

ON BOARD

August 2009

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

Board approves salary increases

The Board unanimously approved a three percent of mid-point salary increase for auxiliary personnel and a one-percent increase for administrators, excluding central office administrators.

Even though the district passed a deficit budget in the amount of \$370,000 and taxable values came in considerably lower than anticipated causing an additional \$200,000 in deficits, the Board and Superintendent Cooper felt it was important to show appreciation to employees even in tough financial times.

Compensation for teachers, speech pathologists, librarians, counselors and nurses was approved in June giving \$800 plus a step pay raise for those employee groups.

The lower values were mostly the result of inventory reductions at three major local manufacturers. Other factors contributing included 700 property value protests and additional exemptions which were granted.

The final tax rate adopted was \$1.4272, which is not quite a two cent increase for the payment of principal and interest.



Board visits new ACW campus

The Board got a peek at final preparations being made for the first day of school at the new ACW building. With groundbreaking held May 2008, the building was completed on time and on budget.

A dedication will be held from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, September 20.



Third grade teacher Sondra Feduccia welcomes Superintendent Blake Cooper and Board member Donna Tavener to her new ACW classroom.



Board members Bob McLeroy, Medley Wilson and Donna Tavener (left to right) enjoyed a stop in the new ACW library during the Board visit August 17.

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In other action...

The Board approved:

- resolution and interlocal agreement between CISD and Texas A&M University-Commerce for the district to donate an auxiliary classroom building at the old ACW Elementary, which has been deemed surplus property, to the university; and
- approved appraisers and appraisal calendar for the school year.

IN THE *Superintendent's report...*

Superintendent Cooper reported accountability ratings from TEA. Commerce Elementary and A.C. Williams Elementary Schools were Recognized. Commerce High School moved off the Academically Unacceptable list onto the Academically Acceptable rating. Administrators have already filed an appeal for Commerce Middle School's Academically Unacceptable rating which was based on an erroneous dropout rate.

Curriculum Director Julia Robinson explained that a new calculation, the Texas Projection Measure (TPM) is the first vertical scale that has been used to predict students' growth year to year.

Across the district, 16 of 24 measures were at the Exemplary level. CHS missed Recognized by one measure. According to Robinson, there was tremendous improvement in math and science at the school

CMS had 12 measures at the exemplary level, five at recognized and two academically acceptable.

Initiatives to improve student performance this year include moving all four campuses to Title I status to benefit from federal resources; hiring a secondary curriculum faciliator (Jeanne Lay); contracting for a response to intervention coach (RTI) Anne Mills, implementing an assistant principal academy for instructional leadership; mentor teacher program; increased classroom technology; and an additional Communities in Schools case worker at CHS and four AmeriCorp volunteers at all campuses.

Cooper also reported results from the Head Start on-site monitoring review which found playground equipment at CES out of compliance. He assured the Board that steps were taken immediately to correct all safety concerns.

The Board set the next regular meeting for September 21 at ACW at 7 p.m.

Personnel action...

A resignation was accepted from Tara Spencer, CHS ag science teacher.

Chase Tyndell was employed as an ag science teacher at CHS.

BOARD MEETINGS

(Mondays unless noted)

September 21	ACW
October 19	CES
November 16	CMS
December 4	CHS
January 19 (Tues)	CMS
February 15	CMS
March 22	CMS
April 19	CMS
May 17	CMS
June 21	CMS
July 19	CMS