

ON BOARD

November 2009

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT



CSEEF Board Vice President Jean Appleton (shown at left holding check) presents a \$23,000 check to Superintendent Blake Cooper. Teachers receiving grant awards were Sonya Mathews, Karen Davis, Nancy Hill, Heather Kilgore, Susan Lampe, Angela Neal, Julie McLeroy, Tina Bronson, Laura Finley, Karen Hubbert, Jeanie Putman, Amy Scaff, Kelly Cotton, Sondra Feduccia, Jackie Orr, Teresa Robinson, Lucinda Rodriguez, Keiondra Simpson and Kathy Black. Others receiving grant awards were Patrick Just, Sherry Rector and Wes Roberts.

Foundation funds instructional grants

The Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation awarded funds in excess of \$23,000 to teachers submitting proposals to aid instruction in math, science, fine arts and technology.

Superintendent Blake Cooper thanked the Foundation Board for their commitment to the success of Commerce students. The CSEEF Board and the teachers were recognized by the CISD Board of Trustees during the November Board meeting held at CMS.

Since 2005, the Foundation has awarded more than \$160,000 for CISD instructional projects.

Area-winning volleyball team honored by Board



The 2009 Lady Tiger Volleyball Team was recognized by the Board for their strong season, where victories led them to the Regional Quarterfinal game. Finishing the season with an overall record of 37–6, the team spent all but one week listed in the state rankings.

Shown left to right front row are Tori Beller, Dahyana Essix, Teal Martin, Raven Massey, Chaney Moreland, Morgan Morrison, Caitlin Yoakum and Alex Worley. Back row includes Coach Sarah Hall, Kayla Clark, Danielle Essix, Stephanie Hall, Kaci Harrison, Amanda Hill and Coach Kelsey Hall.



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IN THE Superintendent's report...

Superintendent Cooper reported enrollment was steady at 1632 up 13 students from this time last year.

The District reported 100 percent highly qualified teachers as required by TEA. All paraprofessionals also are highly qualified.

Commerce Middle School received three Gold Performance Acknowledgements – one for attendance rate and commended performance on writing and Social Studies. Commerce High School received a GPA for Comparable Improvement in Math.

Cooper reported that the CHS News Crew will be working with the A&M-Commerce Radio/TV Department to present three telecasts per semester.

Superintendent Cooper added that lights have been installed in the awning from the high school to the student parking lot and drainage there would be corrected soon.

The Board set the next regular meeting for December 14 at CHS at 6:15 p.m. for executive session and 7 p.m. for opening activities.

In Board member comments, Donna Tavener said she would like to see a five to 10-year facilities plan developed.

BOARD MEETINGS

(Mondays unless noted)

December 14	.....	CHS
January 19 (Tues)	.....	CMS
February 15	.....	CMS
March 22	.....	CMS
April 19	.....	CMS
May 17	.....	CMS
June 21	.....	CMS
July 19	.....	CMS

In other action...

The Board approved:

- casting all votes for the Board of Directors of the Hunt County Appraisal District for Larry Throgmorton and all votes for the Board of Directors of the Delta County Appraisal District for John Mark Dempsey;
- the textbook selection committee to consider textbooks for Reading K–5 and English 6–8;
- the School Health Advisory Council members including parents Jonathan Cadwell, Donna Coe, Craig Jensen, Courtney Lewis, Lori Smith and Tiffany White. Staff members included Stephanie Moreland, Jennifer Speulda, Lois Stevens, Kelli Talley and Carl Wells. Board President Willie Blow recommended that additional members be appointed to mirror the ethnic diversity of the student population;
- allowing the use of a portable metal detector on campuses on a trial basis before purchasing units; and investigating how other districts use the devices;
- moving forward with the renovation of the old A. C. Williams Elementary School which will be used for the Administration Building, Tri County SSA offices and the Boys & Girls Club.

'Unqualified' district financial audit best possible

Johnna McNeal of the accounting firm of McNeal, Malnory & Company, P.C. presented an “unqualified” financial audit report for 2008-2009, the best finding possible. She urged Board members to consider the \$3.215 million construction reserve currently in fund balance and determine if needs warrant that amount. She explained that the district currently has over \$4 million in fund balance. She recommended that three month's operating costs be maintained in fund balance.

CMS campus report highlights events, deeds

CMS Principal Patrick Just welcomed the Board to his campus and showed a presentation introducing staff and featuring student activities.

"We all know that high school success begins right here on our campus," he said. "What students learn here in academics and athletics helps them lay a strong foundation for future accomplishments," he added.

Superintendent Cooper said, "I truly believe the desire to teach middle school is a gift." He thanked the staff for their commitment to the students at the school.

