

## **Board of Trustees**

### **August 24, 2011**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, August 24. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 22 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

#### **Recognition**

Chamaya Turner, junior at Canyon High School, was recognized for her outstanding performance in the State UIL Track and Field meet in May. She earned a gold medal in discus for throwing 162-feet, 8-inches and a silver medal in shot put for a 42-foot, 3.75-inch distance.

Principals of the five Texas Education Agency (TEA) exemplary campuses: Garden Ridge Elementary, Hoffmann Lane Elementary, Arlon Seay Elementary, Specht Elementary and Timberwood Park Elementary and 12 recognized campuses: Bill Brown Elementary, Clear Spring Elementary, Freiheit Elementary, Goodwin Frazier Elementary, Johnson Ranch Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Oak Creek Elementary, Rahe Bulverde Elementary, Rebecca Creek Elementary, Church Hill Middle School, Smithson Valley Middle School and Smithson Valley High School were honored with plaques to display in their schools.

#### **Proposed 2011-12 Budget**

Debra George, chief financial officer, presented the proposed budget for 2011-12 prior to the public hearing. The budget is approximately \$3.2 million smaller than last year's budget, though it supports instructional services for an additional 575 students. For the first time since 1949, the state failed to fund enrollment growth and as a result Comal ISD will receive \$142 less per weighted student. The \$137 million operations budget includes a \$10.9 million tab for the state of Texas, for costs associated with Chapter 41, \$71 million for instruction, nearly \$8 million for transportation and \$15.5 million for maintenance and operations. The budget reflects a decrease in five professional positions and 14 paraprofessional and auxiliary staff (\$1.97 million), a reduction in utilities costs (\$600,000), capital projects (\$640,000) and state programs (\$40,000). Administration is recommending an interest and sinking (I&S) rate of 39 cents per \$100 valuation, an increase of 6 cents over last year's tax rate, and a maintenance and operations rate (M&O) of \$1.04 per \$100 valuation, unchanged from last year. The proposed increase in the I&S tax rate is necessary to meet the district's bond payoff schedule. The school board will vote on the tax rate at the September 22 meeting. A copy of the report is available at: [http://www.comalisd.org/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/PDF/Board\\_Reports/BudgetPP082411.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/BudgetPP082411.pdf)

No one spoke at the public hearing and the school board approved the budget on a 6-1 vote.

#### **2011-12 Budget Amendments**

The school board, on a 6-1 vote, approved the transfer of \$30.3 million from the district's general fund balance to a capital fund to build and equip an elementary school off FM 306 near Sattler on land the district already owns. The board also approved a resolution permitting administration to reimburse itself for this transfer with future bond funds.



# BOARD REPORT

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## **Appoint Delegate to TASB Assembly/Endorse Region XIII TASB Candidate**

The school board appointed Stephen Smith and Dale Dehlin to serve as a delegate and alternate, respectively, to represent the district at the Texas Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly in Austin on Oct. 1. The board voted to endorse incumbent Desiree Cornelius-Fischer from Manor as the Region XIII, Position B candidate on the TASB Board of Directors.

## **Naming New Elementary School in Indian Springs Subdivision**

The school board unanimously approved naming the elementary school in the Indian Springs subdivision in northern Bexar County, Indian Springs Elementary School.

## **Report on New Teacher Mentor Program**

The school board heard a report about the district's new teacher mentor program, "Buds in Bloom," by Linda Dreibrodt, curriculum and instruction coordinator and program adviser. Comal ISD retains teachers new to the classroom at much better rates than the state average. After the first year of teaching, an estimated 19 percent of teachers leave the profession in Texas, with half of them leaving after the fifth year. In Comal ISD, an estimated 9 percent of first-year teachers leave the district and 27 percent leave after four years.

The three primary concerns of Comal ISD beginning teachers are: time management, parent communication, and classroom management. And the district's veteran and mentor teachers spend time with new teachers throughout the year helping them build skills and strategies to take on those three challenges.

The report is located at this link: [http://www.comalisd.org/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/PDF/Board\\_Reports/COMAL%20NT%20PRESENTATION.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/COMAL%20NT%20PRESENTATION.pdf)

## **Report on Adequate Yearly Progress**

Tammy Lind, director of staff development and accountability, explained the federal No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results and their implications for future ratings.

The report is located at this link: [http://www.comalisd.org/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/PDF/Board\\_Reports/2011-AYP\\_Fed\\_Cap.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/2011-AYP_Fed_Cap.pdf)

## **Bond 2008 Construction Report**

The work on Comal ISD's Bond 2008 is wrapping up as Kinder Ranch Elementary opened its doors and construction continues on Indian Springs Elementary, according to Thomas Bloxham, assistant superintendent for support services. In his report to the school board, Bloxham noted that \$2.7 million in renovations to the district's Hill Country transportation hub is complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the branch of Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union inside Smithson Valley High School will finalize the major renovations that have taken place at the school, he said, which also include a commercial kitchen for the school's culinary arts program.

The report is located at this link: [http://www.comalisd.org/Bond\\_Information/PDF/Construction\\_Update/Const\\_Update\\_082011.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/Bond_Information/PDF/Construction_Update/Const_Update_082011.pdf)