

# ON BOARD

BY - THE - MINUTES REPORT

MARCH 2021

## Board meetings

The Board will hold a special meeting on April 6 to view presentations from architectural firms who are vying for a chance to work with the District to build a new middle school. The firms would consult the District in how to conduct a bond election and determine the structural needs of the building to house instructional programs.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 19 at 7 p.m.

## Board votes to keep April 2 closure

The District received TEA waivers for seven of the eight instructional days missed because of bad weather and water availability encountered in February. Superintendent Charlie Alderman explained to the Board that because of the number of minutes already built into the annual student calendar the District had banked enough minutes to allow the District to be closed for the next scheduled bad weather day on Good Friday, April 2. The Board voted to use the banked minutes in the calendar.

Schools will be closed during the intersession week of April 12–16. Only employees working more than 207 days each year will be on campus during that week.

## Band and senior trips approved

The Board approved trips of 100 miles or more for the band and the seniors. The band trip to Disney World was scheduled for last year but was canceled because of the pandemic. The seniors will travel to San Antonio with stops along the way near the end of May.

Superintendent Alderman said activities were canceled because of the pandemic and he wanted students to have these opportunities now that COVID cases are declining and more people are being vaccinated. All safety precautions will be taken on student trips.

## Employee pay approved for missing days

The Board voted unanimously to compensate employees who were unable to work during the school emergency closures in February. Employees should not suffer a loss in pay to an emergency closing, according to the resolution passed. The resolution further states that the compensation serves the public purpose of maintaining morale, reducing turnover and ensuring continuity of District staffing when schools reopen.

## Other action...

- The Board approved the early voting clerks for the May 1 school board trustee election. The election is held jointly with the City of Commerce and North Hunt Special Utility District. Incumbents Randy Starks and Kelsey Lytle are running unopposed. Etta Herring, a Board member since 2012, is opposed by Joshua Koch, Jennifer Knight and Doc Pierce. Early voting begins April 19 at City Hall, 1119 Alamo St.
- Enrollment stands at 1450, down 28 students from January.
- A senior activity calendar was presented which included the annual trip to Southern Junction Steak House on April 21, the senior parent reception on May 3 and the Top 10 dinner on May 10 followed by the Honors/Awards Assembly. Baccalaureate will be held on May 16 at the First United Methodist Church. Prom will be held at the Swinson's on May 22. Graduation will be held on June 4 at Texas A&M University-Commerce's Ferguson Auditorium. Graduates will be allowed eight guests at the event.

