

## Board of Trustees

Nov. 19, 2009

### MEETING SUMMARY

*The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.*

#### **Board honors KENS5 ExCEL Award nominees and winner**

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees honored the elementary nominees and winner for this year's KENS5 ExCEL Golden Apple Award program. Every year, Comal ISD participates in the program put on by KENS5 in partnership with the San Antonio Credit Union, which honors one educator from each of 19 area school districts for making a positive impact in the lives of children. Arlon Seay Elementary kindergarten teacher Rachel Kaspar was selected as this year's winner. She received a Golden Apple award from KENS5 and a \$1,000 check from SACU. In addition to recognizing Kaspar, the board also recognized the 13 other nominees. They are:

- Bill Brown Elementary PE teacher Carolyn Ckodre
- Comal Elementary second grade teacher Lisa Batey
- Freiheit Elementary librarian Betty Jones
- Goodwin Frazier Elementary third grade teacher Denise Ayala
- Hoffmann Lane Elementary fourth grade teacher James Orth
- Johnson Ranch Elementary third grade teacher Vickie Millican
- Morningside Elementary special education teacher Amy Lundquist
- Oak Creek Elementary kindergarten teacher Lynn Hefner
- Rahe Bulverde Elementary kindergarten teacher Sarah Culpepper
- Rebecca Creek Elementary language arts and math teacher Jennifer Johnson
- Specht Elementary art teacher Elaine Sill Eickenroht
- Startzville Elementary reading and math teacher Mary Silvers
- Timberwood Park Elementary fourth grade teacher Jennifer White

#### **Board approves proposed High School Allotment performance goals, activities**

In May 2006, the Texas Legislature passed a measure to fund an initiative called High School Allotment (HAS) to help prepare and graduate all Texas students from high school.

Annually, school districts are expected to establish performance goals for programs, activities, and strategies implemented with high school allotment funds related to the performance indicators. These indicators include the enrollment in advanced courses including AP and Dual Credit, as well as the percent of students graduating from high school, graduating on the Recommended High School Plan and the Distinguished Achievement Plan, and meeting higher education readiness scores for English Language Arts and math.

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Comal ISD's HSA goals include implementing programs that prepare underachieving students for college; encouraging students to participate in advanced academic opportunities; giving students opportunities to take academically rigorous course work, including four years of science and math; aligning the curriculum for grades 6-12 with postsecondary curriculum; and implementing other high school completion and success initiatives in grades 6-12 as approved by the commissioner. The 2009-10 HSA budget is \$1.4 million and will be distributed among program components including advanced academics, college readiness, high school completion and success initiative, and staff development.

### **Board approves guaranteed maximum price for Church Hill Middle project**

The Board approved a guaranteed maximum price of \$5.2 million by Baird Williams Construction for the Church Hill Middle School project.

The complete package, funded in Bond 2008, includes a cafeteria/kitchen, three new science labs and seven additional classrooms, minor changes to PE locker room and industrial lab.

### **Proposed contract for land for future school site approved**

The board approved the proposed contingency earnest money contract to purchase approximately 68.21 acres at a purchase price of \$20,000 per acre, for a total of about \$1.4 million.

This site is located about .3 miles west of IH 35 with about 1,300 feet of frontage along the south side of FM 2252. The land is being considered for a high school site to serve the southern portion of the district extending from the southern portion of New Braunfels south and west along the district's IH 35 corridor to the district's Cibolo Creek boundary line. Construction money is not allocated for a new high school in the 2005 and 2008 bonds. Construction money for a new high school would have to be approved in a future bond issue.

Curriculum Report

## **Reports and Discussions**

### ***Public Report of Progress in Meeting Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements***

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001 requires each school district to publicly report progress toward meeting the highly qualified (HQ) teacher requirements.

Comal ISD's goal is to maintain HQ status on each existing core academic teacher and all new core academic teachers to the district, and Comal ISD currently meets the NCLB's highly qualified status of 100 percent. The Highly Qualified Teacher Reports will be available on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) NCLB website at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/nclb/hqreport.html>.

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***Curriculum: HB3, Course Alignment, Class Rank Structure, Board Policy EIC Local and Course Guide Updates***

The board discussed administration's final recommendation on graduation plans, course alignment, class rank structure, board policy and course guide updates. Approval of the final recommendations will come to the board at the December board meeting for newly identified Pre-AP courses, new class rank point structure and policy, and Board Policy EIC (Local).

*\*\*Please visit <http://www.comalisd.org/Curriculum/Default.asp> and click on November 2009 Curriculum Report for the entire report and documentation.\*\**

***HB3***

The recommendations administration made at the November meeting remained the same for graduation plans pertaining to House Bill 3. Administration recommended that the current graduation requirements be retained for all students who enter high school prior to 2011 and that the new graduation requirements per HB 3 begin with the freshman class of 2011-12.

The recommendation for new graduation requirements would no longer require Health or Technology Applications for freshmen entering high school in 2011 and beyond and PE would be reduced from 1.5 credits to 1 credit.

***Course Alignment***

Administration recommended to continue to offer all current Pre-AP courses; develop Pre-AP curriculum, scope and sequence, and for Curriculum Based Assessments to be developed to distinguish Pre-AP courses from general education; and to administer end-of-course exams in all Pre-AP classes, which would be factored as a major grade.

***Course Offerings***

Comal ISD administration is preparing for student course selections, which will occur in early February.

Recommended changes to the middle school course guide include adding a high school PE course for high school credit at the middle school. Changes to the high school course guide include an additional math course, science course, and Foreign Language course. Other changes include a realignment of technology application courses and new defined courses for Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses based on the recent rewrite of the CTE TEKS.

***New Rank Structure***

The board discussed the new rank structure administration recommended. Administration worked with various committees and groups to find a model that would be as fair and consistent as possible.

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Administration recommended the following multiplier model to be implemented with the freshman class of 2011-12:

Modified Curriculum: .90  
General Education: 1.0  
Pre-AP: 1.10  
AP: 1.20

This multiplier model is being recommended to bring equity into the rank structure and lessen the gap between general education and more advanced courses (Pre-AP and AP).

#### *Board Policy EIC (Local)*

The board also discussed changes recommended by administration for Board Policy EIC (Local) including changes to graduation plans, new language regarding the calculation of class rank, adjustments on numerical values on the letter grade conversion chart, changes to service cords previously discussed and other miscellaneous changes.

#### *Board Priorities and the District Strategic Plan*

In August 2009, the board held a workshop to set its priorities for the district. President Carol Keller asked that administration review and align the Board Priorities to the District's Strategic Plan.

Some of the board priorities include those in personnel, communications and student achievement. The strategic plan will be updated in January and will reflect the board priorities. Please visit [http://www.comalisd.org/PDF/2008-2013\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/PDF/2008-2013_Strategic_Plan.pdf) to view the strategic plan.

#### *Construction Report*

Assistant Superintendent for Support Services Thomas Bloxham gave a construction report on 2005 and 2008 bond projects. Please visit [http://www.comalisd.org/Bond\\_Information/Default.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Bond_Information/Default.asp) for updated construction reports.

#### *2005 bond projects*

The close out process is in progress for Mt. Valley Middle School, Johnson Ranch Elementary and Oak Creek Elementary schools. Work continues on the finishing touches for Rahe Bulverde Elementary. Furniture will be moved in before the holiday break. Clear Spring Elementary in New Braunfels is moving along and going well despite the rain. Foundation work is complete and sitework continues.

#### *2008 bond projects*

Phase 3 at Canyon High School is about to begin. The pool is complete and the work continues on the fencing for the softball and baseball fields. The front office and 31 classes will be moved to the new

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building during spring break. For Canyon Middle School, the weight room conversion is nearing completion. HVAC work continues at the two gyms, and work on the new admin/library area continues.

All of the work has been completed at Goodwin Frazier Elementary except for a few sitework and landscape issues delayed by rain. Church Hill Middle School project bid has taken place and is under budget. The guaranteed maximum price of \$5.2 million was approved by the board.

Garden Ridge Elementary is moving along and some of the foundations are complete with work continuing on remaining foundations. Site utilities are currently being installed. Work continues at Smithson Valley High School. Stadium work will resume to complete additional concrete, handrails and metal panel installation. Bleacher boards are going to be replaced on all of the baseball bleachers. Mechanical and plumbing systems have been extended under the existing slab to the new slab area, and landscaping and sitework continues in several areas of the campus.

Excavation of the suspended slab area is complete along with the detention pond at Spring Branch Middle School. Drilled piers will be complete within the next week and formwork on the concrete beams is in progress. Earthwork has started on the practice field. Concrete curbing is being installed for the new road and base has been laid for the Canyon Lake High School ag barn. The red iron is being erected. Work is to start soon on the Canyon Lake High School field house expansion.

Foundation has been poured and sitework is ongoing at Comal Discipline Center. Remodeling is in progress in the existing building with drywall framing in place and mechanical, electrical and plumbing in progress.