

ON BOARD

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

December 2013

District gets 'clean' audit report

Commerce ISD received an "unmodified" annual financial audit report from Rutherford, Taylor and Company, PC, of Greenville.

Auditor Mike Taylor said the district showed a fund balance of \$3,091,066, which was healthy for the size of the District. He also reported that 51 cents of every CISD dollar went to instruction.

Taylor said over \$290,000 of last year's budget went into fund balance.

Superintendent Blake Cooper said with declining enrollment this year "the amount we saved last year will help us this year."

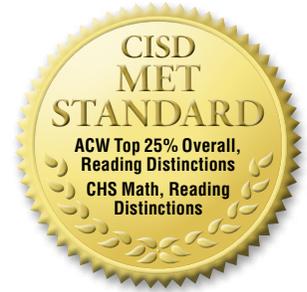
Although the accounting firm had no findings of consequence, Taylor pointed out that activity fund procedures could have more structure. He congratulated Walker and his staff for their performance.

Principal Patrick Just and his staff gave the annual Commerce Middle School presentation to the Board using the new Safari Montage Live system. The staff participated live from their campus. The use of SML will greatly expand teachers and students ability to interact with anyone with an iPad throughout the world. The possibilities are endless. CISD is one of only 16 school districts in Texas with the system and the smallest.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Charlie Alderman presented information about proposed master schedule revisions for CMS for next year. Teachers wanted more time for instruction and with the proposal they would have 85 minutes instead of 45 minutes for core subject matter. The amount of homework would go down because students have time to work problems in class. The only sacrifice for students would be one elective period.

The Board approved the purchase of an ag truck from Bonham Chrysler, a 2012 Dodge Ram 1 ton 4x4 truck.

The Board election will be held on May 10, 2014. Filing opens January 29 for places 4 and 5, currently held by Ted Oats and Willie Blow.



Superintendent Blake Cooper (left) and Board President Willie Blow thank ACW students Jalei Millsap, Michael McWhorter and Ryan Huyhn for leading the pledges to the flags at the board meeting.



ON BOARD

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

2014

Tuesday Jan. 21
Monday Feb. 17
Thursday Mar. 20
Monday April 21
Monday May 19
Monday June 16
Monday July 21

The CHS Lady Tigers volleyball team was recognized for qualifying for Area with a season record of 25-14. Coach Sarah Fielden's teams have qualified for the playoffs for the last five years.

In action, the Board:

- approved the minutes and financial statements from October,
- cast votes for John Sands for the Board of Directors of the Hunt County Appraisal District,
- cast votes for Thomas Darden for the Board of Directors of the Delta County Appraisal District,
- voted to sell properties at 1202 Locust, 804 Sycamore and 1603 Church St. but voted against the sale of 1118 Blackburn St.
- approved the District and Campus Improvement Plans

In the Superintendent's report...

Superintendent Blake Cooper reported enrollment of 150, down 79 students from this time last year.

He announced that 100 percent of the teachers met the Highly Qualified standard as set by NCLB.

He encouraged staff and the Board to participate in the Commerce Christmas parade on December 5 and the Winter Arts Festival on December 12.

He said the District would seek bids on a truck for the Ag department after the purchase of a used vehicle fell through.

Board Vice President Ted Oats said he "highly recommended" that the CHS drama department perform the play "Dr. Evil and the Basket of Kittens" again for the community. He noted that Shelbie Patterson was excellent in her role as the hunchback.

