

ON BOARD

August 2012

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

Board gears up for a new school year

During its regular meeting Monday, August 20, the Board heard reports on AYP, the new ag barn, the Boys & Girls Club, delinquent taxes and an update on back-to-school activities.

President Willie Blow welcomed the board's newest member, Etta Herring, who was appointed to a one-year term in July.

Tab Beall with the law firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP informed the Board about delinquent tax collection efforts made by his firm. He said that delinquencies were significantly lower than they were 12 months ago and the District was in good shape compared to the last few years. Although 97 percent of property owners pay taxes on time, there continues to be five accounts with significant amounts owed.

Beall explained that 31 percent of taxes outstanding were on property in the middle to low value range with a total outstanding tax amount of \$197,552.



At the Back-to-School Convocation held for all CISD staff Monday, August 20, Superintendent Blake Cooper said the testing "challenges were great but we [the CISD staff] can do it."

New ag barn being constructed

Superintendent Blake Cooper updated the Board on the construction of a new ag barn north of CHS. Dirt work has been completed and estimates are being evaluated for construction of a 70 x 75-ft structure. The District will provide the dirt work, the building and utilities. Donations of materials and labor will complete the project which will house ag projects and livestock shows.

CHS drainage project considered

Superintendent Cooper explained plans to prevent the lower level of the CHS cafeteria from flooding during severe wet weather. One proposal calls for installing sump pumps underneath the stage area, the most costly fix recommended by engineers. Another calls for redirecting drainage around the building. Because the cost of the project is undetermined, Cooper asked the Board for permission to discuss the project with the engineering firm of Jackson Construction, which is currently building the university's equestrian center. Bond money left over from the ACW project would be used to pay for the drainage repairs.



Boys & Girls Club required to provide liability coverage

Superintendent Cooper explained that the Boys & Girls Club did not provide liability coverage for use of ACW and that board policy required it. Board member Russell Armstrong said he thought the club should obtain the coverage before school starts. After discussion, the Board agreed to require the Boys & Girls Club to provide liability insurance coverage by September 3 or the club would have to move elsewhere.

ACW Principal Deanna Hays said that after discussions with the Boys & Girls Club director they had determined that the club's use would be restricted to the gym, cafeteria and library and the expectations for behavior would be the same as when the students are in class.

Missing AYP doesn't dampen resolve, say Cooper, Robinson

After Director of Curriculum Julia Robinson explained that the District and all campuses missed AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) as required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Superintendent Cooper said, "We (the district) will get there (meet AYP)." CISD, along with 72 percent of all districts in the state, missed the mark which has been steadily increasing.

The corrective action plan chosen by the District includes a revision of the district improvement plan to address identified needs. The District must send a letter to parents during the first week of school identifying the needs and the plans for addressing them.

Robinson showed the Board a new tool which provides specific information to each teacher that shows which objectives were not mastered over time. The data has been input and results target specific objectives that require attention so that students can be directly helped.

The bar has been set so high to validate the state and federal governments' desire to support vouchers, school choice and charter schools, according to Cooper.

"We have good kids and great teachers who have incredible work ethics. We will get there," he said.

In other action...

The Board:

- certified the 2012 appraisal rolls provided by Hunt and Delta Counties. Values, which were up .5 percent after decreasing the last several years, were \$400,187,127 for Hunt County and \$1,995,880 for Delta County.
- employed Robert Johnson and John Walker as CES teachers, Penny Belcher, ACW; and Curt Hale and Beth Mizell at CMS.
- held a public hearing on the FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) fiscal accountability rating for CISD. The district received a "Standard Achievement" rating.

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

2012

Monday . . . September 17
Monday October 15
Thursday . . . November 15
Monday . . . December 17

2013

Tuesday January 22
Monday February 18
Thursday March 21
Monday April 15
Monday May 20
Monday June 17
Monday July 15