greatest honor: 2nd team All-District Punter

Favorite school activity: Basketball because its what I'm best at Most educational experience: Technology field trip to Yankton

powerplant

Most inspirational person: dad

Favorite color: blue

Favorite thing to do in spare time: hang with the "boys" Pet Peeve: people who drag their feet when walking If I could go back in time I would go: state championship

football game

Favorite saying: I don't know what I did, but I know I did it! Something most people don't know about me: I hate snakes.

Favorite movie: Never Back Down Dream car: Mach 1 Mustang

Favorite Food: steak

Favorite school lunch: chicken fajitas

Favorite pop: Mt. Dew

Favorite TV show: ESPN SportsCenter

Favorite type of music: rock

Future plans after graduation: attend college and find a career in

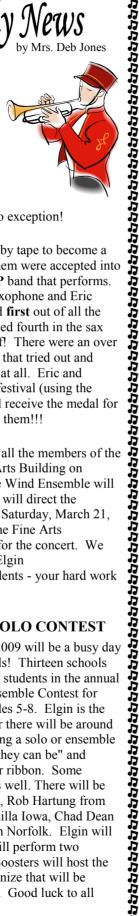
the electrical field.





#### CLASS D ALL STATE BAND

Twenty-two years ago, Rich Richards hosted the first annual Class D All State Band Clinic/Concert which involved 142 students from 37 schools across the state. The tradition continues as last year, 165 students participated in Kearney. Each year, for many of those years, students from Elgin Public have auditioned and been



accepted into this band. This year is no exception!

Students from Elgin Public auditioned by tape to become a member of this year's band. Two of them were accepted into the Wind Ensemble - which is the **TOP** band that performs. They are Nathan Niewohner on alto saxophone and Eric Shoemaker on snare drum. Eric placed first out of all the drummers auditioning and Nathan placed fourth in the sax section - something to be very proud of! There were an over abundance of alto saxes and drummers that tried out and many of them will not be participating at all. Eric and Nathan will re-audition the day of the festival (using the concert's music) to determine who will receive the medal for first place at the concert. Good luck to them!!!

The students will rehearse all day with all the members of the Wind Ensemble in March at the Fine Arts Building on campus of UNK. The conductor of the Wind Ensemble will be Linda Donahue, and Matt Shepherd will direct the Symphonic Band. The concert will be Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the auditorium of the Fine Arts Building. There will be an admission for the concert. We would love to see friendly faces from Elgin there! Congratulations to all these students - your hard work has once again paid off!!!

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#### **ELEMENTARY SOLO CONTEST**

Saturday, March 28, 2009 will be a busy day at Elgin Public Schools! Thirteen schools will be represented by students in the annual Instrumental Solo-Ensemble Contest for music students in grades 5-8. Elgin is the host school. This year there will be around 300 students performing a solo or ensemble trying to be the "best they can be" and receive a blue superior ribbon. Some

schools will have a band performing as well. There will be five judges: Larry Jones from Madison, Rob Hartung from Bennington, Darrell Neitzke from Manilla Iowa, Chad Dean from O'Neill and Randy Neuharth from Norfolk. Elgin will have 26 soloists and the Cadet Band will perform two selections for the judges. The Music Boosters will host the concession stand. Our meeting to organize that will be Monday, March 9, 2009. Please come. Good luck to all performers - bring home the gold!

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#### OPTION ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

Are you interested in sending your students to Elgin Public School? If you live outside of District 18 and would like to enroll for the fall semester 2009-2010, you must file the option enrollment application before March 15th. If you file after that date your resident school district determines whether they will allow you to opt out of their district. For further information or to request an option enrollment application, please contact the school office 843-2455.

#### STUDENTS DESIGN WITH CAD

This year the Computer Aided Design (CAD) class is working with two upgraded and very powerful CAD programs called Solidworks and Chief Architect. Solidworks is a solid modeling program where students build 3-D parts and generate detailed drawings or blueprints that can be used for production.

The students are impressed with the capability of the program and user friendly attributes. Their latest assignment is to take an existing part and reconstruct it on the software and develop drawings with accurate dimensions. Next quarter we will be working with Chief Architect which has amazing visual capabilities and



Eric Vanis measures accurately.

details. Students will be able to design, model, and visualize a house based on a floor plan. The program even allows students to add porches, fireplaces, decorative columns, light fixtures, choose the flooring or wall color, and even furnish it.

Parents, don't be surprised if students start walking around your house taking measurements or ask you what remodeling project you would love to take on, they might have some great ideas!

"The book is the most effective weapon against intolerance and ignorance."

--Lyndon Baines Johnson



by Mrs. Rita Heithoff

The EHS Art students are busy finishing up their projects for the quarter and beginning to prepare for the spring Art shows. The first show will be the Keya Paha 7-12 Invitational

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followed by the K-8 ESU#8 Invitational. Up next will be the 9-12 ESU#8 Invite and the 7-12 NVC show the same week. Last will be the County Fair in the summer for artwork from grades 1-6. Check the school webpage under "Activities-Art" to check dates and information about the shows.





By Lee Hall lhall@esu8.org

Ever hear the joke about the weather in Nebraska? It goes like this, if you do not like it just wait 10 minutes and it will change?

Education in Elgin is nothing like the weather, it is steadfast and dependable. It is an institution with a strong foundation made of a mixture of experienced and new teachers that are driven to provide quality education to your children. Whether I arrive at school at 6:30 or 7:00 am and leaving school at 6:30 pm I am rarely the first to arrive or the last to leave. I am not counting the activity sponsors who are here well beyond those hours. I am talking about the teaching staff. Here because there is not enough time in the school day to get everything done.

Our instructional staff consists of 23 teachers of which 17 have reached the advance degrees at the Masters Level. This required another 36 college credits in a specific area. Additional time during the evenings and summers was used to complete these programs. Our average tenure of the certified staff is 12.6 years. This is a remarkable number for a small rural school district. It shows the dedication and commitment these ladies and gentlemen are making to provide quality and updated programs at Elgin Public School. This staff is also training in the best practices available to make the system what it is today.

Our course offerings are well beyond that of many small schools and even some larger ones. We have 48 option enrollment students this year and are anticipating five or six new ones next year. Our curriculum and the staff are what is drawing those children to Elgin Public Schools. Look at our class offerings and then compare that list with other schools around. You will find advanced offerings taught by quality instructors who are trained in the best techniques available in all core areas.

You will find a staff that is prepared to go the extra mile to help the students who ask for it or show a need for it. These teachers are available on request both before and after school to assist a student who needs it. These teachers looked at the summer school program and made changes that could eliminate the need for it. These changes could show immediate improvements in the mastery of school outcomes. Outcomes that were created by the staff using state guidelines and are used as a benchmark for evaluating our school population.

Elgin success stories are written by the dedicated and committed teachers that call Elgin Public Schools home. Twenty three people who care for and hold high expectations for the 193 students who attend school here.

The old slogan of the Nebraska Education Association was "to teach is to touch a life forever". Well, I believe that these teachers are doing that but I also believe that we are stepping beyond that and preparing our student to be successful contributing members of a global society.



## **WRESTLING WRAP-UP**

By Coach Jones

The Elgin recently concluded their wrestling season with a trip to the state tournament in Omaha. Austin Stamp represented Elgin. This was his 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Omaha. Austin was unable to claim a medal this season, as he won 2 matches and lost 2, but he wrestled well. Austin finished his career with several Elgin records. He increased his record for the most wins in a season to 41, claimed the fastest fall record with a :07 second pin. He also claimed the record for the most team points in a career with 774. He has the most wins of any Elgin wrestler in history with 138 wins. A. J. Braband claimed the title of most escapes in a season with 36 being the new mark.

In the district meet we had 3 wrestlers narrowly miss qualifying for the state tournament. We had success throughout the season as well. The wrestlers showed a great deal of improvement this season. The hard work in the practice room paid off for many of the young men. Austin Stamp had a 41-5 record wrestling 140. Junior Devin Brown, at 125 had a 10-15 record Sophomore Nathan Anderson wrestled at 119 and finished the season with a 13-9 record, A. J. Braband at 145 finished with a 17-19 record, Sebastian Janssen at 112 posted a 14-15 record, and Anthony Hemenway, at 130 finished with a 20-17 mark. Freshmen Shane Vanis, at 119 posted a 4-19 mark and Hoyt Meis at 171 had a 5-24 record.

Congratulations on a great season!



I have always liked the statement "Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail". Those seven words sum it up pretty darn good. By now, I am sure that most in our quiet community have heard of the discussions taking place regarding sports cooperatives between Elgin Public Schools and Pope John High School. It has been a headline in the Elgin Review and a hot topic in local businesses and coffee shops and naturally, it should be. After all, we are a small community. Pride runs deep and issues like this can impact everyone. While no decisions have yet been made, I would like to give you some things to consider as this topic is sure to be a focus of many in the community in the coming weeks.

First and foremost, this community is fortunate to have two K-12 school system in which both perform very well both academically and on the field of competitive play. How both school systems can both perform so well is flat out amazing to me but I credit much of the success of both schools to great support from the community and also the dedicated support from the parents of the students in which attend the schools. You combine that support with strong educators and the result speaks for itself. As an administrator, I have learned that there are things I can control and things I cannot. As enrollments all across Nebraska seem to be declining, School Boards and administration everywhere are faced with the task of maintaining strong educational systems with increasing mandates, less funding and fewer numbers of students. Not an easy job and definitely these are all things that are hard or impossible to control!

At the February regular board meeting the Elgin Public School Board of Education voted to investigate the possibilities of sports cooperatives first with Pope John. Pope John also has determined that they too would like to investigate these possibilities. If at some point, both school boards feel sports cooperatives are something they wish to pursue for next year, it is foreseeable that you could see the two schools competing as one team in various sports in the future.

So, who is behind all of this you may ask? Who is pressuring who? Whose idea was this in the first place? Honestly, this is an issue that is being addressed in so many school districts all across Nebraska. It is definitely NOT just an "Elgin Public" issue or just a "Pope John" issue. If one was to look at the Niobrara Valley Conference (NVC) alone, one can see that it has already started to happen with several other schools. Spencer, Naper and Butte all used to be individual schools in their own communities. Now, all three are one educational system. Keya Paha and Rock County now compete as one (North Central), Orchard and Clearwater competed in football together in 2008 (nicknamed "The Cyclones")and are favorably looking at all junior high and high schools sports starting next year (2009-2010), Lynch and Niobrara are competing this spring in track as one. Wheeler Central is considering opportunities with Greeley-Wolbach. It has been rumored that Ewing and Chambers have briefly discussed some possibilities. That, people is the majority of the NVC at a glance.

To answer the questions above as to who is pushing this issue, well, it really is not a matter of whom, but more a matter of what. The "what" can be different in every school. Declining enrollments, funding, lack of qualified personnel and other factors can drive schools to develop cooperatives. It is not the Elgin Public Board's intention or my intention to eliminate the individuality of Elgin Public School. Far from it! I am sure the same could be said for all of the coaches, teachers, administrators, board members, parents students and supporters at both schools. The possibilities are being investigated and discussed in order to make decisions that are in the best interest for kids. Period. It is not about my pride or the pride of those who wore the schools' colors in years past. Is it fair to eliminate opportunities because of pride? Some say it can't work and they may be right. Others feel it is the best thing and as some have stated "it is a no brainer". I have heard these and similar comments from supporters of both schools. My role as an administrator is to present the information to the Elgin Public Board of Education so that they can make educated and informed decisions and do what is best for the students at EPS. I believe that "Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail". If we are to plan for the future of our students we must consider the future impact of those things we cannot necessarily control.

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