

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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2008-09 Budget and Tax Rate Hearing **Set for August 27**

The Comal ISD's board of trustees is considering a \$119 million operating budget for 2008-09 that is funded by the same tax rate as last year — \$1.31 per \$100 valuation. (The proposed budget of \$119 million is “net” the \$15 million that goes to the state because the district is a Chapter 41 property rich district.)

The school board will hold its public hearing regarding the proposed budget and tax rate on Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. in the district's Support Services board room, 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels. The board will take action on the budget that night and the tax rate adoption is expected in September.

The new budget includes salary increases for all employees and an increased employer contribution to employees' monthly medical insurance. Fifty-three new teacher and educational assistant positions have been added as three new schools are opening this year — Morningside Elementary, Timberwood Park Elementary, and Mt. Valley Middle.

Personnel costs make up almost 82 percent of the total operating budget. A little more than 16 percent is left for operating costs and capital outlay is just over 2 percent.

Non-payroll costs increasing this coming year include utilities, fuel for the transportation fleet, and supplies and operating costs for three new schools. Under HB1, which defines the current school funding system, Comal ISD receives \$5,460 per student from the state — the same amount it received in 2006-07.

“HB1 does not include a mechanism to help school district's with inflation, rising fuel and utility costs, and unfunded mandates,” says Debra Smith, assistant superintendent for Business Services. “We also don't receive the

full benefit from increasing property values as that money now goes to the state instead of school districts.”

Smith says the only way Comal ISD receives additional revenue from the state under HB1 is through increasing enrollment. That’s good news for growing districts like Comal but bad news for those that are stagnate or declining in enrollment.

How will the average homeowner be affected by the 2008-09 budget and same \$1.31 tax rate as last year?

If the home increased 5 percent in value, the taxpayer will see his/her school property taxes increase about \$8 per month.

If the home increased the maximum 10 percent in value, according to the Comal Appraisal District, then the taxpayer will see an increase of about \$17 per month.

More detailed 2008-09 budget and tax rate information is available online at http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/Budget_Information.asp.

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