

ON BOARD

October 2012

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

CMS 'Amazing Race' highlighted in annual report

CMS Principal Patrick Just presented his annual campus report to the Board by showing a video of the "Amazing Race" team-building activity for his staff during the back-to-school inservice.

The event put his faculty into positions where they could identify with the needs of students. Just says he believes the activity reinforces his faculty's desire to serve all students in ways to meet their specific needs.

CHS drainage repairs to begin

Construction work will begin soon to improve the drainage around Commerce High School. The Board approved Jackson Construction to serve as construction manager agent of the \$75,000 project which is designed to alleviate water seepage into the lower levels of the CHS cafeteria during heavy rains.

Superintendent Blake Cooper said engineers proposed this initial step to reroute water in hopes that a more complex fix would not be needed. No interruptions are expected at the school as the work begins in the next few weeks.

Jackson Construction is also the contractor for the new equestrian center being built by Texas A&M University-Commerce.

In other action...

The Board:

- approved acceptance of high bid for property on CR 4311 to Ralph Allen of Greenville for \$3267.40 through the Hunt County Tax-Assessor-Collector office;
- approved a class size waiver request for two sections of kindergarten;
- appointed the School Health Advisory Committee including employees Jennifer Speulda, John Walker, Gene Weinkauff, Jana Draughn, Elymina Aake and parents Jonathan Cadwell, Tiffany White, Leigh Ann Gibson, Craig Jensen, Kennetta Harrison, Karla Medrano and Melanie Clayton; and
- approved TASB Local Update 95 affecting policies on complaints and grievances and personnel contracts.

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

2012

Thursday . . November 15

Monday . . . December 17



Campus principals were recognized by the Board of Trustees during the October regular meeting. Governor Rick Perry declared this month as Principals Month encouraging Texans to recognize the important role principals play in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

Left to right: Superintendent Blake Cooper, CHS Principal Adam Rupert, CES Principal Jeanne Lay, CMS Principal Patrick Just and ACW Principal Deanna Hays.

Superintendent's report...

Superintendent Blake Cooper reported enrollment for September at 1576, up 11 students from last month but down 17 students from this time last year.

The Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony and Luncheon was held Friday, October 19 at the Central Administration Building. Honored this year were former administrators Norris Tanton (deceased), Sue Sheppard and Buddy Jones.

Mr. Cooper shared information about the **Community Schools Transformation Alliance** formed by area superintendents as a networking group to work for school improvement.

The **iGive for iPad luncheon** was held honoring the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation in gratitude for their donations of over \$36,000 going to purchase iPads for CHS students. CHS teachers and students showed Foundation members how iPads were being used at the school.

The **\$50,000 Technology Lending Program Grant**, which was awarded to the district, will be used along with Instructional Materials Allotment funds to provide iPads to CHS students who did not purchase their own device. The lending devices will be checked out and returned before the end of each semester.

The **Winter Arts Festival** will be held to showcase the talents of students in visual and performing arts. The event will be held at 5:30 p.m, December 13 at Commerce High School.

Curriculum Director Julia Robinson explained that the district would again apply for a **bilingual waiver**, as we have done the last three years. Only one grade at Commerce Elementary School is over the 20 students required for adding a bilingual teacher.

Principals' Reports

During the principal report section, Jeanne Lay explained how her students are beginning to take the **STAR test** which measures early literacy in kindergarten and reading comprehension in first and second grades. The results of the state-mandated tests help teachers target students who are performing below grade level for additional help and also identify other students who need challenging enrichment activities.

Deanna Hays, ACW principal, explained that she opens her school's **computer lab** at 7 a.m. each morning and challenges students to "prove the state of Texas wrong" by improving their skills enough to pass the state assessments. Many students are attending and she is expecting the students to benefit enormously.

She is continuing the **PRIDE program** to encourage good behavior. PRIDE rallies at the end of each six weeks are fun activities that students earn. The most recent rally featured Texas A&M University-Commerce men's basketball players who interacted with students and played a scrimmage against faculty.

CMS Principal Patrick Just said the **Robotics team** competed in the BEST Robotics competition at the university. Students worked in teams using math, science and technology skills to compete against other middle and high school teams in building a functional robot.

Adam Rupert, CHS principal, said the high school had a **successful homecoming** week culminating in the announcement of the homecoming king and queen Friday night. He recognized Glenda Henderson for her work to see the event upheld school tradition recognizing student royalty selections.

The administration's commitment to consistent handling of discipline has resulted in fewer incidents, Rupert said. He complimented his assistant principal, Rose Gardner, for her communication with students and parents.