

*Prepared by the Comal ISD Communications Office*

July 28, 2005

## **School board takes action on Comal ISD's future facilities and managing growth**

In a special school board meeting on July 27, the trustees and Strategic Planning Committee of citizens met with the architects who are developing the master plan for the district.

Three key issues were discussed — how to effectively and efficiently use Canyon Lake High School when it opens in 2007; future grade alignment at the elementary, middle, and high schools; and, size of schools.

After much discussion and deliberation, two of the three issues were agreed to and voted on in principle. The board accepted the administration's 'philosophical recommendation' pertaining to the future boundary lines for Canyon Lake High School being built at FM 3424 and RR 32, north of Canyon Lake. Those boundary lines would include most of the current boundary lines for Rebecca Creek Elementary and Mt. Valley School. Five board members voted for the motion, Donna Holmes abstained, and Rose Cervin was absent.

That means students in the Startzville and Sattler communities, along with students surrounding the east, north, and west side of the lake also would attend CLHS. The boundary on the west side of the county and lake would go south on Hwy 281 to the Guadalupe River. On the east side of the county and lake, around FM 306, the boundary would include the Purgatory Rd. area and the Royal Forest subdivision. This option, to include Startzville, will mean CLHS can be used for the way it was designed — to alleviate overcrowding at Smithson Valley High School.

The second issue on future grade alignments, was also decided upon in principle. The board vote was 6 to 0 to move the district toward grade alignments of prekindergarten through 5th grades in the elementary schools; 6th through 8th in the middle schools (common

practice throughout the state); and, 9th through 12th grades in the high schools. This long-range vision will take several years to put in place throughout the district.

No decision was reached on the third issue of school size. The professional planners / architects are recommending elementary schools in the future to accommodate a maximum student-size of 824; middle schools of 865 or 1,298; and high schools of 2,575. More discussion will be held in the future.

To stay informed on the issue of growth, facilities, and the future of Comal ISD, visit the district's website at [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org). Click on Growth and Facilities under the News section and visit the Board of Trustees section to learn of upcoming meetings on the issue.