

ON BOARD

May 2010

BY - T H E - M I N U T E S R E P O R T



*Valedictorian
Mary Taggart (left)
and Salutatorian
Caitlin Yoakum*

CHS students honored for achievement

Superintendent Blake Cooper recognized this year's CHS valedictorian Mary Taggart and salutatorian Caitlin Yoakum at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

He thanked the students for their efforts and noted the hard work that it takes to maintain their high achievement level. Mary plans to attend Oklahoma State University and Caitlin will attend Texas Tech.

State UIL academic winners were also recognized by the Board. Elizabeth Canzoneri placed third in Computer Applications, scoring 350 out of a possible 375. Michael Naizer placed fifth in science.

"Winning at the state level is quite an achievement. It will open many doors for these students, including scholarship opportunities," Cooper said.

Students competing at UIL Regional competition were also recognized. They included Elizabeth Canzoneri, Jason Anthraper, Michael Naizer, Macy Sims, Ian Bruton, John Naizer and Lisa Khauu.



Elizabeth Canzoneri (left) accepted congratulations from Superintendent Blake Cooper for her third place finish in Computer Applications at the State UIL academic competition. Michael Naizer (behind Cooper) finished fifth in science at the state meet.

Veteran departs, new member sworn in

CISD Board of Trustees member Donna Tavener was recognized at the May Board meeting for her service to the students of CISD. Tavener, who chose not to seek reelection, was elected to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Sarah Sienty in 2006.

New member Gabe Wittkopf was sworn into office along with incumbents Bob McLeroy and J. Russell Armstrong. Wittkopf and his wife Alicia are parents of two Commerce Elementary School students. He is a fireman for the City of Commerce.

In the annual Board reorganization, members voted to keep Willie Blow president and Bob McLeroy vice president. Current secretary Russell Armstrong nominated Randy Starks to become secretary and he was unanimously elected.



Superintendent Cooper with departing Board member Donna Tavener



The Board will be cooking and serving BBQ brisket to all CISD staff Friday, June 4 during the Staff Recognition Lunch at CHS.

Tough budget decisions ahead

Superintendent Blake Cooper reported that he expected no relief from the Commissioner regarding ADA lost to the H1N1 absences in the fall. Cooper said the state was going to save money by not helping school districts with the loss.

Director of Finance John Walker alerted members to an additional \$300,000 added to this year's deficit because the attendance rate was down. Total deficit is expected to be \$615,000, which will be taken from fund balance.

"Difficult decisions are ahead because 75 percent of our budget comes from salaries," he said.

A budget workshop for the 2010-2011 school year will be held June 7 by the Board.

BOARD MEETINGS

Mondays, 7:00

June 21 CMS

July 19 CMS

Chartwells awarded contract for food service

The CISD Board unanimously approved entering into a contract for dining services with Chartwells, the largest school lunch provider in the country with 28 percent of the market.

Keith Robison, regional sales director with Chartwells, explained that the increased variety of food choices served in an appealing manner should drive participation up and result in more revenue.

Initially, the company will invest \$22,000 to create a new atmosphere in the cafeterias with new signage, lighting and serving arrangements. Smaller bowls, attractively arranged and often replenished, will provide a fresh alternative to the steam tables seen in cafeterias today.

The District required that all employees, including Director Carl Wells, be offered positions with the company. Those employees can expect increased training opportunities, better benefits and probably higher wages under the Chartwells umbrella. No cuts in wages, hours or employees are projected.

The District will continue to set meal prices in the future. The contract is based on current meal prices. Chartwells' ability to negotiate prices for food helps maintain price while increasing the quality of the food.

Resources such as regional chefs, dieticians, marketing, health and safety support will be available readily to the District. Districts using Chartwells include Greenville, Canton, Ennis, Mabank, Kemp and Kaufman.

Typically, a school food service program operates in the red. Chartwells guarantees a \$42,000 surplus the first year under contract, which will be paid directly to the District. The contract will be up for renewal annually.

Surveys will be conducted with students and other stakeholders to determine local dining preferences.

"We believe the quality food choices available to students will entice them to eat and thus help with their learning," Robison said.

No cuts in wages, hours or employees are projected



New Board member Gabe Wittkopf (center) was sworn into office along with incumbents Russell Armstrong and Bob McLeroy by Bonnie Hunter, executive secretary to Superintendent Cooper.