

# ON BOARD

December 2008

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT

## Superintendent Cooper takes the helm

Even though he officially begins his duties January 5, Blake Cooper fully participated as the CISD head official during the regular monthly Board meeting at Commerce High School December 15.

The Board presented outgoing Interim Superintendent Larry Johnson with a clock in recognition of his five months of service to the district.

Cooper also thanked Johnson for helping him get settled into his new role as district superintendent.

## AEIS public hearing held

As required by statute, the District held its annual public hearing for its Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS). The District was Academically Acceptable but missed AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) because it exceeded the two percent cap for the number of special education students in reading and math.

Other indicators on the report include the district's 64.4 percent economically disadvantaged population compared with the state's 55.3 percent. Ethnic distribution comes in at 21.7 percent African American, 15.7 percent Hispanic, 58.9 percent White, 1.0 percent Native American and 2.7 percent Asian/Pacific Islander. For other information such as SAT and ACT scores, teachers by years of experience and retention rates by grade, analyze the full report at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/aeis/2008/index.html>



*Interim Superintendent Larry Johnson, above right, was presented a clock from Board President Willie Blow in recognition of his service to the district for the last five months.*



## KUDOS!

At left, varsity volleyball players named to the Academic All-District team were recognized at the December Board of Trustees meeting. Left to right are Rachel Armstrong, Kayla Clark, Danielle Essix, Stephanie Hall, Caitlin Yoakum and Niki McKeithen.

Tiger football players also recognized for receiving Academic All-District Football honors include Jurase Brown, Gabe Conner, Michael Bruce, Kody Miles, Evan Chapin, Taner Burnett, Raevaughn Cook, Joey Farquhar and Derek Johnson.

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*“We have the best kids I have seen in my life here.”*

## Four schools rate 100% highly qualified teachers

Recent gains have increased the percentage of highly qualified teachers at all campuses. CES, ACW, CMS and The Summit House report 100 percent highly qualified, while CHS has a 96.15 percent highly qualified rating in regular classes and 100 percent in special education classes. The goal is for all campuses to show 100 percent highly qualified status by the end of the school year.

## BOARD MEETINGS

January 20	Tues.	CMS
February 16	Mon.	CMS
March 23	Mon.	CMS
April 20	Mon.	CMS
May 18	Mon.	CMS
June 15	Mon.	CMS

## Pile on the positives, says CHS principal

CHS Principal Virdie Montgomery welcomed the Board to his campus and explained new initiatives at the school to tackle academic needs.

Many schools have punitive processes in place to handle discipline, Montgomery explained that he believes positive experiences and incentives must be in place. "We want the best out of students. That's why we handle discipline with care and understanding," he said.

To address a student's academic shortcomings, he said the focus is on adding help in the way of tutorials instead of taking away class time for review and reinforcement. Monday night tutorials have been successful, especially with the district providing transportation.

Offering incentives is a major part of his strategy to involve kids. "I want it to be cool for kids to be smart," he added. Honor roll signs and donut parties are just a few of the ways he encourages students.

"The dress code has been a wonderful way for me to offer incentives as a reward for good behavior. Students will follow all the rules to get to dress differently," Montgomery said. Alternative dress Fridays have helped the campus focus on good behavior week to week.

"We stress that going to college is important. As students receive their acceptance letters, we will recognize them and place their photo on the wall of honor," he said.

The Friends of Rachel Club at the school currently leads the nation in the number of members of FORspace, an online social meeting place for group members.

"We have the best kids I have seen in my life here," Montgomery added at the conclusion of his presentation.

## *In the Consent Agenda...the Board approved...*

- Minutes of the regular meeting on November 17, 2008; and
- Financial statement and investment summary for November.

## *In other action...*

The Board heard enrollment had remained at 1619 even though gains and losses could be found throughout the district.

The Board approved:

- employment of Rebekah Russler, CMS English/Language Arts teacher;
- acceptance of the resignation of Bryan Price, athletic director; and
- approved revisions to the district organizational chart.

## Board contracts with Region 10 for 403(b) administration

New IRS regulations have increased the complexity of administering 403(b) plans so district administrators asked the Board to approve an arrangement with Region 10 to act as the third party administrator. This action will ensure that the district is in compliance with all regulations and prevents any liability issues.