

ON BOARD

March 2011

BY - T H E - M I N U T E S R E P O R T

Board declares financial exigency

Preparing for the worst state financial shortfall projection ever, the CISD School Board has mirrored the action taken by many boards across the state to declare financial exigency, paving the way for a possible reduction in force of term contract employees. Superintendent Blake Cooper was asked to bring recommendations to the Board regarding staff reductions at a future meeting.

President Willie Blow said that although the Board does not desire a reduction in force to take place, the Board had to follow a timeline called for in a worst case scenario in line with projected budget constraints.

Cooper had previously stated that up to 20 staff positions might have to be eliminated. Currently, with district shortfalls projected from \$300,000 to \$900,000, less than 15 positions may be cut including contract teachers and auxiliary staff.



CHS ag students recognized

Ag students, led by teacher Richard Meeks, have participated in several events bringing home honors for their school. In the District 4 Leadership Development Contest, Laney Davidson placed third in Greenhand Creed Speaking. Members of the first place Greenhand Quiz team were Davidson, R. J. Reynolds, Nathan Burt and Lindsey Turner.

Caryn McKinley placed second in job interview. Ashley Kanaman, Alex Worley, Kody Miles and Kadie Hays finished second in public relations. Payton Ferguson, Amanda Hill and Macy McQueary won third in radio broadcast. Rebekah Cooper finished second in Senior Creed Speaking. Cooper, along with Davidson, Reynolds, Burt, Turner, McKinley, Kanaman, Worley, Miles and Hays have qualified for the Area 5 Leadership Contest.

The Commerce FFA won second in Sweepstakes at the event.

Ag students including Blake Madewell, Macy McQueary, Payton Ferguson, Caryn McKinley and Nathan Burt, along with teacher Richard Meeks were recognized by the School Board for their outstanding performance. Madewell placed second at the San Antonio Livestock Show with his steer bringing \$4000.

Campus teachers of the year honored



Having been selected by their peers for outstanding teaching, this year's campus teachers of the year are Mary Wyse, CHS; Mardi Leist, CMS; Sondra Feduccia, ACW; and Wendy Bridges, CES.



Board election cancelled

Oats, Blow declared winners in uncontested race

State laws allows school boards to cancel elections in uncontested races, saving the expense of elections for school districts and candidates. Ted Oats will continue his service on the board as will Willie Blow. Oats is completing his first three-year term. Current president Willie Blow was appointed to fulfill an unexpired term in 1999.



Mark your calendar!

The Boots N BBQ fundraiser will be held by the CSEE Foundation April 16 at 6 p.m. at CHS.

BOARD MEETINGS

6:15 • 3315 Washington

Monday April 18

Monday May 16

Monday June 20

Monday July 18

Fire chief proposes district facility for training use

Commerce Fire Chief Brian McNevin presented a request to the Board to use the Summit School building at 905 College St. as a training site for reserve firefighters and emergency medical personnel. The plan would be funded by a grant from Homeland Security for \$732,000, which has been recommended for approval.

CHS seniors could enroll in the training and receive \$2500 in scholarships to attend. McNevin said the program is expected to begin October 1.

In other action...

The Board approved

- participating in the Lone Star Purchasing Cooperative for school meal programs,
- naming Donna Yoakum, district payroll and PEIMS coordinator, as designee to validate service records and
- TEA textbook certification.

Superintendent's Report...

Superintendent Cooper reported the district was up six students from February. Total enrollment is 1590. Last year's count at this time was 1600.

The Boots N BBQ fundraiser will be held by the CSEE Foundation April 16 at 6 p.m. at CHS. Tickets are available at the CISD Administration Building for \$25 each.

The State Comptroller's preliminary property values show a \$50 million reduction in values over the last three years. Reduced values combined with a lower average daily attendance contribute to lower state funding for CISD.

Director of Curriculum, Special Programs and Grants Julia Robinson explained two grants submitted by the district. The 21st Century grant would provide after school activities every weekday until 5:30 p.m. for ACW and CMS students and is renewable for five years. The other would provide an instructional coach for CMS and CHS math teachers.

Cooper shared highlights of campus events and asked principals to explain other events taking place. CES Principal Jeanne Lay thanked Virdie Montgomery, CHS principal, for the wonderful experience staged at CHS introducing Rachel's Challenge to CES students, ACW Principal Wes Underwood said that third graders would be traveling to the Museum of Nature and Science the next day, which was funded through a Foundation grant. Patrick Just, CMS principal, said his campus had the largest turnout he had witnessed for an open house during Texas Public Schools Week. He had over 100 in attendance at the special presentation about cyberbullying and internet safety.

Trustees will meet at 6:15 p.m., Monday, April 18 for the next regular meeting.