

## Board of Trustees

June 22, 2010

### MEETING SUMMARY

*The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 22. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.*

#### **Board recognized by United Way of Comal County**

The United Way of Comal County honored Comal ISD at the June board meeting as one of the organization's Top 10 Business Donors in 2009. United Way's executive director Terry Robinson presented Superintendent Dr. Marc Walker with the award.

"We want to thank Comal ISD and all of its employees for their support in 2009," said Robinson. "The contributions on behalf of the district have allowed the UWCC to move forward in providing direction and funding to 25 health and human service organizations throughout the county."

Every year, Comal ISD encourages its employees to donate to the United Way Employee Giving Campaign.

#### **Board recognizes Substitutes of the Year, Canyon High Cougarettes**

Every year, Comal ISD principals have the opportunity to select a "Substitute of the Year" for their campus based on certain criteria. These individuals are then recognized by the board for their efforts in assisting Comal ISD teachers while they are out of the classroom. Congratulations to:

Canyon High	Suanne Coffey
Canyon Lake High	Jerri Willis
Canyon Middle	David Hanus
Church Hill Middle	Holly Rickard
Comal & Morningside	Katherine Bradshaw
Comal Discipline Center	Laverne Johnson
Freiheit Elementary	Cindy Bennett
Goodwin Frazier Elem.	Anna Williams
Hoffmann Lane Elem.	Julie Gambrell
Johnson Ranch Elem.	Amie Jurica
Life Program	Annette Martinez
M.H. Specht Elementary	Renae Poss
Memorial High	Leon Gomez
Memorial High	Joseph Sweat
Mountain Valley Middle	Sherri Kissell

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Oak Creek Elementary	Pamela Cone
Rahe Bulverde Elem.	Cathy Sondergaard
Rebecca Creek Elem.	Melanie Bland
Smithson Valley High	Angela Cowart
Smithson Valley Middle	Geoffrey Young
Spring Branch Middle	Beth Cooper
Startzville Elementary	Karen Schulze
Timberwood Park	Shannon Mamalakis

The board also recognized the Canyon High School Cougarettes for the second year in a row for their outstanding success this softball season.

After sweeping through the playoffs last year on their way to a state championship over Angleton, the Cougarettes were knocking on the door of another state championship once again. Ranked No. 1 in the statewide Class 4A polls most of the season, Canyon held victory over opponent after opponent before running into its first real test in the playoff season against Corpus Christi Moody. The Cougarettes came up with one of their best performances of the year in a 3-1 win in game three against Moody to earn a return trip to the UIL Class 4A state tournament in Austin, where despite the fight, the Cougarettes lost to Magnolia in 10 innings in the state semifinals. They finished the season 34-4.

Combined, the 2009 and 2010 Canyon High softball teams, under the leadership of head coach Kevin Randle and assistants Terry Tennell and Jared Jung, played 79 games, winning 72 and losing only 7.

Graduating seniors Stephanie Peace, Becca Wall, Kailee Vrana, Mandy Ogle, Aby Kester and Chelsey Fisher will be greatly missed. Returning players who made the trip to state including Andrea Robson, Brittany Gomez, Bianca Prado, Katelyn Helm, Sarah Crockett, Kaitlyn Hollingshead and Sara Mireles, will help the Cougarettes form a team that should give their fans more playoff thrills in the years to come.

Congratulations to the Canyon High School Cougarettes!

## **Board approves 2010/2011 student handbook, code of conduct, and instructional, grading and reporting guidelines**

The board approved the 2010-2011 Student Parent Handbook and Student Code of Conduct at the June board meeting, which includes several updates from the 2009-2010 handbook.

One update was made to the Class Rank/Top 10%/Highest Ranking Student topic, which now specifies UT Austin's decisions regarding its automatic admissions "cap" for incoming freshmen for the summer and fall semesters of 2011. The 2010-2011 handbook states, "For students who are eligible

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to enroll in the University of Texas at Austin during the summer or fall 2011 term, the university will be admitting the top eight percent of the high school's graduating class" who meet requirements listed in the handbook. Additional applicants will be considered by the university through an independent review process.

A new paragraph adding language regarding a questionable pattern of student absences was added to the Doctor's Note After An Absence for Illness topic in the handbook. If a student develops a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance committee may now require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence from school.

Language for Corporal Punishment was added to align with the board policy change that spanking or paddling a student will not be used as a discipline management technique in Comal ISD.

Changes to the Vehicles on Campus and Student ID's sections of the handbook have been made. Parking permits for eligible students at the high schools will cost \$20. Other applicable fees include ticket violations at \$5 each and tire boot lock removal at \$30. Students at secondary campuses will receive one ID card at no expense and will be charged a replacement fee of \$3 for a lost, stolen or duplicated card.

Under Telecommunication Devices, students will also now be allowed to use their cell phones during the school day as long as it is not being used during instructional time, including passing periods. Students may only use their phones before and after school and during their own lunch period (45 minutes for high school students, 30 minutes for middle school students). Students will only be permitted to use their phone during class time if it is allowed by the teacher for instructional purposes.

The board also approved minor changes to the Instructional, Grading and Reporting Guidelines for the 2010-2011 school year. Grades for assignments will continue to be based on relative mastery, and teachers are not required to give a minimum grade on an assignment that does not reflect the quality of the student's work. However, when averaging grades for a student report card, any grade average below a 50 will be automatically recorded as a 50 for the report card. Courses were also updated to the Grade Exemption Waiver for No Pass No Play and Dual Credit Courses based on the district's current offerings.

For additional details and to review the updated Student Parent Handbook and the Instructional, Grading and Reporting Guidelines, please visit [http://www.comalisd.org/Curriculum\\_Instruction/Department\\_Publications.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Curriculum_Instruction/Department_Publications.asp). The 2010-2011 handbooks will be updated soon on the website.

### **June construction report**

The 2005 bond projects are mostly complete or in the closeout process including Johnson Ranch, Rahe

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Bulverde and Clear Spring elementary schools. The contractor is correcting Mt. Valley Middle School's roof to meet the 20 year weather tightness warranty requirements, and closeout will occur once this is complete. The entire June construction report can be reviewed at [http://www.comalisd.org/Bond\\_Information/Bond\\_2008.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Bond_Information/Bond_2008.asp).

The following is a short, overall status summary of the 2008 bond projects:

**Canyon High School:** The gym, locker rooms, weight room and dance studio are now all in use. The administration will begin moving into the new administrative offices this week. Site work is ongoing in several different areas of the campus including the parking lot. Demolition is in progress at the old Cougar gym, and work continues in the science classrooms in the existing building.

**Canyon Middle School:** The new administrative/library area is complete. Demolition is complete in the science rooms and is beginning in the kitchen area for the additional serving line.

**Church Hill Middle School:** The practice field is ready for irrigation and sod. The front entrance drive has been demolished, and demolition in the science rooms, old kitchen and cafeteria is being completed. The kitchen serving lines will be installed at the end of the month and the kitchen ceiling will be dropped in this week.

**Garden Ridge Elementary:** The playground equipment is currently being installed, and site work is ongoing. The building should be complete in mid July.

**Smithson Valley High School:** The field house should be complete this week. Site work is ongoing around the administration building, and the roofing is almost complete. The wood flooring for the gymnasium is onsite and should begin soon. The above ceiling work and cloud framing are in progress in the theater. The main drive and upper bus drive work is in progress with both areas shut down to traffic.

**Spring Branch Middle School:** The classroom wing addition will have air conditioning within the next week and interior finish work is progressing. Demolition is complete in the locker rooms, gym and existing classroom wings. The practice field is completed with perimeter fencing to start shortly. The weight room renovation pricing is still being reviewed.

**Canyon Lake High School:** The Ag barn is in the close out process. The scheduled finish date for the school's field house expansion has been pushed back due to weather, but the contractor is making progress. Right now, the project is about a month behind the original August 2 completion date.

## **2010-2011 proposed budget report**

Comal ISD Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Debra Smith presented the proposed 2010-

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2011 budget. Action was not taken at the June meeting, but it will be adopted in August. Budget preparation began in January.

Student enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is projected to be around 17,050, which is a 2.9 percent increase from the 2009-2010 school year. The 2010-2011 budget will increase about \$2.5 million (estimated at \$125 million), which is mostly due to additional staff for a new school (Clear Spring Elementary), other new campus staff, computer replacement within the Technology department and additional buses for Transportation.

Although campus staff is increasing by a total of 34 positions for the 2010-2011 school year (again, mostly due to the opening of a new school), the district decreased support services/department positions by seven and teaching positions by 15 to help with budget cuts.

A sweep of \$2 million from the 2009-2010 budget is estimated, and administration is proposing it be used for retention bonuses. The current proposal is for teachers to receive step raises of \$500 or \$1,000. In addition, those on the teacher salary scale are proposed to receive a retention bonus that will bring their total step increase/bonus amount to \$1,200. Administration is estimating a retention bonus of \$1,000 for all non-exempt employees and \$1,200 for exempt. The board will consider this compensation proposal at its July meeting.

As a result of property values dropping from a 19 percent increase two years ago to a .91 percent increase this year and the district not growing as quickly as originally projected, administration and the board also discussed a possible six cent debt service tax rate increase raising the rate from 27 cents to 32 cents. Administration stated this increase would be needed even with using \$6 million from the debt service fund balance. Superintendent Dr. Marc Walker reminded everyone that the district decreased the debt service tax rate in 2005 by three cents, so if the board does approve the six cent raise in August, then the district would be recapturing that three-cent decrease and only raising the rate an additional three cents.

### **Board discusses in-district student transfer policy**

Comal ISD Superintendent Dr. Marc Walker and Board of Trustees President Carol Kendall Keller provided the board with a report on the district's policy (FDB Local) and administrative regulation for in-district student transfers. No action was taken.

The board discussed the pros and cons of allowing parents who have students in optional programs provided by the district, particularly in the Dual Language or Spanish Immersion programs, to transfer the siblings of the students enrolled in those programs to the same school even if it's not in the family's attendance zone. As of now, the Dual Language program is only located at Clear Spring, Bill Brown and Morningside Elementary schools and the Spanish Immersion program is only offered at Hoffmann Lane and Rahe Bulverde elementary schools. The policy for these two programs currently states that siblings of students accepted into these programs are not eligible for transfers.

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## **Board approves 2010-2011 meeting calendar**

The board approved the meeting calendar for all 2010-2011 board meetings and workshops. For a list of the meetings, please visit [http://www.comalisd.org/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/Board\\_Of\\_Trustees\\_Information.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/Board_Of_Trustees_Information.asp). The site will be updated soon.

## **Board approves final purchase of future high school site, earnest contract for additional tract**

At the April board meeting, the board approved contingency earnest money contracts for the purchase of three properties as a proposed future high school site. In June, the board approved the proposed resolution to purchase the properties with a contingency that closing on all three tracts will occur after the land title survey for the 78 acre tract is issued. This purchase is funded through the 2008 bond issue.

The properties are located along the south side of Hubertus Road between the IH 35 access road and FM 482, but do not include the southwest commercial corner of Hubertus and IH 35 (across Hubertus from the Randolph-Brooks FCU). The largest property is about 78 acres at a purchase price of \$100,000 per acre. The other two properties are four acres each, priced at \$275,000 (total purchase price) for the property located at the corner of Hubertus and FM 482 and \$250,000 (total purchase price) for the property located between and contiguous to the other two properties. The location is approximately halfway between the Garden Ridge and south New Braunfels communities.

In addition, the board also approved an earnest money contract for \$235,000 for an additional tract for the future high school site. The five acre tract is contiguous with the other three tracts approved for the site. The negotiated purchase price is \$47,000 per acre. The architects and civil engineer have made an initial visit to the site and find it to be a helpful addition to the high school site. Further review and testing will be done before the approval of the purchase of the property.

## **Board approves final purchase of future elementary school site**

In April, the board approved a contingency purchase contract in the amount of \$1.7 million for approximately 20 acres of land appropriate for an elementary school. In June, the board approved the proposed resolution for the final purchase of this property. This land is funded through the 2008 bond issue.

The land is located on the north side of SH 46, approximately halfway between US 281 and Smithson Valley High School. It has county road access on three sides, with Mitchell Road on the west side, Mount Ridge on the east side, and Mountain Top on the north side. The contract calls for sellers to pay all closing costs with the exception of Comal ISD's attorney fees.