

ON BOARD

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

January 2014

Thank you, School Board

Every January, school boards across Texas are recognized for their service to the students of our state. Commerce ISD is fortunate to have a dedicated and committed board who put the best interests of the students to the forefront.

Administrators recognized board members Tuesday night prior to the regular meeting at a dinner where they were presented tokens of appreciation from the campuses and the Central Office.

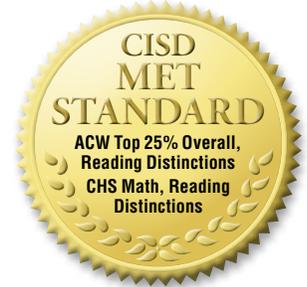


Sierra Patterson (right) presented a gift to Board member Kathleen Hooten during School Board Recognition Night.

CHS Principal David Welch (below) presented his campus report to the Board along with help from his campus leaders.



Junior Amelia Martin (center) was recognized for being named to the ATSSB 1A-2A All-State Band. She will perform in San Antonio in February at the Texas Music Educators Association conference. Superintendent Blake Cooper is shown at left with Band Director Dave Polk, right.



**HEARTS
& HANDS
FOR KIDS**



School Board
Recognition Month ·
January 2014



ON BOARD

Early exit incentive approved for educators

Superintendent Cooper introduced the early exit incentive program which offers educators a one-time \$1,000 payment when they resign their positions for the 2014–2015 school year by February 28, 2014. He explained that advance notice of an opening would allow the district to seek quality replacements and possibly alleviate personnel cuts due to budget constraints.

Contract employees are eligible for the incentive, which will be paid in the June 15, 2014 paycheck.

The Board unanimously approved the incentive program, which will be introduced to staff during the first week of February.

IN OTHER ACTION, THE BOARD:

- approved the purchase of three school buses to be delivered immediately;
- approved lease/purchase agreement for financing 2012 Dodge Ram 1-ton 4x4 truck for the ag department; and
- approved resolution supporting application to the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium Associates.

IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT...

Superintendent Blake Cooper reported enrollment of 1505, down 73 students from this time last year.

He said the filing period for a place on the May 10 ballot for school board was January 29 through February 28. Places 4 and 5 are up for election. Places are held by Ted Oats and Willie Blow, respectively.

Cooper said the contract with Forward Edge Inc. for drug testing is being finalized and testing should begin next month at the secondary schools for students involved in school sponsored activities and for those who park at CHS.

He gave an update on the Commerce Community Plaza which has a new class of 25 working toward graduation. Four of last year's graduates are working as full-time volunteers at the Plaza. Classes are being held at ACW on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Monday and Thursday evenings. Director Maria Garza and her husband Jose continue to work with families that need the CCP connection to be successful.

Cooper stated that the District's nominee John Sands had been elected as a director on the Hunt County Appraisal Board.

Review and evaluation of the superintendent's contract was postponed until the February meeting so all members could be in attendance.

Dian Underwood was named director of Tri County SSA and Rachel Myers was named the assistant director. Current director Laura English is retiring January 31.

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

2014

Monday Feb. 17
Thursday Mar. 20
Monday April 21
Monday May 19
Monday June 16
Monday July 21