

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD regular school board meeting on April 23.

Construction Updates

The board approved a guaranteed maximum price of \$24.1 million for Phase II construction at Canyon High School. The entire \$40 million project is funded through Bond 2008. This portion of the contract with Baird Williams Construction will cover the construction of two new gyms, locker rooms, a classroom building, and new administrative wing.

There are 18 major construction projects ongoing in the school district. Comal ISD broke ground today on the elementary school in Avery Park in New Braunfels. It is one of two “extra” schools being built out of Bond 2005 because of strong fiscal management of that bond issue.

Johnson Ranch and Oak Creek elementary schools are on schedule to open to students in August. Construction continues at Rahe Bulverde elementary school and that project is on schedule to open in January 2010.

Canyon High’s expansion project is on schedule. Several pieces of the project (ie, stadium upgrades, spring field house, ag facility expansion, swimming pool) will be completed by the time school resumes in August.

Smithson Valley High’s expansion project is kicking off now. The ag facility expansion will be completed, along with parking lot upgrades, and a new swimming pool by early Fall.

To learn more about all the bond projects visit http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond_2005_Status.asp or http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond_2008_Status.asp.

Walker Nominated for Texas Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent, was nominated by the school board for the Texas Association of School Boards’ Texas Superintendent of the Year Award.

Class Rank Point Structure Changes

The school board approved an addendum to the 2009-10 high school course guide. The change clearly articulates the district’s expectations with regard to AP courses and AP exams, along with a clarification with regard to class rank points. *continued on page 2*

Highlights of the changes include: Students enrolled in an AP course are required to take the corresponding AP exam in order to meet the requirements of the course AND earn the class rank points. High school students taking AP classes that do not take the exam will earn the class rank points as designated for the level II courses. The Class Rank Charts will be included in the course guide addendum online as soon as possible. In addition, beginning with the 2009-10 freshman class, preAP classes will be weighted the same as general education courses.

Current high school students will use one chart and a separate grade point conversion table will be used starting with the incoming freshman class of 2009-10. For current students, the major changes reflect a weight for AP courses when the exam is taken; a second level reflecting another weight for dual credit/preAP courses; and, a third level for AP courses (when the exam is not taken) being weighted the same as general education classes.

The chart beginning with the 2009-10 freshman class reflects three levels — Level 1 will be for AP/Dual Credit courses; Level 2 will be for PreAP/General Education courses; and, Level 3 will be for the modified curriculum.

In addition, the costs of each AP exam are going to be shared by the student and district. AP testing fees are due by the fifth week of the course. A fee structure, depending on the number of exams to be taken, was established and will be in the addendum.

Recognition

Numerous students from Smithson Valley High, Canyon Lake High, Specht, Rahe Bulverde, and Timberwood Park elementary schools, Spring Branch Middle, and Smithson Valley Middle were honored for their achievements and success at the state level in various contests and competitions. For a list of the honorees visit http://www.boardbook.org/apps/bbv2/public/detail_wrapper.cfm?MeetingKey=MjAwMjk5MjM%3D and look under Recognition.

The next regular meeting of the board of trustees is Thursday, May 21, beginning at 6 pm in the board room of the Support Services Center.