

Board of Trustees

June 28, 2011

MEETING SUMMARY

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 28. The next regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Interviews of District 1 candidates

In Closed Session, the School Board interviewed Marcie Helmke, Stephen Smith, Blaine Best and David Speare for the unexpired term of District 1, vacated in April by Carolyn Miller.

Recognition

The School Board recognized Partners of the Comal Education Foundation for their generosity and assistance in advancing the programs, events and projects during the 2010-11 school year. Partners are: Wells Fargo, Sponsor of Academic Recognition Banquet; SHW Group, Sponsor of the CEF Golf Classic; Rusty Brockman, Host of Academic Recognition Banquet; Baird/Williams Construction, Diamond; Speer Medical Devices, Diamond; Fugro Consultants, Platinum; Hunter Industries, Platinum; Chacon Suzuki, Gold; H-E-B, Gold; Herff Jones, Gold; SAMCO Capital Markets, Gold; Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos and Green, Gold; Mays Family Enterprises, Gold; and Dan and Carlene Comer, Gold. The School Board recognized Carlene Comer for her service to the Education Foundation as president for the past three years.

The School Board recognized Substitutes of the Year for outstanding performance throughout the 2010-11 school year. They are: Cynthia Bennett, Freiheit Elementary; Amanda Boes, Morningside Elementary; Dorothy Blair, Rahe Bulverde Elementary; Donna Boehle, Canyon High; Robert Boehle, Canyon High; Donna Braune, Oak Creek Elementary; Georgina Courtney, Startzville Elementary; Coral Cabana, Church Hill Middle School; Cynthia Danmier, Bill Brown Elementary; Corey Davidson, AC-MECHS; Debra Fisher, Johnson Ranch Elementary; Gail Gamboa, Arlon Seay Elementary; Devon Gulker, Timberwood Park Elementary; James Heitzman, Spring Branch Middle School; Laverne Johnson, Comal Discipline Center; Holly Jones, Garden Ridge Elementary; Michael Jones, Mountain Valley Middle School; Kay Lindsey, Specht Elementary; Julian Monceaux, Hoffmann Lane Elementary; Cynthia Monfils, Canyon Lake High; Marcia Price, Clear Spring Elementary; Lela Roberts, Rebecca Creek Elementary; Emily Ralph, Canyon Middle School; Vicki Stewart, Smithson Valley High; Reva Weatherly, Goodwin Frazier Elementary; Brenda Wohlfeil, Smithson Valley Middle.

2011-12 Student and Parent Handbook and Student Codes of Conduct

As part of the consent agenda, the School Board approved the Student and Parent Handbook for 2011-12, which includes an option for parents to choose limited or no contact with their students through electronic media, and added detail to give examples of bullying, including cyberbullying.

2011-12 Instructional, Grading, and Reporting Guidelines

The school board, on a 4-2 vote, approved changes to grading guidelines that include: End-of-course (EOC) assessments will not be factored into the Grade Point Average (GPA) or rank; a student who passes a course but fails the corresponding EOC exam will earn course credit for the class but will be



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required to take the EOC exam; students enrolled in non-traditional courses are still required to take the corresponding EOC exam if one exists; and a student who fails a course but passes the corresponding EOC exam will be required to retake the semester(s) which the student did not pass. In addition, beginning with the 2011-12 school year, no exam exemptions will be allowed at the middle or high school. Middle school exemptions were completely eliminated two years ago, and high school exemptions have slowly phased out in terms of number and course type over the course of two years.

2011-12 Proposed Budget

Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent of Comal ISD, gave the board an update on plans for next year's budget. He said district projections show a decrease of 6 percent, approximately \$6.9 million, in revenue each year for the next two years. The real impact, however, is the difference in revenue from current formula funding. The total loss from formula funding for Comal ISD is \$11.4 million over two years. Administration recommended the "recapture" of about \$4.2 million—based on the school board and administration priorities—that include the following areas:

- A "reserve" of 15 teachers to address enrollment growth
- The return of 37 positions, including librarians, school nurses, security guards, warehousemen and plumbers
- \$1 million to the purchase of buses
- \$800,000 to capital maintenance projects
- \$600,000 to technology
- \$125,484 to the campus allotments

By 2012-13, the district will have another 1,350 students. To keep services at the current levels, he said, the district will need to set a new baseline on teacher-class ratios.

Technology Report

Sandra Shelton, executive director of technology, gave the board a final update on technology for the 2010-11 school year. She said that an estimated 155 "visitors" watched at least one of the district's four graduation ceremonies streamed live over the Internet and another 256 watched the graduation videos. For the complete report, please go to this link: http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/BoardUpdateJune2011.pdf.

School Bus Advertising

The school board discussed the feasibility of contracting with a San Antonio firm to place advertising on school buses. For a fee, local businesses would be able to place ads on the back, left side of the school buses. Comal ISD would receive 70 percent of the fee and the company, Creer Advertising and Marketing, would receive 30 percent. Ads could be "zoned" and targeted for certain bus routes. Ad content would be reviewed by a committee of district employees.

Appointment of District 1 Board Member

The school board unanimously voted to appoint Stephen Smith to fill the unexpired term of District 1. The position will be up for election in May 2012.