

ON BOARD

September 2011

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



*Hall of Honor Luncheon
and Induction Ceremony*

*Noon, Friday,
October 7,*

*CISD Administration
Building*

Honorees

Alvis Alderman

Ann Champion

Bill Fuhrmeister

Dr. Mary Hendrix

Loretta Kibler

Janet Peek

*Ticket are \$15 and
are available through
September 30 at the CISD
Administration Building*



District joins finance litigation

Commerce ISD board members voted to join other districts throughout Texas in legal action against the State's school finance system. The resolution passed by the Board authorizes an expenditure of \$1 per WADA (weighted average daily attendance) or approximately \$2100 to contribute to The Equity Center's litigation.

Superintendent Blake Cooper said it was a foregone conclusion that a lawsuit would eventually be brought against the state for the inequitable system.

"Until our state figures out that one of our kids is worth as much as a kid in Lovejoy, we will continue to have problems with school finance," he said.

The lawsuit will attack the legislature's actions on four fronts—equity for both students and taxpayers, arbitrary fund distribution scheme, adequacy and that the tax operates as a state property tax.

Board recognizes staff in resolution

Board President Willie Blow recognized the contributions of staff during tough economic times and asked Secretary Randy Starks to read a resolution drafted to publicly recognize and thank district employees. The text of the resolution is included below in its entirety.

The CISD Board of Trustees would like to publicly thank Superintendent Blake Cooper and the entire CISD staff for their service to the district during this past year of financial uncertainties within the State and particularly within the Commerce Independent School District.

Mr. Cooper's passion for the children, parents and employees of the Commerce Independent School District has been manifested in his leadership in raising the level of community awareness of school district funding, and in the hard decisions that a superintendent has to make in times of a state-wide school funding budget crisis. Mr. Cooper and the entire CISD team are truly dedicated to keeping the most important people, the students, excelling at every level.

Commerce is fortunate to have a dedicated team of administrators, teachers, and support staff who embody the spirit of our district mission: "In partnership with families and community, CISD will provide all students an exemplary education, preparing them to be successful, productive citizens."

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AYP results in

Reporting on one of three ways outside entities measure the district's success, Director of Curriculum Julia Robinson said that the NCLB (No Child Left Behind) measure of Adequate Yearly Progress shows a system that is complicated and hard to understand.

With three campuses making AYP, CMS and the District were left with the missed AYP distinction. Campus teams are working to address areas of math and science and other areas of concern, according to Mrs. Robinson.

BOARD MEETINGS

6:15 • 3315 Washington

Monday October 24

Thursday November 17

Thursday December 15

2012

Tuesday January 17

Monday February 20

Thursday March 22

Monday April 16

Monday May 21

Monday June 18

Monday July 18

In other action...

The Board approved:

- Declaring obsolete computer equipment as surplus property so that it can be disposed of properly;
- Suspending portions of Local Policy EIE that requires fifth and eighth graders to pass the state-mandated assessment to be promoted to the next grade;
- Nomination of Jim Bob Latham as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Hunt County Appraisal District;
- Agreement with Hunt County Sheriff for canine detection services;
- Acceptance of high bid for resale property at 2315 Washington St.

Voting act requires more machines

Mr. Cooper explained that additional voting machines were required because of Senate Bill 100. The Bill was in response to the federal law which allows additional time for military and overseas votes to arrive via mail. Senate Bill 100 moves the runoff primary election to May conflicting with time frame required for voting machine use in the May general election.

The board discussed the County's plan to purchase additional machines and spread the cost among the voting entities. The up-front cost per entity would be \$9000 and the county would remain the election administrator.

The Board will have an opportunity to formally vote on the proposal in October.

Stadium lease in negotiation

Mr. Cooper led a discussion on future use of Texas A&M University-Commerce Memorial Stadium. The five-year lease is up and the district was offered the same terms for renewal including a \$30,000 annual usage fee. The Board discussed that the previous lease included \$50,000 contribution for new turf. Mr. Blow said the Board had expected the cost for the turf would be removed after the five-year period. The current lease does not include the cost of security. The Board agreed with Mr. Cooper that the District was not in favor of that type of lease again and he would work to negotiate a new contract.

Informational reports....

- Enrollment for the school year is seven students down from the same period last year. At 1607, the count is 57 students higher than were counted on the first day of school.
- The District will host the TASB Legislative and Legal Update at the Administration Building November 10. School board members and superintendents from the area will attend.
- The next Board meeting was moved to October 24 to avoid a conflict. CES will present their annual campus report.