

## **Board of Trustees**

### **September 22, 2011**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, September 22. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

#### **Recognition**

Chartwells staff was recognized for assistance with the employee picnics and for preparing and delivering breakfast sandwiches to the firefighters in Bastrop.

#### **Approve 2011-12 Tax Rate**

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees set a tax rate of \$1.43 cents per \$100 valuation for the 2011-12 school year, which is 6 cents higher than last year's rate. The increase is on the interest and sinking (I&S) rate of 39 cents per \$100 valuation. The maintenance and operations rate of \$1.04 per \$100 valuation remains unchanged from last year. The increase in the I&S tax rate is necessary to meet the district's bond payoff schedule. The presentation to the board detailing the budget and tax rate, including how the Comal ISD tax rate compares to neighboring districts, is located here: [http://www.comalisd.org/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/PDF/Board\\_Reports/BudgetPP082411.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/BudgetPP082411.pdf).

The school board approved the tax rate on a 5-0 vote. Trustees Dale Dehlin and Stephen Smith were absent.

#### **Nominees for Appraisal District Boards**

The school board, on a 5-0 vote, approved the following names as nominees for the Comal Appraisal District: Scott Watson, representing City of Selma; Gary Boldt, representing Comal ISD and City of Selma; James Bower, representing City of Garden Ridge and City of Selma; and Dan Krueger, representing Comal ISD. The board did not nominate individuals for the appraisal districts of Bexar, Guadalupe, Hays and Kendall counties.

#### **Maximum Class-Size Exception**

The school board, on a 5-0 vote, approved administration's request to file a waiver with the Texas Education Agency to increase class sizes. A class size enrollment of kindergarten through 4th grade on Sept. 9 revealed the following grade levels exceeding the 22:1 ratio: Arlon Seay Elementary, 3rd grade; Clear Spring Elementary, 3rd grade and 4th grade; Freiheit Elementary, 4th grade; and Startzville Elementary, 3rd grade. The waiver application does not automatically mean a new teacher will be placed at the school. Principals work closely with the grade level teachers to determine the best classroom configurations.

#### **Cooperative Purchasing Contract Fees**

Mike McCullar, assistant director of purchasing & risk management, reported to the board the following fees have been paid to participate in the purchasing cooperatives: ESC Region 20/13 (general supplies), \$875; ESC Region 20/13 (education technology), \$772; The Cooperative Purchasing Network, \$0, TASB BuyBoard, \$0. Total fees for 2010-11 were \$1,647.



# BOARD REPORT

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## **Course Selection Process**

Dr. Jodi Duron, assistant superintendent for academics and student services, updated the board regarding the course selection process for 2012-13. Course selections will coincide with district's celebration of Generation Texas Week (formerly Education, Go Get It! Week), which is Nov. 14-18. During this time, campuses will be conducting curriculum fairs and disseminating the course guides for 2012-13. Course selection begins on Nov. 28 and ends on Dec. 16. Courses to be changed are: replace "Skills for Living" with "Principals of Human Services," replace "Tech Ed II" with "Principals of Manufacturing," incorporate college and career readiness courses in 7th grade, and add "Advanced Quantitative Reasoning" and "Strategic Learning for High School Math," at the high school level. A copy of her report is available on the district's website, [http://www.comalisd.org/board\\_of\\_Trustees/PDF/Board\\_Reports/ACMECHS-Report-EOC.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/ACMECHS-Report-EOC.pdf).

## **End-of-Course (EOC) 15-Percent Rule Update**

Dr. Duron reported to the school board that new information from the Texas Education Agency regarding the EOC 15-Percent Rule may affect changes to several policies, procedures and guidelines. A copy of her report is available on the district's website, [http://www.comalisd.org/board\\_of\\_Trustees/PDF/Board\\_Reports/ACMECHS-Report-EOC.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/ACMECHS-Report-EOC.pdf).

## **Report on Alamo Colleges-Memorial Early College High School (AC-MECHS)**

Dr. Duron gave an update on the progress of the AC-MECHS, including the number of students enrolled, their collective performance on statewide assessments, and their involvement in summer school, dual credit courses and passing rates. A copy of her report is available on the district's website, [http://www.comalisd.org/board\\_of\\_Trustees/PDF/Board\\_Reports/ACMECHS-Report-EOC.pdf](http://www.comalisd.org/board_of_Trustees/PDF/Board_Reports/ACMECHS-Report-EOC.pdf).

## **Strategic Planning Process**

Julie Jerome, communications coordinator, gave a report on the process for strategic planning and bond communications in partnership with Cambridge Strategics. The process involves approximately one year of engagement by community members, parents and employees of Comal ISD to develop a five-year strategic plan, which would begin when the current plan expires, in 2013.

## **Impact of Senate Bill 100 Concerning Trustee Elections**

Because of action by the Texas Legislature in Senate Bill 100, school districts may choose to conduct joint elections with cities in November and may change school board members' terms to four years instead of the current three-year terms. The cities of Bulverde, Garden Ridge and New Braunfels have stated that they plan to continue to hold May elections. The school board on Thursday, by taking no action and after a lengthy discussion will continue with three-year terms and annual May elections.