

Board of Trustees

Jan. 25, 2011

MEETING SUMMARY

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Academic Excellence Indicator System/Adequate Yearly Progress report

Tammy Lind, Comal ISD Director of Staff Development and Assessment, presented summative district and campus data concerning student performance and participation rates on state assessments. In her presentation, Lind said that Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) scores this past school year showed improvement across the board from the prior year. She noted that Comal ISD is one of only 77 school districts in Texas to earn the Recognized rank using “absolute” standards and that the district came very close to earning Exemplary status. The presentation is posted at: http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/Board_Reports.asp and the reports are posted on the district website, http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/AEIS.asp.

Recognition

With the theme, “Follow the Leader,” student representatives from Timberwood Park, Freiheit, Hoffmann Lane, Rebecca Creek, Startzville, Bill Brown, Garden Ridge and Clear Spring elementary school campuses brought shoeboxes filled with student-made “gifts” to celebrate Board Recognition Month and honor individual members of the Comal ISD School Board.

Boundaries, Demographics and Enrollment Projection Report

The board unanimously approved elementary school attendance zones to accommodate the opening of Kinder Ranch Elementary School in August 2011 and the opening of a school in the Indian Springs subdivision in August 2012. Attendance zones for Spring Branch Middle School and Smithson Valley Middle School were slightly modified in Board action.

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 will attend Spring Branch Middle School. The new boundaries will take effect for the 2011-12 school year. The Timberwood Park subdivision becomes the attendance zone for Timberwood Park Elementary School; the Lookout Canyon subdivision is essentially the attendance zone for Specht Elementary School; and Kinder Ranch Elementary attendance zone boundaries include a portion of the west side of Highway 281, the area north of Borgfeld Road and both sides of Canyon Golf Road.

In August 2012, the elementary school located in the Indian Springs subdivision will open off Bulverde Road on the east side of Highway 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. The new attendance zones for these three schools take effect in 2012-13.

The new zones are posted on the district website, http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/Maps.asp.

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Education Foundation Annual Report

Carlene Comer, President of the Comal Education Foundation (CEF), and Amber Potts from Padgett Stratemann presented the Foundation's 2010 audit results. Highlights of this past year include: completing the first full financial audit in the history of the organization; welcoming three new Gold Partners, Mays Family Enterprises, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Comer and Joeris General Contractors; awarding grants totaling \$24,000 to six campuses, serving nearly 4,000 students; awarding new school grants to Oak Creek and Johnson Ranch elementary schools; recognizing the CISD Teachers of the Year, Outstanding Support Personnel, and Top 15 graduating students from Canyon, Canyon Lake and Smithson Valley high schools; and welcoming four new members to the CEF Board of Directors. The CEF annual report is posted at this website address:

http://www.comalisd.org/comaledfdn/Newsroom/Annual_Report.asp. The audit report is available by contacting Margaret Tenorio, CEF executive director, 830.214.5010.

Comal ISD Audit Report

The School Board approved the annual audit report for the year ending August 31, 2010. Amber Potts from Padgett Stratemann & Co. LLP of San Antonio, presented the report, which included an "unqualified" opinion, translating into the highest level of assurance by the auditor. Highlights of the audit includes: Comal ISD has nearly \$56 million in unreserved fund balance, which is higher than the average school district but a healthy level for a fast-growth district; property values in Comal ISD have increased to \$9.6 billion from \$5.3 billion in 2006; and the district's general fund earned \$3.1 million because revenues were \$1.2 million higher than budgeted and expenses were \$2 million under budget, a positive trend that reflects good budget management. The report will be posted on the district website: http://www.comalisd.org/Fiscal_Information/.

Superintendent's Contract

Following an executive session, the School Board approved extending for one year, until 2014, the superintendent's contract. Dr. Walker joined Comal ISD as superintendent in 2005.

District Improvement Plan and Campus Improvement Plans

As part of the Consent Agenda, the School Board unanimously approved the performance objectives for all Campus Improvement Plans and for the District Improvement Plan. The district plans and campus plans will be posted on the district website:

http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/District_Improvement_Plan.asp.

Out-of-District Tuition

As part of the Consent Agenda, the School Board unanimously adopted a maximum tuition rate of \$6,634 per student for out-of-district students for the 2011-12 school year. Because of anticipated substantial revenue reductions from the State, administration recommended the maximum tuition rate in accordance with the April 1, 2011 deadline, however the rate may be revised to reflect the 2011-12 budget, when it is adopted in August 2011.