

ON BOARD

January 2012

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

Gratitude expressed for Board service

Board members were recognized Tuesday during the regular January Board meeting for their service to CISD. After dinner, which was a specially prepared meal by Chartwells, Superintendent Blake Cooper presented each member with a CISD logo shirt and thanked them for the commitment to the students and staff.



"We are so fortunate to have a great board here in Commerce. Some of my fellow superintendents across the state are not blessed as we are to have a board that puts children's needs first," Cooper said.

Each member received gifts from the campuses. ACW and CMS presented books to school libraries in honor of each member.

The Board recognized the CHS Tiger Band members who were recent Area and State Qualifiers to the ATSSB All-State Band.

Area qualifiers included JoAnn Jang, Rachel Montgomery, Bernadette Peltier, Darien Woolsey, D.J. Armendariz, Marco Castaneda, John Naizer and

Sammy Elwell. All-State Jazz Band qualifiers were Jordan Bolin, William Bowes and Gabriel Castaneda. All-State Band members included Rachel Montgomery, Darien Woolsey, Marco Castaneda and John Naizer.

It was Gabriel Castaneda's fourth year to qualify for State and third year for Jordan Bolin to qualify. Rachel Montgomery qualified two years in ATSSB All-State and two years TMEA 4A All-State.

CHS presents 'Tiger Wars' to showcase campus

Always entertaining, CHS Principal Virdie Montgomery presented his annual campus report produced by CHS Media Specialist Jodee Anderson. The Board recognition theme of "Helping our Stars Shine" led them to a video production akin to Star Wars but named Tiger Wars. The special events and daily activities featured gave viewers a glimpse of life at CHS.

"School spirit is a must on a high school campus and we do things to motivate students and help them love to come to school. A great environment encourages students to do well in academics and our fantastic staff is committed to kids," Montgomery said.

CHS band students receiving recognition by the CISD Board were (top row left to right) John Naizer, Darien Woolsey, Director Monte Ashcraft; bottom row: Assistant Director Elizabeth Bialecki, Rachel Montgomery and JoAnn Jang. Other students recognized had schedule conflicts with soccer and other concerts and could not attend the meeting.



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Filing for school board opens Feb. 6

Places 6 and 7 are up for election on May 12. Filing begins Monday, Feb. 6 and ends March 5 at the Central Administration Building.

Places are currently held by Randy Starks and Medley Wilson.

Community Plaza grand opening Jan. 23

The kick off celebration for the Commerce Community Plaza will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, Jan. 23 at A. C. Williams Elementary School. Dignitaries from the Mexican Consulate in Dallas, Texas A&M University-Commerce and CISD will formally sign the agreement which will provide educational services for Hispanic families.

BOARD MEETINGS

6:15 • 3315 Washington

Monday February 20
Thursday March 22
Monday April 16
Monday May 21
Monday June 18
Monday July 18

Technology infrastructure in place for future demands

Director of Technology Al Shipp explained how recent updates in the technology infrastructure have increased the district's internal bandwidth 6500 times. The ability to provide the 10-Gb backbone came from maximizing e-E-rate funding opportunities and some clever horse trading, Shipp's specialty.

Twelve years ago, T-1 lines and routers were replaced with fiber throughout the district, Shipp explained, saving the district over \$14,000 each year. The rock-bottom \$144,000 price of the upgrade was negotiated by Shipp.

Instead of allowing an outside technology design firm to configure plans for the new A. C. Williams Elementary School, Shipp and his technology team did the planning which amounted to around \$50,000 in savings.

E-rate funding paid for a \$648,000 project at Commerce Elementary School in 2009. The building was recabled and switches were upgraded to match ACW capability — 1 GB to each desktop. The cost to the District was approximately \$65,000.

Last fall, CMS and CHS had total infrastructure updates as well. With \$377,000 of E-rate funds, the secondary schools were brought up to par with the elementary schools. A total of 24 miles of new cabling was installed at CHS over the Christmas break.

According to Shipp, infrastructure is key to providing more opportunities for technology use in schools. He explained that within the next few years, possibly within one year, a transformation to technology will occur and other districts won't be able to handle the bandwidth. Commerce ISD is set to provide for any need because capabilities have come from 1.54 MB to unlimited bandwidth, according to Shipp.

Other action...

- The Board approved a new EIA Local policy which defines end-of-course testing and how it affects the final course grade. Parents of current ninth-graders will soon be advised how the EOC test score will be figured into final grades.
- TASB Local Update 92 was also approved which gives permission to furlough staff and sets new parameters for a reduction in force.
- An interlocal agreement was approved for Direct Energy to provide electric and other services to the district for three years. The kilowatt price quoted cuts costs almost in half with a projected \$450,000 savings over the next three years. The district has participated in the TASB-run pool for 10 years.
- Board members also acted to extend Superintendent Blake Cooper's contract through June 2015.
- Enrollment is up one student over last year at this time. The 1588 count dropped from December's 1593.

