

ON BOARD

March 2009

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

Rain delays construction progress, on track now

Five days of rain essentially shut construction work down at the new A.C. Williams Elementary School site in early March. In his monthly report to the Board, Architect Nathan Morgan explained that the rain came at the worst possible time when the building wasn't completely in the dry.

Brick work on the exterior of the building is complete and roofing on the gym and dining room will be finished soon. Painting will begin soon in the classroom wings and canopies will go up along the bus drive.

The Board scheduled a walkthrough of the structure prior to the April Board meeting.

Walker named Director of Finance

John Walker was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees as the new CISD Director of Finance during the Board's regular meeting held Monday, March 23.

Born and reared here, Walker is coming back to Commerce after 20 years in school business auditing in Crockett, Texas, and six years as business manager of Crockett ISD, a 3A school district near Huntsville.

Walker and his wife, the former Renee Ripley, will be moving to Commerce along with their son Jacob, who will be a student at Texas A&M University-Commerce in the fall. Their elder son John Travis is a teacher in Crockett ISD.

"During the interview with Superintendent Cooper, I became excited about his vision for the District. The opportunity to contribute to making Commerce the district of choice is exciting," Walker said.

In other personnel action, resignations were received from Tray Saunders, Cassie Hobbs, Lorrie Murdock, Cadi Collins, Randy Alexander and Ted Burden. Anne Mills resigned as director of Tri County Special Education Cooperation. She is retiring.



John Walker

Lady Tigers make playoff history



The Lady Tigers Basketball Team was recognized by the Board for advancing to the playoffs for the first time since the 1989-1990 season. Team members shown left to right are April Neal, Raven Massey, Teal Martin, Madison Dykes, Sydney Chapman, Shayla Askew, Coach Le'Mone Ards, April Hines, Chelsea Love, Candice Hines and Yvonna Hines.



**Exemplary
Expectations**

ON BOARD

IN THE *Superintendent's report...*

Superintendent Cooper reported that enrollment remained steady over last year at this time. The count was 1594.

The Board appointed Board member Ted Oats to serve on the teacher of the year selection committee.

The Board set Monday, April 20 for the next regular-scheduled meeting.

BOARD MEETINGS

April 20	Mon.	CMS
May 18	Mon.	CMS
June 15	Mon.	CMS

District financial audit approved

Johnna McNeal of the accounting firm Malnory, McNeal & Company, PC explained the District received an overall unqualified opinion on the 2007-2008 financial audit, which is the best finding a district can receive.

She explained several findings and she encouraged the District to investigate and put internal controls into place as soon as possible to alleviate future problems. She explained that problems relating to the software conversion caused deficient payments to TRS. This problem has since been corrected and payments made to TRS for any arrears.

A "healthy" fund balance of over \$5 million and a construction project currently under budget combine to make an optimistic future for the district, according to McNeal.

Board members encouraged Superintendent Cooper to enlist the aid of McNeal as the new director of finance comes on board to ensure the books are in order and the district remains in compliance with law and in strong financial stead.

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

- Minutes of the regular meeting on February 16 , 2009 and the special meeting of February 23, 2009;
- Financial statement and investment summary for February 2009;
- 2009-2010 school calendar;
- request to submit TEA expedited waivers; and
- revisions to Policies DIA, FB, FFC and FFH (Local).



Tiger basketball players named academic all-district

Students named to the Academic All-District Basketball Team were honored by the Board. Shown left to right are Boys Coach Ron Dizer, Jurase Brown, Arin Henley, Yvonna Hines, Sydney Chapman, Madison Dykes, Candice Hines, April Neal and Girls Coach Le'Mone Ards.



Campus teachers of the year recognized

Selected by their peers as the top teachers on their campus this year are Stephanie Moreland, CES; Diane Stegall, ACW; Valerie Roberson, CMS; and Karri Anderson, CHS. The teachers will complete essays and be interviewed by a selection committee to be named Elementary or Secondary Teachers of the Year. Winners will be announced at the annual end-of-the-year picnic on June 5.