

Board of Trustees

Dec. 16, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Dec. 16. The next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Recognition

Head coach Jonathan Jarrett's Smithson Valley High boys' cross-country team was recognized for finishing in second place at the UIL State Class 4A meet. Additionally, Smithson Valley High's Anna Cozart and Shelby Polasek, and Canyon Lake High's Ashtin Caddell, were recognized for qualifying for the meet individually. All three finished in the top 30 overall out of more than 100 runners. Canyon Lake High's cross-country coach is Melissa Lynch.

Heartfelt thanks also went out to music teacher Beth Odell and Michelle Garcia's fourth-grade students at Freiheit Elementary for their performance of several holiday songs to get everyone in a festive spirit.

Boundaries, Demographics and Enrollment Projection Report

Attendance zone changes for some families living on the southwest side of the school district will take place in 2011 and 2012 depending upon where they live.

In August 2011, Kinder Ranch Elementary will open off Kinder Parkway near the Borgfeld and Bulverde road intersection. It will pull students from the Specht and Timberwood Park elementary school attendance zones. Kinder Ranch students are proposed to feed into Spring Branch Middle.

In August 2012, Indian Springs Elementary will open off of Bulverde Rd. on the eastside of Hwy 281 in Bexar County. It will pull students from Johnson Ranch Elementary which will allow the district to move some Bill Brown Elementary students to Johnson Ranch.

Two public meetings were held in mid-November to outline the proposed changes and receive public feedback. As a result, some adjustments have been made and the final proposed attendance zone changes are reflected here and will be on the website at http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/Maps.asp.

The school board will take action on the proposed boundaries at its Jan. 27 meeting.

A recent enrollment projection report predicted Comal ISD's growth to increase at an approximate 5-percent rate over the next 10 years. Comal ISD's current enrollment is 17,134. It is predicted to grow to nearly 26,000 students by 2020. Over the next five years, the district is projected to add almost 3,500 students.

A demographic study recently completed in Comal ISD stresses that the Central Texas economy is improving much faster than the national rate and that San Antonio/Austin is one of the strongest employment areas in the country. The report said there are more than 23,000 future home lots available in Comal ISD.

To view the housing and enrollment forecast report go to http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/Know_Your_District.asp.

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Middle School Curriculum Update

During the semester, the Comal ISD school board has been discussing and reviewing the administration's plan to transition to the College and Career Ready Curriculum (CCRC) at the middle school level. Public meetings have been held for parents, and teachers and administrators have been meeting to decide how best to implement the CCRC. The goal is to make sure all students are college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school. Comal ISD will implement Pre-AP strategies in all core content in grades 6 – 8 beginning in 2011-12 in science and social studies. Math and English Language Arts (ELA) will be phased in over a three-year period from 2011-2014.

Two school board members, David Spencer and David Drastata, asked that the school board discuss the topic at its December meeting and vote to approve or disapprove a policy requiring the administration to retain both a regular studies and advanced academics curriculum in middle school. After some discussion, the board voted 5 to 2 to disapprove such a policy.

Sale of District Owned Residential Property

The board voted to approve the sale of district owned residential property located at 281 Cannan Rd. in Canyon Lake. The property was part of land purchased off of FM 306 for a future elementary school but the residential portion is separate and is not needed for purposes of building a school. The board accepted the bid of \$198,881.

Technology Update

Sandra Shelton, executive director of technology, presented an update on Comal ISD's technology initiative. To view the report visit http://www.comalisd.org/Curriculum_Instruction/.