

November 17, 2011

board report



The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2011. The next regular board meeting will be Thursday, December 15 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Recognition

KENS5 ExCEL Teacher of the Year Honoree and Nominees: Timberwood Park Elementary School teacher **Jennifer White** is Comal ISD's KENS5 San Antonio Credit Union ExCEL Award winner. Comal ISD elementary teachers nominated for the award are **Julie Cronkhite**, Garden Ridge Elementary; **Kay Brietzke**, Freiheit Elementary; **Dana Haby**, Johnson Ranch Elementary; **Michelle Vandertulip**, Morningside Elementary; **Deanna Jones**, Specht Elementary; **James Orth**, Hoffmann Lane Elementary; **Cindy Slye**, Rebecca Creek Elementary; **Terri Firth**, Startzville Elementary; **Celia Barragan**, Clear Spring Elementary; **Jami Keele**, Oak Creek Elementary; **Jamie Sales**, Goodwin Frazier Elementary; **Carol Murray**, Bill Brown Elementary; **Norma Trevino**, Arlon Seay Elementary; and **Jennifer Klar**, Rahe Bulverde Elementary. Each of the teachers was presented with a certificate and \$100 from the Comal Education Foundation.

Recognition of our staff and students involved in the creation of the Comal ISD College and Career Readiness video, including Canyon High School, Canyon Lake High School, Smithson Valley High School, Mountain Valley Middle School and Goodwin Frazier Elementary School. Special thanks to **Becky Walker**, director of Career & Technology Education and **Dr. Jodi Duron**, assistant superintendent for academics and student services.

Recognition of the outstanding partnership between **Resolute Health** and Comal ISD in the Sow Healthy Intergenerational Garden.

Resolution to Tax Goods-in-Transit

The school board voted 7-0 to adopt a resolution stating the intent to continue the to tax "goods in transit" under the expanded definition by the 2011 Texas Legislature. The Legislature modified the definition of "goods-in-transit," that states tangible personal property no longer has to be for assembling, storing, manufacturing, processing or fabrication. Jennifer Salazar, director of operations for the Comal Appraisal District, said an estimate of the interest & sinking (I&S) tax dollars involved totals approximately \$364,389. A public hearing was conducted, according to state law, and no one spoke.

Resolution to Create TXI Reinvestment Zone

The school board voted 7-0 to approve the creation of TXI Reinvestment Zone, approve findings under the Texas Economic Development Act application for an appraised value limitation on qualified property submitted by TXI operations, and approve an agreement with TXI Operations for a limitation on appraised value of property for maintenance and operations (M&O) taxes. A public hearing was conducted, according to state law, and no one spoke.



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The board granted a temporary tax break for the expansion of TXI, which will be returned to the district over time after two years. In 10 years, the district will benefit more than \$1.5 million. Bob Popinski of Moak, Casey & Associates and Kevin O’Hanlon of O’Hanlon, McCollom & Demerath presented resolutions and findings and answered questions by board members.

Election of Board of Directors to Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays and Kendall Appraisal Districts

The school board unanimously approved casting votes to the following individuals: 49 votes to Jim Martin in Bexar County; 694 votes each for Scott R. Watson, Gary Boldt, James Bower and Dan Krueger and 693 votes to Craig Hall in Comal County; 16 votes to each of three candidates and 17 votes to each of the remaining three candidates, who are: Mark Cerda, Darren C. Dunn, Greg Gilcrease, Tavie Murphy, Sylvia Schlather and Mark Wilson in Guadalupe County; 10 votes for Dennis Miller in Hays County; and two votes for Charles R. “Bob” Duncan in Kendall County.

Consent Agenda

The school board unanimously approved all of the items on the consent agenda, which include: an interlocal agreement with Comal County to provide facilities (portable buildings behind Church Hill Middle School) in exchange for a police presence; 2011-12 high school allotment goals; and the district’s vision statement (*Comal ISD: Where excellence is an attitude*).

Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements

Kari Hutchison, assistant superintendent for administrative services, reported that 100 percent of the existing core academic teachers meet “highly qualified” status. This is the 6th year in a row that Comal ISD has reported this fact, which is required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Policy Update 91

Armando Maese, director for legal services, presented the proposed changes to local policies as a result of the 2011 Texas Legislature and Texas Association of School Board (TASB) recommendations. Some of the policies affected involve: elections, purchasing and construction contracts, investments, instructional materials, employee contracts, student truancy and discipline, student concussions and district records. The board will vote on the policies at the December 17 meeting.

STAAR and Policy EIA Update

Dr. Jodi Duron, assistant superintendent for academics and student services, presented TASB’s recommendations regarding state mandates surrounding the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) score accounting for 15 percent of the student’s final grade. The board will vote on the policy on December 17.