

ON BOARD

October 2009

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

CES looks forward to another great year

Commerce Elementary School Principal Bobbie Thurman and her staff welcomed administrators, Board members and the community October 19 to their annual showcase report.

Thurman reported that all of her teachers and aides returned from last year to the campus. She shared demographic information which shows increased diversity of the student population with Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander student numbers up. The high 76 percent economically disadvantaged rate affects all campus services. Even though teachers remained in place, students had a 24 percent mobility rate.

First and second graders have a new art class this year taught by Kim Lewis.

Bus discipline reports have been significantly reduced this year because elementary students now are taken home before secondary students. This makes the routes shorter and the students get home quicker. Thurman thanked the transportation department for this improvement.

Thurman shared that CES is being used as a research site by Texas A&M University-College Station to identify and intervene with students having emotional and behavioral problems. After analyzing data, researchers will provide intervention strategies for working with identified students. The model is currently being used with 27,000 students across the country. CES was selected because of its use of the Positive Behavior Success Initiative and other programs already in place to assist students.



CES Principal Bobbie Thurman welcomed the Board to the Prekindergarten through second grade campus.

District finance report subject of public hearing

Director of Finance John Walker explained a less than favorable rating received from the TEA FIRST rating for financial accounting in the 2007-2008 school year. Factors contributing to the substandard achievement rating included a late audit report, too much fund balance and an excessive amount of debt related expenditures per student. Walker said all of these issues will be resolved. The next audit report is due to the Board in November.



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IN THE *Superintendent's report...*

Superintendent Cooper reported enrollment was at 1632 up 20 students from this time last year.

Cooper also explained expanded course offerings at the high school. The Early College Program, dual credit courses with Paris Junior College and Texas A&M University-Commerce and the Texas Virtual School Network all offer opportunities for students to have more choices. Additional career and technology pathways help students leave school prepared to work.

The Board set the next regular meeting for November 16 at CMS at 6:15 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS

(Mondays unless noted)

November 16	.....	CMS
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:

- resolution granting a sewer easement to the City of Commerce on the old ACW property on Washington street;
- naming Larry Throgmorton as a candidate for the board of directors of the Hunt County Appraisal District;
- naming John Mark Dempsey as the candidate for the board of directors of the Delta County Appraisal District;
- adoption of TASB Policy Local Update 86, including policy allowing juniors and seniors to have two excused absences to visit college campuses; and
- Campus and District Improvement Plans including new Title I requirements.

Communities In Schools work growing in CISD

Lois Stevens, Community In Schools Dallas Region campus case manager at CMS, has seen CISDR's presence grow from when she began here in the fall of 2007 as the sole manager to four campus managers, one for each campus. However, the team has just begun its program of ensuring student success through intervention programs for students and their families.

Currently, each manager serves 140 students.

"We can't have the necessary one-on-one relationships students need



Communities In Schools Dallas Region campus manager Lois Stevens presented information to the Board about how CISDR serves students and families.

without volunteers. We have to bring the community into the schools. Students need to have someone they can trust as a mentor. We have 55 active volunteers who have agreed to spend 45 minutes to one hour weekly with students. We are 100 mentors short and we would like to encourage our community to accept this worthwhile opportunity," Stevens said to the Board.

Volunteers must first pass a criminal record check before they are allowed to work with students. A training session is provided.

Persons wanting to volunteer may contact a CIS case manager at any campus.

Campus principals shared how CISDR had already made an impact on their campuses this year. CES Principal Bobbie Thurman said although her case manager is brand new, she already has provided assistance to one particular family. CISDR also works with AmeriCorps volunteers to go into individual classrooms.

ACW Principal Wes Underwood said the CISDR does a tremendous job with no intrusion in the classroom.

CMS Principal Patrick Just said that on his campus CISDR workers check students to make sure they have what they need. At CHS, Principal Virdie Montgomery said CISDR made home visits which are extremely helpful to the administrators.