

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Comal ISD School Board Members Recognized

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month to help highlight the contributions of dedicated men and women who take the time to care about and get involved in local schools.

Comal ISD is joining districts across the state to thank board members for voluntarily tackling the enormous job of governing local school districts.

Comal ISD board members were honored at the Board of Trustees meeting January 28 for their tireless efforts on behalf of Comal ISD students, staff and community.

“As advocates for our children, school board members face difficult challenges,” said Dr. Marc Walker, Comal ISD superintendent. “These local citizens, our neighbors, are elected by the community to make critical decisions that directly affect the future of our youth. They devote countless hours to help ensure a quality education that will lead our students to success.”

The Comal ISD school board is responsible for a total annual budget of about \$165 million, more than 16,600 students, 24 campuses and more than 2,300 employees.

“The job of a school board member is not an easy one,” Walker said. “But they have the commitment to serve their community and ensure that all students are given every opportunity to excel through education. Help us show appreciation to these board members for giving of themselves and caring so much about every child enrolled in our schools.”

The men and women serving Comal ISD are:

Frank Baker, real estate appraiser, Baker Appraisal Service; David Drastata, district manager, Wal-Mart; Donna Holmes, retired educator; Carol Kendall Keller, director/educational partnerships & funding, Scholastic

Publishing Company; Carolyn Miller, retired executive assistant; David Spencer, owner & president, Texas Intrepid Ventures; and Bill Swint, sales rep, Western Paper Company.

“I greatly enjoy being a member of the Comal ISD Board of Trustees,” said Keller, who is board president. “All three of my children received an excellent education in the district, and this gives me a chance to not only stay involved in the community but to give back.”

Swint, immediate past president, said Comal ISD has established a culture of excellence.

“When I see the progress and accomplishments we’ve made as a district, it makes me greatly satisfied,” Swint said. “We just seem to get better and better through the years. Parents know when they enroll their students in Comal ISD schools they are going to be a part of an attitude of excellence all of our educators are committed to.”

Some of the district’s highlights of the past year were having 17 campuses named Texas Education Agency exemplary or recognized schools in July, receiving a superior fiscal rating by the state for the seventh year in a row in October, and receiving a record 66 Gold Performance Acknowledgement (GPA) awards from the TEA for outstanding academic performance in 2009.

The majority of the board members have also been a part of the district’s 2005 and 2008 bond issues which totaled over \$390 million for additional and renovated campuses, technology and more.

“As seen through the approval of two bond issues in the last four years, our board members work to provide outstanding facilities for our students to learn and staff to work,” said Walker. “They have also approved generous bonuses and raises for our staff, which was only possible because of their continued strong fiscal management. Comal ISD is lucky to be represented by this team of seven because they help make this district a great place to live, learn, work and play.”

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IN PHOTO: Comal ISD school board members (top row, l-r) David Spencer, Frank Baker, Bill Swint and David Drastata; and (front row) Carol Kendall Keller, Donna Holmes and Carolyn Miller were honored for their service to the district as part of School Board Recognition Month. (Photo by Sam Roberts Photography)