

## **Board of Trustees**

**Feb. 24, 2011**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Feb. 24. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 31 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

#### **Donation, Smithson Valley High School Athletic Booster Club**

The board accepted, in a 5-2 vote, a donation of a scoreboard, valued at \$400,000 by the SVHS Booster Club. Byron Crutcher, SVHS Athletic Booster Club vice-president, presented the proposal to the school board, assuring them that the athletic booster club would maintain the scoreboard and estimated it would be operational in six weeks. Mr. Crutcher said the scoreboard is expected to benefit students by providing higher scholarship amounts; developing increased media arts career path training and opportunities; encouraging community advertising and involvement; attracting playoff games to generate further revenue; and promoting booster club membership.

#### **Recognition**

Seven campuses—Canyon Lake High School, Canyon Middle School, Comal Elementary School (currently Garden Ridge Elementary School), Hoffmann Lane Elementary School, Rebecca Creek Elementary School, Smithson Valley Middle School and Spring Branch Middle School—have earned spots on the National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA) 2010 Higher Performing Schools List for Texas.

The Canyon High School Band Boosters presented Band Director Jason Adam with a \$20,000 check for the band programs at Church Hill Middle School, Canyon Middle School and Canyon High School.

#### **Trustee Election, May 14, 2011**

The school board unanimously approved calling an election for May 14 to elect candidates to single-member district 3, currently held by Frank Baker and single-member district 4, currently held by Donna Holmes. Early voting will be May 2 through May 10, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the following exceptions: on May 4 and May 9, the hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on May 7 the hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The main early voting location is the Comal County Temporary Elections Office at 345 Landa Street in New Braunfels. Election Day locations will be the Fischer Community Center, the Spring Branch Baptist Church and the Canyon Lake Golf and Country Club. Because the Comal County Courthouse is undergoing extensive renovations, the early voting location has been moved to a temporary location at 345 Landa Street. And on Election Day in single-member district 3, the Spring Branch Baptist Church will be used in lieu of the Spring Branch Volunteer Fire Department. This change was made at the request of voters. The district has submitted a pre-clearance request to the U.S. Department of Justice.

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### **TASB Policy Update 89**

Armando Maese, director of legal services, highlighted some of the proposed board policy changes in the first reading of the latest Policy Update. The board will vote on changes at the March 31 meeting.

### **Energy Management Report**

Thomas Bloxham, assistant superintendent for support services, presented the district's energy management guidelines, saying that with the added square footage of an additional four new elementary schools over the past two years, the utility bills have not increased. The administrative regulation supports Board Policy CL (LEGAL) and serves as a guideline to reduce energy costs for CISD.

### **Construction Report**

Bloxham presented the latest construction update of Bond 2008, highlighting Canyon High School, Smithson Valley High School, Kinder Ranch Elementary School and the elementary school site at Indian Springs.

The report is available at: [http://www.comalisd.org/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/Board\\_Reports.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/Board_Reports.asp)

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

The School Board reviewed a revised draft document of possible cost savings options for the 2011-12 budget to address an estimated \$16.8 million shortfall. The proposal includes dedicating about \$3 million of the district's \$57 million fund balance to preserve teachers' positions that were slated to be eliminated. Dr. Walker told the board that the combination of attrition, the added fund balance and smaller class sizes should restore many of the teaching positions. He said, however, that budget shortfall projections are based on a best-case scenario and that he has heard the district's projected shortfall could be as much as \$32 million. If that is the case, he said, district administration would be forced to go back and eliminate as many as 400 teaching positions under a financial emergency, reduction-in-force policy. The board applauded administration's financial competence in building a healthy fund balance, saying that Comal ISD is in a unique position compared to many other districts. Administration will continue revising the possible cost-saving options and the board is expected to vote on the teaching contracts at the March 31 regular meeting.