

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Enrollment projections and future bond issue discussed at recent school board meeting**

Comal ISD has been growing by an average of about 5.5 percent since 2003, according to Nancy Cobb, the district's demographer, and the trend is expected to continue for at least the next seven years.

Cobb updated the school board on enrollment trends and projections during the Oct. 24 school board meeting.

"Current enrollment is almost 15,100," Cobb told the board, "and, about 1,000 new students are expected for each of the next several years. At this point, by 2014, total enrollment is projected to be more than 22,500."

She reviewed new campuses coming on line by 2009 thanks to the Bond 2005 issue. Two new schools and two major school renovations were completed this year; two more elementary schools, a new middle school, and a converted intermediate school (into an elementary school) will open in 2008; and, two additional elementary schools will open in 2009.

Bond 2005 has been planned well, she said, but the growth is

anticipated to continue at such a quick rate that more schools will be needed sooner than later.

In fact, seven schools will be over capacity by 2010 — Freiheit Elementary, Startzville Elementary, Smithson Valley High, Canyon High, Canyon Middle, Smithson Valley Middle, and Spring Branch Middle.

Based on her study, she is recommending that several new elementary schools will be needed by 2010 —

Avery Park area in New Braunfels to relieve Freiheit ES

Canyon Lake area elementary school to relieve Startzville and Rebecca Creek elementary schools

Kinder Ranch area off Borgfeld Rd. in the western part of the district

Garden Ridge area (possible closure of Comal Elementary)

In addition, middle and high school capacities need to be increased to the board-approved (2005) school capacities (1,298 at MS; 2,575 at HS)

Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent, presented a tentative plan for a bond issue in 2008 to address the needs outlined above, and additional minor projects like air conditioning in the elementary and middle school gyms. The school board and administration will continue to discuss a possible bond issue at future meetings.