

Board of Trustees  
Dec. 17, 2009  
MEETING SUMMARY

**Thank you to Morningside Elementary students for starting the December meeting with a wonderful holiday program!**



### **Board honors 21 campuses, district for state gold performance awards**

During the Dec. 17 board meeting, the board of trustees recognized the district and 21 campuses for receiving 66 Gold Performance Acknowledgement (GPA) awards. The awards were awarded by the Texas Education Agency for outstanding academic performance in 2009. There are different categories at the district and campus levels where the acknowledgements are given based on high performance and/or improvement in areas critical to the academic success of students. In 2008, Comal ISD received 47 GPAs.

### **Annual Audit Report**

The Texas Education Agency requires an annual independent audit be performed by an auditor, and the board approved the audit report presented by Comal ISD's auditors.

The district received an unqualified opinion, which means the financial statements are fairly presented and free of material misstatements. The audit report stated the district is financially sound. Revenues have increased nine percent since 2008-2009. Expenses have also increased about six percent since last year, allowing three percent of the general fund to be added to the general fund balance (savings account), which the auditors said is a positive trend happening in the district's financials the last few years. The extra three percent, or \$1.1 million, brought the general fund balance up to \$53.1 million.

### **2010-11, 2011-12 academic calendars approved**

The district has adopted the practice of approving academic calendars for two consecutive academic calendar years, and the board approved the calendars for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.

Several committees including DEIC, administration, and the superintendent's Support Advisory and Teacher Advisory committees review the calendars and provide input before the calendars are presented to the board. The committees also worked to align holidays and school start dates with surrounding

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school districts, universities and colleges.

On the 2010-11 and 2011-12 calendars, the school start dates are Monday, Aug. 23, 2010 and Monday, Aug. 22, 2011. The spring break holiday was also moved up a week. In 2011, spring break will be from March 14-18, and in 2012, spring break will be from March 12-16.

The will be available on the district website at [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org) soon.

### **Board approves textbook adoption committee**

In accordance with Board Policy EFAA (Local), administration recommended and the board approved to appoint a local textbook selection committee.

The committee consists of at least five members and no more members than a number equal to the number of campuses in the district. This textbook adoption is for English Language Arts (ELA) for elementary and secondary schools.

### **Board approves graduation plans, class rank structure, course guide changes**

After several months of discussion and input from various committees and the board, the board approved new graduation plans, a new class rank structure, and course guide changes.

With the passage of House Bill 3 (HB 3), new graduation requirements took effect on Sept. 1, 2009 allowing local school districts to have the option to adopt additional graduation requirements that go beyond the state requirements for graduation. As recommended by administration, the board approved to no longer require students to take Health or Technology Applications and reduce required PE credits from 1.5 credits to 1 credit starting with the freshman class of 2011-12, per HB 3. The board also approved to retain current graduation requirements for all students who enter high school prior to 2011; however, as allowed by HB 3, these students are also now allowed four credits for Athletics/PE.

Middle and High School Course Guides are updated annually based on new/revised course offerings as well as any new local, state, and federal guidelines (i.e. HB 3). In addition to course guide updates, all Pre-AP courses have been reviewed to ensure each identified course is part of a vertically aligned series of courses that lead to a specific AP course.

Required and optional courses recommended by the administration have been carefully thought out to include staffing considerations, college readiness efforts, legislative mandates/changes, and revision of TEKS, which will be included in the new course guides.

One change made at the middle school level includes allowing next year's eighth graders to take PE for high school credit with the grade being factored into the student's high school GPA. The seventh grade Career Connections course will be changed to Exploring Careers and will no longer yield a high school credit. Although it will no longer count for a high school credit, this course

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is a high priority because it's the beginning of high school and college planning.

The updated course guides for next school year will be published and available for view in January, and selections will take place in February.

To bring equity into the rank structure, the board also approved a new method for calculating rank to be implemented with students entering high school as freshmen in 2011-2012. The new model uses a multiplier that recognizes effort based on the level of difficulty of a course. The revised board policy EIC (local) will be available soon at [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org).

### **Board approves amendment to price for proposed school site**

The board approved the proposed contract amendment to add \$16,000 to the purchase price of a proposed school site located .3 miles west of IH 35 with about 1,300 feet of frontage along the south side of FM 2252 and to extend closing to Feb. 10, 2010.

The site has two existing structures containing asbestos materials, and the costs for removal of asbestos materials under private ownership rules are considerably less than for public entities. The sellers have agreed to remove the asbestos structures prior to conveying the property for actual costs of \$16,000 amending the purchase contract to the amount of about \$1.4 million.

### **Proposed \$4.5 million earnest money contract approved**

The board approved proposed earnest money contract in the amount of \$4.5 million to purchase two properties located on either side of the future Kinder Parkway off of Borgfeld Road in the Bulverde area.

One property is a 30-acre tract with an intended use as a middle school site. The other property is a 42-acre tract, which is contiguous to CISD's existing 38-acre tract, increasing the size of the property to 80 acres with an intended use as a high school site. The total proposed acquisition is 72 acres. The purchase price includes paved parkway access, all utility infrastructures to the site, utility Equivalent Dwelling Unit assignment costs and surveying.