

ON BOARD

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

October 2013

Board meeting unusually festive

It was an exciting night at the October 21 Board of Trustees as CES faculty and staff gathered for their annual campus presentation and other CISD teachers awaited the recognition of their grant awards from the Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation.

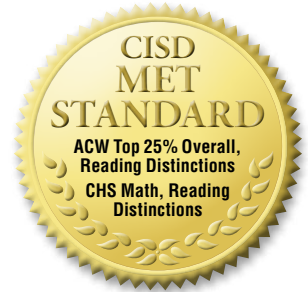
CHS senior Bach Tran was recognized for winning the grand prize in Downey Publishing's "Art for Education" contest. His artwork will be on the front cover of the 2013-2014 Hunt County Phone Directory. He and the CHS art department each received a \$500 prize. This was the fourth consecutive year that one of CHS art teacher Debora Lytle's students has won the grand prize.

The Commerce Community Plaza graduated 22 students during ceremonies in September at TAMU-Commerce. Director Maria Garza and ACW Counselor Linda Grubert were recognized for going beyond expectations in meeting the needs of the

Hispanic families in the program.

The Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation awarded over \$31,000 in grants to CISD teachers this year. Trips to the Dallas World Aquarium, Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas Museum of Art, Austin, the Caldwell Zoo, as well as a third year of the seventh grade writing camp and the robotics program were funded. Technology projects also received funding.

Shown left to right in the front row are CSEE Foundation Board Members Carole Walker, Loretta Kibler, Janet Peek, Beverly Pirkey and Dr. Jack Pirkey. CISD teachers receiving grants were Karen Davis, Dee Dee Harris, Pamela Dixon, Michelle Day, Diana Pemberton, Mahra Sanders, Rhonda Overman, Misti Gardner, Tracy Crews, Stephanie Pullen and Lauren Veraska. Christi Lesikar, Glenda Henderson, Tina Christian, Sherry Rector, Jackie McMinn, Meagan Hubbert, Wendy Davis and Melissa Towne were grant winners. Also receiving grants were Korey Perry, Rebekah Jacobson, Andrew Simpson, Latisha Britton, Wanda Beane, Sondra Feduccia, Keiondra Simpson, Nancy Hill, Laura Finley and Karen Hubbert. Not pictured is Lonnie Plunkett



Superintendent Blake Cooper presented certificates of appreciation to Commerce Community Plaza Director Maria Garza and ACW Counselor Linda Grubert. The Plaza graduated 22 students at ceremonies in September.



ON BOARD

Special meeting called for truck purchase

The Board conducted a special meeting on Friday, October 25 to approve the lease purchase of a truck to be used in ag science.

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

2013

Monday Nov. 18

Monday Dec. 16

2014

Tuesday Jan. 21

Monday Feb. 17

Thursday Mar. 20

Monday April 21

Monday May 19

Monday June 16

Monday July 21

In action, the Board:

- approved the minutes and financial statements from September,
- tabled consideration of a freeport exemption until November 18,
- nominated John Sands as a candidate for the Board of Directors of the Hunt County Appraisal District,
- tabled acceptance of bids received on resale properties by Hunt County Tax Assessor-Collector,
- appointed School Health Advisory Council members including Jennifer Speulda, John Walker and Gene Weinkauff, who are CISD staff and parents Jonathan Cadwell, Patty Wilson, Vanessa King, Craig Jensen, Kennetta Harrison, Amber Weaer, melanie Clayton, Freida Teel and Kristina Puentes,
- approved contribution to the Texas Taxpayer and Student Fairness Coalition to defend gains and continue to provide adequacy funding gaps are still large and unconstitutional and
- approved revision to Local Policy FNF which takes out reference that parents must pay for drug counseling for students testing positive in random drug tests. The Department of Counseling at Texas A&M University-Commerce is covering the cost.

In the Superintendent's report...

Superintendent Blake Cooper reported enrollment of 1504, down 72 students from this time last year. He said with each student bringing in \$5000 in state funding, the cost of decreasing enrollment is over \$350,000 to this year's budget. He stated that campuses needed to keep attendance as high as possible to keep the district's average daily attendance rate up.

Director of Curriculum Charlie Alderman reported that the district would again seek a bilingual waiver at the end of the month. The lack of bilingual teachers plus the additional financial burden placed on the district were cited as reasons for applying for the waiver.

Director of Technology Al Shipp said that buzzer entry systems were under consideration for each campus and costs were being compared.

The Winter Arts Festival is scheduled for Thursday, December 12.