

December 15, 2011

board report



The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011. The next regular board meeting will be Thursday, January 26 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Recognition

Gold Performance Acknowledgement (GPA) awards from TEA for outstanding academic performance in 2011 to the following campuses: Arlon Seay Elementary, Bill Brown Elementary, Clear Spring Elementary, Freiheit Elementary, Garden Ridge Elementary, Goodwin Frazier Elementary, Hoffmann Lane Elementary, Johnson Ranch Elementary, Morningside Elementary, Oak Creek Elementary, Rahe Bulverde Elementary, Rebecca Creek Elementary, Specht Elementary, Timberwood Park Elementary, Canyon Middle School, Church Hill Middle School, Mountain Valley Middle School, Smithson Valley Middle School, Spring Branch Middle School, Canyon High School, Canyon Lake High School, Smithson Valley High School.

Canyon High School for earning the **2011 College Readiness Award** from the Texas ACT Council.

Recognition of **Goodwin Frazier holiday music performance**: Gratitude to the students of Goodwin Frazier for their performance of holiday songs to get everyone in a festive spirit.

New Single-Member District Trustee Election Boundaries

The school board voted 6-0 to approved the new boundaries of single-member school board districts. From here, the plan will be shipped to the U.S. Department of Justice for pre-clearance for the May 2012 elections.

The boundary lines determine the voters of each of the seven single-member district positions on the school board. Seats for District 1, 2 and 5, currently held by Stephen Smith, David Drastata and Carol Keller, respectively, are up for election in May 2012. The pre-clearance submission includes a request to change the polling places for Districts 1 and 2 and to keep the polling place for District 5 at Bulverde City Hall. District 1 will be at Goodwin Frazier Elementary School and District 2 will be at Hoffmann Lane Elementary School. Formerly the polling location was Faith United Church of Christ for District 1 and Community Resource & Recreation Center in Canyon Lake for District 2. Reasons for changing polling locations are voter convenience or the locations no longer sit within the boundaries of the new district. Polling place is for Election Day only; early voting locations will not change. No one spoke during the public hearing portion of the process.

Audit Report for 2010-11

The school board heard an “unqualified opinion” from Padgett Stratemann, the district’s auditor, for the year ended Aug. 31, 2011. An “unqualified opinion” means



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the auditors found no issues with the district's finances that merit mention. Some of the audit's highlights include:

- Ending fund balance is \$31.6 million, down \$24.7 million primarily due to the transfer of funds for construction activity;
- Cost of district programs increased by nearly 8 percent from last year, primarily due to salary increases, rising interest costs and an increase in payments to the state under the state's education finance mandates (Chapter 41); and
- Governmental activities net assets totaled \$18.8 million.

Consent Agenda

The school board voted 6-0 to approve all of the items on the consent agenda, which include: certification of 2011 tax levy; district and campus improvement plans; Local Policy EIA, EIAB, CDA, CV, DFBB, EFAA, FFH, FO, DBB, DECB and FFAA.

Policies are posted on the district website at:

<http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/046902/>

Technology Report

Sandra Shelton, chief technology officer, updated the school board on the district's expanding staff development offerings through videoconferencing, called Tech2U.

With videoconferencing via the Cube, training covers almost any curriculum with the technology embedded. Training goes deeper than assisting teachers with learning new software programs; they are able to see how the technology is used in their classrooms.

End of Course Exams

Dr. Jodi Duron, assistant superintendent for academics and student services, continued the conversation about the new state assessment, how districts plan to administer it, its implications for graduation requirements and challenges and questions that remain. Her report is posted on the website: http://www.comalisd.org/Board_Of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/Report-EOC-15pct-Board-Presentation-Dec-2011.pdf

Board Member Continuing Education

Frank Baker, president of the school board, verified each trustee's continuing education credits. They are: Baker, 22.75 hours; Dale Dehlin, 18.50 hours; David Drastata, 20.50 hours; Carol Keller, 13.25 hours; Stephen Smith, 20.75 hours; David Spencer, 23.25 hours; and Bill Swint, 14.50 hours.

Settlement Offer from O'Haver Construction Company

Following an executive session, the school board unanimously approved authorizing Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent, to accept the settlement offer from O'Haver Construction Co., regarding Canyon Lake High School.