

ON BOARD

October 2008

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

“I don’t want to be your boss. I want to be your leader. This is not just a one-man show.”



Above, newly named CISD Superintendent Blake Cooper talks with Commerce businessman Wyman Williams at this month’s Board meeting.

Cooper named CISD chief administrator

Blake Cooper was unanimously named superintendent of Commerce ISD by the Board of Trustees during a special meeting October 27. Cooper will begin his official duties on January 5 but is expected to visit the district several times until then.

Mr. Cooper currently serves as assistant superintendent in Kaufman ISD. He was principal at Edgewood High School for five years and was a teacher and head football coach there for two years before being named principal. At Winnsboro, Garland, Sulphur Springs and Sheldon school districts he has served as a teacher/coach. He was also an instructor/coach at East Texas State University.

After the vote to name him superintendent, Mr. Cooper addressed the Board, administrators and the public saying he was excited about the opportunity to provide leadership to CISD. “There are so many good things going on as evidenced on the district Web site and through Mrs. (Julia) Robinson’s campus presentation tonight, but there is still work to do to get where we want to be,” he said. Addressing staff wearing a Tiger orange tie he said, “I don’t want to be your boss. I want to be your leader. This is not just a one-man show.”

Mr. Cooper was accompanied by his wife Tammy and his daughter Rebekah who will be a freshman at CHS next year. The Cooper’s also have two older sons.

ACW building project on track, on budget

Good weather has contributed significantly to smooth progress at the ACW construction site according to Claycomb Associates Architect Nathan Morgan.

The walls are going up on the classroom wings, parking lots are being finished so that materials can be stored on them and the HVAC system is in initial installation stages. Masonry will begin to go up in a couple of weeks.

Morgan stated that the construction firm of W. B. Kibler was staying on schedule and keeping the site clean. He also explained a significant change of roofing materials which would amount to \$54,000 in savings. The white roof will save energy and make it easier for workers to locate and repairs leaks compared to a conventional tar and gravel roof.

FIRST hearing notes Superior financial rating

CISD maintained its Superior rating by scoring an 80 on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). The rating is based on fiscal data from 2006-2007 and State law requires the district hold a public hearing to distribute the report, which it did October 27.

Carrie Alexander, executive director of operations and finance for the district, said factors out of district control such as enrollment and tax collection rate could make a Superior rating harder to achieve in upcoming years.

ON BOARD

'Power of One' celebrated at ACW

ACW Principal Julia Robinson welcomed the Board and public to her campus during the annual campus Board visit October 27.

She explained how students had studied HEROES, the power of one, and had started the year thinking about the characteristics of a hero.

Technology teacher Kelly Cotton showed a production which included highlights of the year thus far, featuring the 15 major events which have been staged. Over 330 parent conferences were held out of 350 students during the first report card pick up. The Fall Carnival, held October 25 at the school, cleared over \$3800 to be used for student field trips.

Robinson said the staff worked to help families and make the school a place that kids love to be.

BOARD MEETINGS

November 17	Mon.	CES
December 15	Mon.	CHS
January 20	Tues.	CMS
February 16	Mon.	CMS
March 23	Mon.	CMS
April 20	Mon.	CMS
May 18	Mon.	CMS
June 15	Mon.	CMS

In the Consent Agenda...the Board approved...

- Minutes of the special meetings of September 18, 22 and 24 and October 6, 2008;
- Financial statement and investment summary for September; and
- District and Campus Improvement Plans.

Board tables investment resolution

After a discussion about the district investment policy, the Board decided to table a resolution and seek further information about investments in line with policy. The Board is required to review its investment policy and investment strategies at least once a year.

Sex offender policy revisited

To ensure that practice follows policy, Board members voted to suspend sections in GKC Local policy regarding visits to extracurricular activities by sex offenders. Interim Superintendent Larry Johnson said he would like to consult with school attorneys prior to making a recommendation for Board approval.

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Enrollment is down 10 students from last month. Count now shows 1610 students enrolled.

The Board set its next regular meeting for Monday, November 17 at 7 p.m. at Commerce Elementary, continuing the annual showcase of campuses. The January 2009 Board meeting will be held Tuesday, January 20.

Board member Russell Armstrong said he would love to see the dual credit partnership revived with Texas A&M University-Commerce for next semester.

Board President Willie Blow expressed appreciation to staff for the details provided in the campus and districts plans. He added that the plans were in line with Board goals.

Teacher contract offered

CHS history teacher Randy Alexander was offered a probationary teacher/coach contract for the remainder of the school year. Alexander had been teaching on a long-term substitute basis prior to being accepted into an alternative certification program.