

## Board of Trustees

Feb. 25, 2010

### MEETING SUMMARY

*The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.*

#### **Board honors principals, Canyon High band booster**

Every year for the last 10 years, the National Center for Educational Achievement awards schools in its "Just for the Kids" campaign. Schools are selected to be on the NCEA's Higher Performing Schools list for "growing their students' academic performance" more than students of demographically similar schools. Schools are also chosen as Higher Performing Schools if their student academic performance, as measured by state standardized assessments, meets NCEA's College and Career Readiness Targets based on ACT benchmarks. Comal ISD had five schools featured on the 2009 Higher Performing Schools list including Rebecca Creek Elementary, Startzville Elementary, Hoffmann Lane Elementary and Canyon and Smithson Valley middle schools, which were honored by the board for their achievements.

The Canyon High School Band Booster Club sells funnel cakes at Wurstfest every year to help support the Canyon High, Canyon Middle and Church Hill Middle bands. This year, the group raised a total of \$20,000. The booster club's president, Selma Garcia Dealba, presented the band directors and assistants from each school with a check at the board meeting. The middle schools each received \$4,000 and the high school received \$12,000.

#### **Canyon High School student council report**

Canyon High School student council representatives made a presentation to the board on their campaign to raise funds for the 2011 Texas Association of Student Council's annual conference. The group was selected to host the annual conference, which is scheduled for April 3-5, 2011 in Arlington, Texas, and are seeking the help of Comal ISD for financial support and in upcoming planned fundraising activities. The CHS student council will be responsible for planning the conference as well as for the costs for decorations, T-shirts, goody bags, a facility that will hold 5,000 people and much more. The Comal ISD board and administration agreed to help the group.

#### **Board approves bond refunding**

The board approved the refunding of the district's Series 2002 bonds totaling about \$13 million at the preliminary rate of 4.63 percent. The current rate on the bonds to be refunded is 5.07 percent. The preliminary estimate of total savings is approximately \$877,418 (net present value savings is \$602,498), which allocates out to a savings of \$50,000 a year over the life of the bond. Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Debra Smith reported that since 2004, the district has saved \$11.5 million in refunding, which equals to 13 cents in the debt service rate.

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## **Board orders May 8 election**

The board officially called the order and notice of the Regular Trustee Election, which will be held Saturday, May 8, at the February board meeting. Single Member Districts 6 and 7 are up for regular election. The seats are currently held by David Spencer and Bill Swint, respectively.

Early voting for the election will begin April 26 and end May 4. The main early voting election locations are Bulverde City Hall, Garden Ridge Municipal Complex and Specht Elementary School. The election notice states that both Bulverde City Hall located at 30360 Cougar Bend in Bulverde and the Garden Ridge Municipal Complex located at 9400 Municipal Parkway in Garden Ridge will be open for early voting April 26, 27, 29, 30 and May 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on April 28 and May 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Specht Elementary School located at 15815 Overlook Parkway in San Antonio will be open for early voting on April 28 and May 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

If SMD 6 is an unopposed race, Bulverde City Hall and Specht Elementary School will not be main early voting locations. If SMD 7 is an unopposed race, Garden Ridge Municipal Complex will not be a main early voting location.

On election day, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The early voting locations as well as Comal Elementary School located at 6720 FM 482 in New Braunfels will all serve as voting locations on voting day.

## **Board approves graduation plan addendum**

In January, districts statewide received a letter from the Associate Commissioner for Standards and Programs outlining new and unanticipated changes made by the State Board of Education as it relates to graduation plans and House Bill 3 (HB3). Significant changes that impact Comal ISD students immediately fall under the area of Physical Education. Changes include

- Students may no longer substitute Dance for PE credit
- Students may earn up to one credit for any of the PE courses listed in the High School Course Guide through participation in Drill Team, Marching Band or Cheerleading
- Credit may not be earned for any PE course more than once and no more than four substitutions may be earned through any combination of allowable substitutions
- Students may earn credit for any of the PE courses listed in the High School Course Guide through participation in athletics, JROTC or appropriate private or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs conducted on or off campus for up to four credits toward graduation

Based on the new information from the State Board of Education, the board approved the following recommended addendum to the graduation requirements:

- Expand Foundations of Personal Fitness to be one-half to one credit
- Reduce the number of PE credit requirements from 1 ½ credits to 1 credit effective immediately for students entering high school prior to 2011
- Allow students to earn up to four credits in the area of PE effective immediately for all students entering school either prior to or after 2011

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## Construction report

Assistant Superintendent for Support Services Thomas Bloxham reported on the 2005 and 2008 bond projects at the board meeting. Please visit [http://www.comalisd.org/Bond\\_Information/Bond\\_2008.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Bond_Information/Bond_2008.asp) to review the Power Point presentation presented at the board meeting.

Completed projects include Freiheit Elementary (June 2007), Startzville Elementary (Aug. 2007), Canyon Intermediate Conversion to Church Hill Middle (Aug. 2007), Goodwin Frazier Elementary renovations and additions (Aug. 2007), Timberwood Park Elementary (June 2008), Morningside Elementary (Aug. 2008), Arlon Seay Intermediate conversion to an elementary (Aug. 2008), Mt. Valley Middle renovations (Jan. 2009), Smithson Valley Middle renovations (Feb. 2009), Johnson Ranch Elementary (May 2009), Oak Creek Elementary (June 2009) and Rahe Bulverde Elementary (Dec. 2009).

Clear Spring Elementary, a 2005 bond project that will open in August, is going well. The building is complete with painting still taking place in some areas of the school. Floor preparation is in progress in the classroom areas, and the parking areas and drives are being finished. The playground equipment has been installed and the project appears to be in great shape for completion in early summer or sooner.

The new classroom wing at Canyon High School will be ready for Comal ISD to take possession of the first week in March allowing maintenance and operations an opportunity to wax the floors, move furniture and get the wing ready for teachers and students to move into right after spring break. The gym building is in place and is almost complete. The administration building is still moving along with mechanical and plumbing rough-ins underway. Sitework around this area cannot be done until the weather pattern breaks and the area dries out.

The new administration and library area at Canyon Middle School is nearly done with the finish work beginning. The weight room conversion is also complete.

Garden Ridge Elementary is still receiving roofing work, although it's complete in some areas. Stone veneer work is in progress on the outside of the building. Sheetrock, drywall framing, mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-ins are ongoing in areas of the building.

Landscaping and sitework continue in several areas at Smithson Valley High School. Work has resumed at the stadium to complete additional concrete, handrails and metal panel installation. The field house steel is up.

The locker room area at Spring Branch Middle School is currently behind due to the recent weather pattern, but the contractor is working to get this area back on schedule. Earthwork has started on the practice field, but the weather pattern has also slowed the progress in this area. Structural steel erection and masonry work is underway on the classroom wing.

The Canyon Lake High School ag barn is moving along. The road has been installed and the barns erected. The red iron at the wash bay and restrooms has been installed. Demolition on the interior of the school's field house is in progress for the expansion project. Exterior sitework continues as construction allows. Excavation for the pool should begin soon as well.

Comal Discipline Center is looking great and is complete except for the sitework, which has also been delayed by the weather.