

Board of Trustees

Oct. 28, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Oct. 28. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 18 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 was proud to recognize seven National Merit Semifinalists, six National Merit Commended students and four National Hispanic Scholars.

Five of the semifinalists, Lloyd Cunningham, Lauren Haney, Michael Nipper, Ben Whitehead and Kayla Oliver, are from Smithson Valley High. Semifinalist Robert Croteau is a Canyon High senior, and semifinalist Stuart Olsen is a senior at Canyon Lake High.

Smithson Valley's Cody Carroll, Alyssa Pappas and Brian West; Canyon High's Sarah Crockett and Clifton Fey; and Canyon Lake High's Brandon Clark were named National Merit Commended students.

Smithson Valley High seniors J.D. Subia, Shanna Schaefer, Richard Dominguez and Erika Castro were all named National Hispanic Scholars by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Comal ISD principals were recognized thanks to a recent proclamation by Gov. Rick Perry declaring October "Principals Month in Texas."

Gov. Perry also declared Oct. 13 as the first-ever Texas Education Human Resources Day. The Comal ISD HR Dept. received recognition for the role they play in seeking to hire and retain highly qualified staff.

School FIRST

The board conducted a public hearing regarding the district's financial accountability rating of "superior achievement" under the state's School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) financial accountability rating system. The primary goal of School FIRST is to improve the management of school districts' financial resources, a goal made significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with the Texas school finance system. This is the eighth year Texas districts have received a financial accountability rating, and Comal ISD has earned the state's highest rating ("superior achievement") each year. The rating is based upon an analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2008-09 school year and budgetary and actual financial data for the 2009 fiscal year.

Refinance of bonds

The board unanimously approved refinancing the remaining Series 2001 and Series 2002 bonds in the total amount of \$8.8 million. The preliminary rate for refinancing is approximately 3.21 percent. This will save Comal ISD taxpayers \$1.1 million.

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Construction

The board unanimously approved \$3.8 million worth of additions at Smithson Valley Middle. The additions will include a new transportation maintenance facility, a new parking lot and driveways, and three new classrooms and a new wood shop. Bond 2008 will provide the funding for the additions at SVMS and Baird Williams will oversee the construction.

The board unanimously approved a new synthetic turf and drainage project at Canyon Lake High. Hellas Construction will install the \$891,850 turf and drainage system, which is scheduled to be ready in late February.

Middle School Curriculum Update

The board further discussed the implementation of a College and Career Readiness Curriculum (CCRC) for all Comal ISD middle school students.

Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Student Services Dr. Jodi Duron provided an update on the CCRC plan. The discussions focused on options recommended by a planning committee comprised of principals, teachers and curriculum staff.

One committee recommendation included the elimination of mandatory middle school history and science fair participation in order to focus more on required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in science and social studies classes. Instead, the recommendation is to make history and science fairs an elective.

Another committee recommendation is to implement the new curriculum in science, social studies, and English-Language Arts beginning in 2011-12 for all three grade levels. The recommendation is to phase in math over a three-year period from 2011-2014. No final decision was made on this matter. Comal ISD will next hold "Town Hall Meetings" at Mountain Valley Middle (Nov. 8), the district's Support Services Building (Nov. 9) and Spring Branch Middle (Nov. 10). Comal ISD administration and faculty will be on hand to discuss the middle school initiative with parents and community members. All three meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Please [click here](#) to read Dr. Duron's October power point presentation for more details and information on CCRC.