

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS RELEASE

**Contact:** Kari Hutchison  
830-221-2045

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### **UPDATE: Construction on Rahe Bulverde Elementary to begin this Fall**

In January, Comal ISD reported that Rahe Bulverde Elementary would be consolidated under one roof, beginning in August 2009, instead of going through a simple renovation as originally planned in the Bond 2005 issue.

Today, the district is announcing that the construction on that project will begin this Fall instead of waiting until the new Johnson Ranch Elementary School is open in August 2009.

“We are excited that things have worked out the way they have,” says Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent. “We now are able to start on the consolidation of Rahe Bulverde a year ahead of what we were anticipating.”

This August, all of the Rahe Bulverde students will be housed in the Rahe facilities so the Bulverde campus can be turned into an elementary school to house prekindergarten through 5th grades. Construction is projected to take about 18 months.

“That will put about 570 students in the Rahe facility but it has held that many before,” says Walker. “We will use portables where necessary and the best part is that it will be temporary because by the beginning of 2010, they will all move into the brand new Bulverde facility.”

In addition, school district officials are determining what playground, library, and technology issues need to be addressed on the Rahe campus in order to make the 18 months at Rahe the best possible.

The project, estimated at about \$11 million, is financed through Bond 2005. Initially, the two buildings, separated by the Bulverde Community Center and Bowling Alley, were just going to receive some renovations. Upon further examination by architects and engineers it was determined that the campus needed much more work and that it should be combined into one facility.

The new and improved Rahe Bulverde Elementary will be “enclosed” so that students no longer have to go outside to change classes or walk to the cafeteria or gym. Pfluger Associates Architects has designed the two-story school and a contractor will be chosen at a later date.

“Rahe Bulverde Elementary will be a safer and more efficient campus,” Walker says. “We’re not just going to give it a facelift through Bond 2005 as we initially thought.....it’s going to be brought under one roof and experience a total makeover that everyone will be proud of for years to come.”

In addition, the school will have a new principal, Merrie Petmecky Fox, beginning this August. Petmecky Fox is the current assistant principal at Bill Brown Elementary.

To view an architectural rendering of the construction project visit [http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond\\_2005\\_Status.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Growth/Bond_2005_Status.asp).

#### TIMELINE

**June 2008:** Close Bulverde campus

**August 2008:** All Rahe Bulverde Elementary students will attend school on the Rahe site while the Bulverde site is under construction. Enrollment is projected to be about 570 in grades prekindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup>.

**January 2010:** Rahe Bulverde is completed and under one roof on the old Bulverde site. The district will close Rahe; its future will be determined later.