By Amber Hanneken
Staff Writer

HUGO — Hugo School Board members heard changes to this year's homecoming date and prom location along with reviewing test scores during Monday night's meeting.
School board members reviewed the 2010 Academic Performance Index (API) for Hugo students. The API is federally mandated and shows student academic achievement in math, reading, writing, history and science. Hugo Elementary had 1103, down 78 points from last year. Hugo Intermediate School scored 1044, up 140 points. Hugo Middle School scored 903, down 63 points and Hugo High School scored 837, up 17 points from 2009.
Principal Glen Martin said the middle school reported the lowest scores in the district for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is based on test scores and attendance rate for elementary and intermediate students. For middle school and high school it includes testing, attendance, drop out rate, retention rate, college remediation, AP scores and the performance of subgroups based around ethnicity, special education and other factors. Increased standards this year made it tougher for students and schools to meet the proficiency on tests.
Principal Debbie Golden said 30 eighth graders didn't pass the reading test last year. Twenty-four of those students retook the test this year and half passed, she said. When asked, they said they didn't realize how important the tests were. By the time students get into high school, End of Instruction tests are a deciding factor in graduation.
For the 2010-2011 school year, the school hopes to improve scores and close gaps by tutoring, increasing attendance, benchmark testing, conducting teacher development as well as collaboration, analyzing individual student's data, lowering the student to teacher ratio and encouraging parent involvement.
Teachers Jill Eddinger and Julie Hoover approached the board about the location for this year's junior/senior prom. Last year, the prom was located in the high school cafeteria and Eddinger and Hoover were each responsible for a lot of the decoration and planning. The two said, despite attempting to create incentives for them to stay, most students left early. They requested this year's prom be in the Choctaw Nation event center in Grant. Eddinger and Hoover said the security would be the same as always with IDs checked at the door and guests required to fill out a form prior to buying a ticket. They added that students would not be allowed in the casino.
The cost would be about the same as last year's event and be funded by $1,700 left over in the account and the selling of gold cards. After a motion by Dr. Mike Irvin and a second from Drake, the board gave approval for prom to be in the Grant event center.

To read the full story, subscribe to the online edition: http://www.hugonews.com/transitionHDN.html