

ON BOARD

September 2009

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



Julia Robinson, Director of Curriculum, Special Programs and Grants, was surprised when Superintendent Blake Cooper announced that a special location in the new ACW library was now named "The Julia Robinson Reading Corner."



ACW caps off busy week with Board presentation

After hosting a community-wide dedication and open house on Sunday, A.C. Williams Elementary School staff welcomed the Board of Trustees Monday for its annual campus visit.

Principal Wes Underwood proudly showcased the new "21st century building with 21st century learning tools."

"Not a day goes by when I don't see teachers actively using new technology such as the Promethean boards, Elmos and response systems to enhance learning for students," Underwood related. "Our teachers are truly magicians who find uses for new technology in every subject area," he added.

Underwood led the Board and administrators through a session of "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?" where they answered questions by using the instant response systems.

Board approves change to school calendar

The Board approved a change to the current school calendar after a conflict with the adopted school calendar became apparent after TEA revised its testing dates for the spring. The Board voted to move the April 5 (Monday after Easter) bad weather make up day to June 4 because TAKS testing resumes on April 6. If June 4 must be used as a bad weather make up day, early release will be moved from June 3 to June 4. If it is not used as a bad weather make up day, the staff workday on June 5 will be moved to June 4.

In other action...

The Board approved:

- resolution giving administrators the ability to move ahead with a lease agreement for weight room equipment;
- declaring middle school football stands as surplus property and approved their sale;
- resolution for the energy management conservation;
- resolution and interlocal agreement with Region VIII ESC purchasing cooperative;
- recognizing Hunt County 4-H as an extracurricular activity and agreement for agents to have adjunct faculty status;
- considered relocation of victory bells at CMS and ACW to be moved to one location at the old ACW;
- considered conversion of former A. C. Williams Elementary School into a new central administration building. Board member Donna Tavener remarked that she would like to have a community facility committee to analyze facility needs across the district. The Board would then be able to prioritize areas of need.

ON BOARD

IN THE Superintendent's report...

Superintendent Cooper reported enrollment was up 15 students from this time last year. Currently campuses have almost a 97 percent attendance rate which is excellent, he said.

Curriculum Director Julia Robinson explained that the preliminary federal AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) report shows all campuses meeting AYP but the district as a whole missing AYP. Because of the high percentage of special education students in the district, the only way to meet AYP is to show required improvement.

In reporting news about the T3 and E-rate grant awards, Cooper said that no other district in the area can say that have the advances in technology that we will have in the near future. He added that staff development was the key in making a difference for the students.

The Board set the next regular meeting for October 19 at CES at 7 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS

(Mondays unless noted)

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

Board member comments...

Donna Tavener mentioned the Lady Tiger volleyball team which currently has a 27-3 record. "It's great to see them have such success," she said. She said she was pleased with the changed attitude she saw on the football field, even though we didn't win. She added that the band looked awesome.

Willie Blow commented that he was glad the Board meetings were going paperless, saving time and money for the district. He was glad to see administrators have a proactive way of addressing matters. He asked for an analysis of trends in the TAKS scores and a plan to address them.

Blow also asked parents who addressed the Board to read the district GKC policy regarding sex offenders to help them better understand the district process.

In the public comment portion of the meeting, two parents expressed concern about the district sex offender policy.

Personnel action...

Terresa Buckley was employed as a special ed teacher at CHS.

Going Green...



Board members Randy Starks and Ted Oats study their laptop displays as the Board meeting goes entirely paperless. The conversion will save lots of time and trees.