

Board of Trustees

Nov. 18, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Nov. 18. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Recognition

Comal ISD received 58 Gold Performance Acknowledgement (GPA) awards from the Texas Education Agency for outstanding academic performance in 2010. The board recognized the principals of each of the 22 campuses that received GPAs.

Smithson Valley Middle School teacher Bart Cooper was recognized for being named Comal ISD's KENS5 San Antonio Credit Union ExCEL Award winner. The other teachers nominated for the award were also recognized. They are Keith Cunningham (Alamo Colleges-Memorial Early College High), Catherine Deatherage (Canyon High), Suzanne Schule (Canyon Lake High), Cindy Boyce (Smithson Valley High), Alejandro Matos (Comal Discipline Center), Jennifer Cooper (Canyon Middle), Stephanie Quinn (Church Hill Middle), Robin Reed (Spring Branch Middle) and Marcia Felch (Mountain Valley Middle).

Comal ISD was proud to recognize CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital. The CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Children's Hospital Pediatric Mobile Unit was recently awarded a five-year grant to begin a School Based Health Clinic in Comal County. The grant will be administered in partnership with Comal ISD. The Pediatric Mobile Unit will act as a part-time, easily accessible health center at the Morningside and Startzville elementary campuses but will also be accessible to other students in the district.

TXI Property Tax Limitation Application

The board voted to accept the application of TXI Operations, LP for an Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property. The board authorized the superintendent or a designee to review the application for completeness and submit to the Comptroller. Once the Comptroller accepts the application, the district will negotiate the supplemental payment to be received from TXI to enhance the educational experience of Comal ISD students. [Click here](#) to find out more information.

Synthetic Turf Replacement for CHS and SVHS Football Fields

The board voted to accept a proposal from Hellas Construction Company to replace the synthetic fields at Canyon and Smithson Valley high schools for a total amount of \$800,000. The current fields originally had an eight-year warranty and are in their ninth year of use. The new fields, which are funded by Bond 2008, are under warranty for 10 years.

continued from page 1

District Highly Qualified (HQ) Teacher Update

Comal ISD's district goal is to maintain Highly Qualified (HQ) status on each existing core academic teacher and all new core academic teachers to the district. A teacher meets HQ status standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act if he/she has full state certification, a bachelor's degree, and demonstrated competency in subject. For the fifth straight year, Comal ISD has been able to report 100 percent of its teachers meet HQ status.

Construction Report

Thomas Bloxham, Comal ISD assistant superintendent for Support Services, gave an update on several projects made possible by the district's \$205 million Bond 2008. At Smithson Valley High School, construction will be finished by Dec. 15 on a new 600-seat performing arts center, new administrative offices, a new gymnasium and locker room, and a new three-story classroom wing. The next stage of construction at SVHS will include working on new science classrooms. The complete three-phase construction project at SVHS is scheduled to be complete by the time the 2011-12 school year begins. At Canyon High, a 600-seat performing arts center located in the former Cougar Den building will open after the holiday break. This completes the three-phase construction project at CHS. Canyon Lake High School's 25-meter swimming pool will be ready by the end of November. The foundation has been poured at the new elementary school, Kinder Ranch Elementary School, in the Kinder Ranch subdivision near the intersection of Borgfeld and Bulverde roads in northern Bexar County.

[Click here](#) to view the latest construction PowerPoint.

Middle School Curriculum Update

To make sure all Comal ISD students are college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school, Comal ISD will implement Pre-AP strategies in all core content. Middle school students will be engaged in high-level learning through which they develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in college. The College and Career Readiness Curriculum (CCRC) in science and social studies will begin in 2011-12 for all three middle school grade levels. Math and English-Language Arts will be phased in over a three-year period from 2011-2014.

Dr. Jodi Duron, Comal ISD assistant superintendent for Academics and Student Services, emphasized the fact that by the time students are juniors and seniors in high school they will have the opportunity to take dual-credit and/or AP classes that could provide them almost a year's worth of college credit. By implementing the CCRC, more students will have the opportunity to take college level classes in high school. A planning committee comprised of principals, teachers and curriculum staff helped Duron and her staff decide how to implement the CCRC. Three Town Hall meetings were also held in November to inform the parents of the focus, expectation, and implementation of the plan.

[Click here](#) to view the PowerPoint from the meeting.

Redistricting Single-Member Trustee Election Following 2010 Census

Judy Brown, the district's legal counsel, presented information regarding the process for redistricting the single-member trustee election districts after the 2010 Census. The redistricting process will begin in 2011. [Click here](#) to find out more information.