

ON BOARD

May 2009

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

New board member elected



Randy Starks took the oath of office as the newest member of the CISD Board of Trustees. Incumbent Medley Wilson was re-elected and will begin his second three-year term as a trustee. The Board voted to keep the current officers in their roles with Willie Blow, president; Bob McLeroy, vice president and J. Russell Armstrong, secretary.



Exemplary Expectations

District to outsource custodial services

The Board unanimously approved a one-year contract with GCA Services Group, Inc. for custodial cleaning services.

Superintendent Blake Cooper said that every current CISD custodian would be hired by the contractor. GCA will provide a full-time manager to act as a liaison between the company and the district. GCA will supply all equipment and cleaning supplies, and will conduct training. A retirement plan and health insurance will be offered to employees.

Cooper recommended GCA based on his experience with them in Kaufman ISD, where he brought them in as the custodial services contractor.

“The company was very complimentary of the shape of our buildings. They commented that we were operating a very lean organization,” Cooper said.

Cost of the service is pennies per square foot more at \$1.40 versus the district’s current \$1.38 per square foot.

Without the contract, the District would be looking at a major expense to replace worn equipment. The custodial services contractor will begin July 1.

Board approves weight-room equipment purchase

PowerLift was chosen to provide new weight-room equipment for the high school at a cost of \$66,624. Bids were reviewed from four companies.

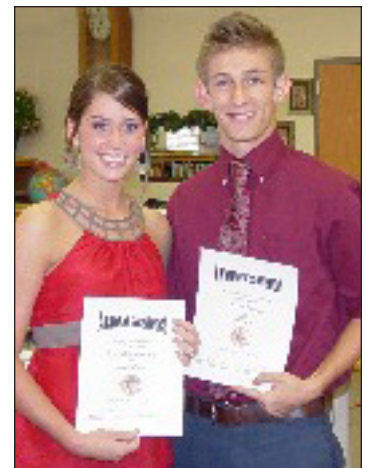
Athletic Director Scott Wells said the PowerLift quality is the highest available and their reputation for service is excellent. Placement and installation are included in the price.

Equipment now at the high school will be used in the middle school program.

In other action...

The Board approved:

- extension of contract with Guaranty Bond Bank as bank depository for two years
- TASB Policy Update 85 which included policies approving school vehicle use for non-school activities, allowing employees to use the sick leave pool for days lost due to the care of a family member with a catastrophic illness and other revisions due to changes in the federal FMLA, FERPA and ADA laws
- an agreement to add Jay Youngblood as legal counsel and
- dates for 2009-2010 regular school board meetings.



*2009
Salutarian Rachel Armstrong
and Valedictorian Jarred Turner*

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ON BOARD

Board discussion centers on sex offender and drug testing policies

Thoughtful discussion on two controversial issues was undertaken by the Board with several members expressing their personal views.

Last month, Cooper was asked to make sure the District was in compliance with the law on its current sex offender policy which prohibits parents or guardians from attending extracurricular events.

Legal counsel affirmed that policy was in compliance and no challenges have been made to the courts for policies of this nature.

Russell Armstrong said that student safety should be the utmost concern. Willie Blow said he likes to see parents attending events with their kids.

Cooper said last year the district was not following policy by allowing parents to attend events.

Members agreed that enforcement of any policy had challenges but several offered ideas. Cooper was asked to present a policy for approval in June.

Drug testing of students in extracurricular activities was also discussed. Cooper explained that the action serves as a deterrent to drug use. "It would not be a gotcha program. We would build into policy opportunities to get kids help," he said.

Donna Tavener said that since Greenville ISD was set to approve a drug testing policy perhaps we should have policy as well to avoid having students enroll here to avoid the drug testing policy there.

Willie Blow said he has always been against drug testing because "is it teaching what we want to teach?" he said.

Board members asked for more information and sample policies to review.

IN THE

Superintendent's report...

Superintendent Cooper reported enrollment at one less than last year — 1593.

Commencement ceremonies have been moved from the Social Sciences Auditorium to the A&M Commerce Field House to allow seating for all who want to attend. Graduates will get six tickets for the reserved seating area. Services will be held at 8 p.m., Friday, June 5.

CHS Principal Virdie Montgomery has been selected to attend the Raise Your Hand Texas Leadership Program at Harvard University this summer. Only 100 principals were selected from 350 candidates. All expenses will be paid by Raise Your Hand Texas.

Summer school will begin June 8 at CES and CMS. Credit recovery as well as classes for advancement such as Health or Communications Applications will be offered. ESL and TAKS tutorials will also be available.

In the Communities In Schools report, case managers Lois Stevens and Matt Wolcott report working with 84 active volunteers in April.

The bid for furnishings for the new A.C. Williams Elementary School came in \$200,000 below the original estimate. Furniture will begin arriving the second week of July and will be assembled and placed by the company.

New school start and stop times were presented.

CES 7:50 – 3:10

ACW 7:55 – 3:15

CMS 8:10 – 3:30

CHS. . . . 8:10 – 3:28

The new schedules should lessen the waiting time for students in the afternoons. In-town routes will be zoned to take students home directly from each school instead of picking up students at each school before the trip home. Benefits include age appropriate bussing, more instructional time at elementary campuses and all staff is teaching and working the same amount of time.

The Board set Tuesday, June 9 for a special budget study session at 6 p.m. in the Administration Building and the next regular meeting is set for 7 p.m., June 22 at the CMS library.

TAKS success growing

After looking at preliminary TAKS results, Curriculum Director Julia Robinson said a lot of progress had been made.

"A lot of hard work has been rewarded with these great TAKS scores," she said. No CISD school will be rated unacceptable and recognized status is very close for several schools.

Official results should be available this week.

Students honored for excellence

May is an exciting time for schools as many students and staff are honored for their hard work and perseverance. The CISD Board of Trustees recognized groups and individuals for outstanding performance at the May Board meeting.

Ag students bring home honors



Ag Mechanics Team Cody Bishop, Toby Humphries, Patrick Vickrey

The Agricultural Mechanics Team of Cody Bishop, Toby Humphries and Patrick Vickrey were cited for their 24-ft lowboy trailer which brought home blue ribbons from all shows, including fourth place at San Antonio and fifth place at Houston.

Students competing with livestock projects were successful at several shows. Ashley Kanaman showed her goat in Houston and brought home a \$1000 sale price. The goat was a Grand Champion at Roxton and Chisum Shows. Patrick Vickrey showed his heifer at Houston and won his class there. He was a Reserve Champion American Heifer at the Wofle City Show. Blake Madewell's steer was a Grand Champion at the Campbell Classic.

In Career Development Events, the team of Cody Bishop, Ashley Kanaman

and Patrick Vickrey won first in District 4 in livestock judging. Allison Adams, Sabrina Hines and Elizabeth Tarrant won first in floriculture.

Individual winners included Elizabeth Tarrant in extemporaneous speaking. Ashley Kanaman won second in senior prepared public speaking. Caryn McKinley placed first in junior prepared public speaking. Jeff Rich got third place in the talent competition.



Livestock show winners Ashley Kanaman, Patrick Vickrey, Blake Madewell



Cody Bishop, Ashley Kanaman, Patrick Vickrey, Elizabeth Tarrant placed in Career Development Events

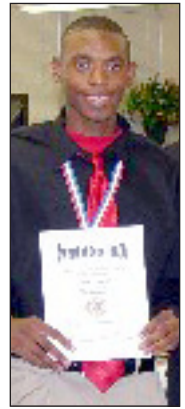


Caryn McKinley and Jeff Rich placed at Degree 4 Degree Check.

Qualifiers set for Austin trip



Sarah Hays and Superintendent Blake Cooper



Terrance Hawkins

Senior Sarah Hays will represent CHS at the UIL State Competition in headline writing, having placed third at region. Terrance Hawkins placed first at regionals in the 400-meter dash. He will be one of eight runners to compete in Austin for the state title.

Bands receive Superior rating

Commerce Middle School and Commerce High School received Superior ratings at the UIL Concert Contest in both concert and sight reading. CMS Director Stephen Netsch pointed out that this is the first time the CMS Band has received this high rating. CHS has received the top honor 12 times during the last 13 years.

Spring concerts are scheduled for the week of May 25. The CMS concert will be at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 26 at the CMS Auditorium. The CHS Band will hold their concert at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 28 at the CHS cafetorium.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian honored

CHS Principal Virdie Montgomery cited Valedictorian Jarred Turner and Salutatorian Rachel Armstrong not only for their exemplary academic excellence, but also for their high involvement in high school activities. *(Students are shown on page 1.)*