

ON BOARD

BY - THE - MINUTES REPORT

November 2013

Board passes Freeport exemption

In a move to give Commerce a competitive edge when recruiting businesses to locate here, the CISD Board of Trustees voted to exempt property taxes on goods that are detained in Texas for a short period of time (175 days). Called a Freeport exemption, it exempts businesses from being taxed on goods that are here for certain purposes, such as assembly, storage, manufacturing, processing or fabrication.

Executive Director of the Commerce Economic Development Council Bonnie Hunter named several school districts and cities in the area which are giving the Freeport exemption, including Sulphur Springs and Greenville ISDs and the city of Greenville. To bring businesses into Commerce, "We have to be competitive with the benefits offered," she said.

Once the Board approves the exemption, it can never be revoked, she explained.

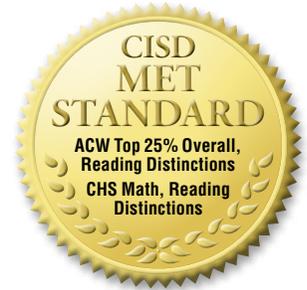
CISD Director of Finance John Walker said even though the state should make up the difference in lost revenue he didn't feel certain the District would recover the loss.

The revenue loss from the shutdown of Covidien should be approximately \$126,000 annually. The Freeport exemption will take away another \$65,000. However, if additional businesses are brought in, the District would still gain tax revenue from other properties such as the buildings, etc.

Passing the measure 6-1 with a two-year program where businesses reimburse the district for exempted taxes, most board members agreed the action was taken not to see what the District would lose but hopefully what the District would gain in additional taxes from non-Freeport exempt properties.



CEDC Executive Director Bonnie Hunter and Brent South, chief appraiser for the Hunt County Appraisal District, answered questions from the Board about the Freeport exemption.



"Tiger Joe" Hadaway (left) was recognized by Superintendent Blake Cooper for his commitment to building school spirit by ensuring the inflatable tunnel was transported and set up at every CHS Tiger football game.



Commerce Middle School student leaders Rockney Reid and David Hodge (center) led the pledges to the American and Texas flags during the November Board of Trustees meeting. Shown are Superintendent Cooper, Reid, Hodge and Board President Willie Blow.



ON BOARD

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

2013

Monday Dec. 16

2014

Tuesday Jan. 21

Monday Feb. 17

Thursday Mar. 20

Monday April 21

Monday May 19

Monday June 16

Monday July 21

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 1508, 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.



ACW Principal Deanna Hays presented her staff and showed a video about her school during her annual report to the Board. She said the mens' basketball team from Texas A&M University-Commerce were guests during the school's Red Ribbon Week where ACW students pledged to be drug free.