

Board of Trustees

May 26, 2011

MEETING SUMMARY

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, May 26. The next regular board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 28 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Oath of Office to Re-elected and Newly-elected Trustees

Frank Baker and Dale Dehlin were sworn in as Comal ISD's newest trustees. Baker, who represents District 3 and is currently the vice-president of the school board, ran unopposed in May. Dehlin won the May 14 election to represent District 4.

Recognition

The Canyon High School JROTC unit has earned the 2010-11 Air Force Junior ROTC Distinguished Unit Award with Merit. The unit is among only 200 worldwide to receive this recognition. In addition, Maj. Kevin Cregier and Maj. Sgt. Ed Garcia have been named Outstanding Instructors of Air Force JROTC units. They were selected from more than 1,700 instructors all over the world and represent the top of their field.

Leaders Engaged in Administrator Development (LEAD) interns are first-year administrators and veteran lead teachers, who have been engaged in monthly training sessions over the course of the school year. LEAD interns participate in instructional support team presentations, principal and assistant principal round table discussions, book studies that include group discussions and journaling administrator shadowing and a district or campus project. LEAD interns recognized are: Keith Cunningham, Jaime Wells, Beth Polk, Jennifer Hester, Renée Martinez, Theresa Mishler, Louise Goethe, Hanna Brown, Michelle Grell, Bill Breitenkamp, Todd Woods, Lori Montelongo, Gordon Ivers, Josh Recio, Misti Thueson, Robert Casselberry, James Cuda, and Jennifer White.

The School Board recognized Donna Holmes with a plaque for serving the District 4 community for six years. As a former educator, Mrs. Holmes always kept what is best for the classroom as the foundation of her decisions.

Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Elementary School in Indian Springs

The school board unanimously approved a guaranteed maximum price of \$15.5 million for the construction of the elementary school in the Indian Springs subdivision in Bexar County. Construction is expected to begin in June with completion slated for the beginning of the 2012-13 school year. The design of the elementary school is similar to Kinder Ranch Elementary School, which is on line to open for the 2011-12 school year, and Garden Ridge Elementary School, which opened this school year.



BOARD REPORT

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School Breakfast and Lunch Price Increase

As part of the consent agenda, the school board unanimously approved an increase of 5 cents in the price of school lunch for the 2011-12 school year. The new meal prices will be \$2.25 for elementary meals and \$2.50 for secondary meals.

Out-of-State Student Travel

As part of the consent agenda, the school board unanimously agreed to permit four Smithson Valley High Future Farmers of America students to travel to Indianapolis, Ind., to participate in the National FFA Convention, and one Canyon Lake High School student to travel to Washington, D.C., to attend the National FFA Leadership Conference.

Construction Report

Thomas Bloxham, assistant superintendent for support services, updated the board on construction projects from the 2008 bond, including Kinder Ranch Elementary School and renovations to Smithson Valley High School (SVHS). He noted a sidewalk that goes directly to the subdivision next to Kinder Ranch Elementary School, as well as several energy efficiencies in the school's design, such as window placement, a rainwater cistern and sky lights. At SVHS, he said, the culinary arts program kitchen resembles a full-sized commercial kitchen. The report may be downloaded at this link: http://www.comalisd.org/Bond_Information/PDF/Construction_Update/Const_Update_052011.pdf.

Budget Report

Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent of Comal ISD, gave the board an update on plans for next year's budget. He noted that information from the Texas Legislature is incomplete, stalling further decisions at a local level. He believes that whatever passes the Legislature will be challenged in court and told the board that until he knows more, he is holding firm with the estimated \$17.9 million shortfall for the next biennium.

Replacement of Single-Member District 1 Trustee

The board set a timeline for filling the District 1 seat vacated in April by Carolyn Miller. Applications will be accepted through June 20 with candidates scheduled for interview prior to the June 28 regular meeting. The federally mandated redistricting process, which occurs after the Census every 10 years, is expected to begin in early September and will not affect the board's appointment of a District 1 representative. District 1 is located in New Braunfels and includes the Comal ISD schools of Clear Spring, Goodwin-Frazier and Freiheit elementary schools, Canyon and Church Hill middle schools and Canyon High School. The District 1 board member will hold the seat until the May 2012 election. For more information about the boundaries of District 1 and the details about applying for the position, please go to the district website, www.comalisd.org under the Board of Trustees link or call 830.221.2621.

School Board Reorganization

Following an executive session, the school board unanimously approved the following officers: Frank Baker, president; David Drastata, vice president; Bill Swint, secretary; and David Spencer, treasurer.