

# ON BOARD

December 2012

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

## Lady Tigers recognized

*With an overall record of 30-8, the Lady Tigers volleyball team advanced to the Regional finals. The Board of Trustees honored them for their performance and their Tiger spirit.*



## Drug testing being considered at CMS and CHS

Drug testing was on the Board agenda for discussion during the December Board meeting. Superintendent Blake Cooper said he was bringing the topic back up again anticipating a change of its acceptance from when it was first introduced over 15 years ago.

Cooper presented a sample plan instituted by Edgewood ISD for random testing of middle school and high school students who participate in any type of extracurricular event. The policy would spell out a certain number of students to be tested monthly. Student ID numbers would come from the drug testing company to a district official, who would then accompany the student to the testing location onsite. Cooper said this guarantees a fair process. Parents would have the option to participate even if their children did not participate in school activities.

Cooper said drug testing would give students “a reason not to do it (drugs).” He added that if a student represents Commerce ISD, they would be tested under the policy.

Board member Ted Oats asked if Cooper knew the number of area schools that were drug testing. Cooper said he would survey schools in Region 10 and report back to the Board.



## Tiger Bi-District champs honored

*The Tiger football team was recognized by the Board for winning Bi-District. Superintendent Blake Cooper said he was most proud of the team's conduct which has improved significantly under Coach Scott Wells' leadership.*

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## Campus reports

### CHS principal Adam

**Rupert** said that remediation would be built into the schedules for 50 percent of freshmen and sophomores who failed at least one EOC test. The new schedule was devised with minimal expense without adding staff.

### Patrick Just, CMS

**principal**, said it has been an emotional time for middle school students this week. Students and staff wore green and white in memory of the students at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

ACW students will now have CMS student council members as reading buddies.

### ACW Principal Deanna

**Hays** said her students enjoy the attention from the older students. She also thanked Kathy Black and her husband for donating and installing soccer goals at the playground.

### Jeanne Lay, CES

**principal**, said her students were excited to be working on iPads. She said their faces and eyes light up when using technology and they don't even realize they are learning. Kindergarten students were eager to use the ActivTable where six of them could gather around to make work like play.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, January 22, in the CISD Board Room.

## Superintendent's report...

Superintendent Blake Cooper reported enrollment for November at 1572, a drop of 15 students from last month.

He shared information about the Community Schools Transformation Alliance formed by area superintendents as a networking group to work for school improvement. The Alliance will host a meeting for area school boards on January 24 at the Sam Rayburn Student Center to encourage discussion about school topics and study of best practices.

He also said that filing for the school board would be open on January 30, 2013 through March 1 at the CAB. Places 1, 2, 3 and 7 are up for election.

Board members committed to complete their required training by the end of the year.

## Other Board action...

- Curriculum Director Julia Robinson conducted the public hearing for the AEIS (Academic Excellence Indicator System) report as required by law. She stated that all achievement results had been presented in previous meetings and accountability ratings were not issued because the State had yet to set the standards. She did explain that benchmark tests would be given during the third week of January. The test would closely resemble a STAAR or EOC test.
- Cooper explained that a bill had been filed in the legislature to do away with the accountability rating system.
- The Board also approved a resolution adopting an official position on several education issues. Points include urging the legislature to vote in favor of a state revenue system for public education that, without regard to short-term economic trends, will provide an equitable and adequate education for all students.
- Support for revising the accountability/assessment system to a less punitive testing system and opposition for any increased accountability without corresponding increases in funding were also favored.
- The Board favored maintaining the defined benefits program, without reducing TRE benefits and opposed any type of voucher program or taxpayer savings grant that does not have 100 percent of the accountability standards and bureaucracy that public schools must follow.
- The Board voted unanimously to purchase technology with Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA) funds. Computer labs at all four campuses would receive updated desktop computers. In total, 129 PCs would be purchased plus two more iPad carts with 24 iPads each at a cost of \$109,000. Older computers that were replaced, if still useful, would be moved to other locations within the district, including classrooms.
- The Board accepted the resignation of Kevin Shaw, CHS math teacher.
- Board member Ted Oats said the Winter Arts Festival was great. He said the art, singing, plays and band were wonderful. "We are lucky to have what we have," Oats said.
- The Board will also participate in Team of Eight Training in January to develop new goals. Community input will also be sought in goal-setting sessions in the spring.