

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Julie Jerome
830.221.2621

Release Date: May 27, 2011

School Board begins search for new trustee

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees on Thursday set a timeline for filling the District 1 seat vacated in April by Carolyn Miller. Applications will be accepted through June 20 with candidates scheduled for interview prior to the June 28 regular meeting.

The federally mandated redistricting process, which occurs after the Census every 10 years, is expected to begin in early September and will not affect the board's appointment of a District 1 representative.

District 1 is located in New Braunfels and includes the Comal ISD schools of Clear Spring, Goodwin-Frazier and Freiheit elementary schools, Canyon and Church Hill middle schools and Canyon High School. The District 1 board member will hold the seat until the May 2012 election.

For more information about the boundaries of District 1 and the details about applying for the position, please go to the district website, www.comalisd.org under the Board of Trustees link or call 830.221.2621.

The school board began the meeting by swearing in Dale Dehlin, District 4 and Frank Baker, District 3, to serve three-year terms. Board members, staff and community members honored Donna Holmes, District 4 representative, who served for six years and chose not to run in May.

Following an executive session, the school board unanimously voted for the following officers: Frank Baker, president; David Drastata, vice president; Bill Swint, secretary; and David Spencer, treasurer.

The school board unanimously approved a guaranteed maximum price of \$15.5 million for the construction of the elementary school in the Indian Springs subdivision in Bexar County. Construction is expected to begin in June with completion slated for the beginning of the 2012-13 school year. The design of the elementary school is similar to Kinder Ranch Elementary School, which is on line to open for the 2011-12 school year, and Garden Ridge Elementary School, which opened this school year.

“It’s a good site but it’s on some very solid rock,” said Thomas Bloxham, assistant superintendent for Support Services, noting the challenges of the site work.

Bloxham also updated the board on construction projects from the 2008 bond, including Kinder Ranch Elementary School and renovations to Smithson Valley High School (SVHS).

“Kinder Ranch Elementary School has a sidewalk that goes directly to the neighborhood next door,” he said. “The north side of the school has large windows and on the south side, we have smaller windows with a light shelf above them.”

Energy reducing features of the school include the window configuration, lights that dim as the sun gets brighter, a rainwater cistern and sky lights.

At SVHS, construction on a kitchen for the culinary arts program is nearing completion, he said.

“This will be a full-sized commercial kitchen,” Bloxham said. “It looks very similar to one of our elementary school kitchens.”

Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent of Comal ISD, gave the school board a budget update, noting that information from Austin remains incomplete, stalling further decisions at a local level.

“We feel that if the bill they’re talking about does pass, it is definitely going to court. But so far it has been unable to pass,” Dr. Walker said. “We’re still sticking with our original figure of \$17.9 million (in budget reductions). But at this point we’re just not sure.”

In other action, the school board approved an increase of 5 cents in the price of school lunch for the 2011-12 school year. The new meal prices will be \$2.25 for elementary meals and \$2.50 for secondary meals.

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