

ON BOARD

November 2008

BY-THE-MINUTES REPORT



Above, Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation Board members presented over \$24,000 to teachers for instructional grants. CSEEF Board members attending the meeting were (back row) Jack Pirkey, Janet Duncan, Patty Doster, Jerry Keeble, Jerry Lytle, Wyman Williams, Loretta Kibler, Alicia Hulseay and Janet Peek. Teachers attending were (front row) Stephanie Critchlow, Karen Hubbert, Julie McLeroy, Tina Bronson, Travis Milsap, Angela Neal, Celia Reid, Cadi Collins, Nicole Timmons, Sarah Jones, Mardi Leist and Bob Pugh.

Eight projects funded by CSEEF grants

The Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation has awarded grants in excess of \$24,000 to CISD teachers for eight projects. The grants will be used to enhance instruction in science, math, fine arts and technology.

Receiving the grants were Stephanie Critchlow, Travis Milsap and Susan Erwin, CHS; Sarah Jones, Mardi Leist, Celia Reid, Nicole Timmons and Bob Pugh, CMS; Angela Neal, CES/ACW music; Cadi Collins, third grade teacher and fourth grade teachers represented by Julie McLeroy.

Funds will be used to purchase technology such as Smart Boards and School Pads. Funds will also secure a jazz performance for elementary students and the annual fourth grade trip to Austin.

Since 2005, the Foundation has distributed over \$135,000 to teachers who have presented proposals for funding.

ACW receives TEA Gold Performance Acknowledgements

A. C. Williams Elementary School has received three Gold Performance Acknowledgments for performance on last year's TAKS test. The school was recognized for commended performance in writing and science and comparable improvement in reading. To receive the commended performance accolade, the school had 25 percent or more students who had a commended score on the TAKS test.

Danna Myers, Executive Director of Curriculum and Personnel, also shared that although CES, ACW and CMS met the Federal Adequate Yearly Progress standard (AYP) the high school and the district did not. The math scores of economically disadvantaged students must show improvement for the district to regain its AYP standard.

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CES children brighten Board report

Commerce Elementary School children made a special appearance at the November Board meeting to help Principal Bobbie Thurman show why CES is such a great place to be. Students spelled out “CES Thanksgiving” and sang a special Tiger song. Staff members were introduced and Thurman told guests about the many successful programs at the school.

BOARD MEETINGS

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

ACW building project remains on track, in budget

Good weather was again noted by Architect Nathan Morgan for keeping the ACW building project on schedule. The structure of the building continues to develop as iron work is erected on section A, the hub of building which houses administrative and support staff offices. On the east side of the building, masonry veneer is going up and roofing will begin soon on the classroom wings. Morgan explained that using a different masonry veneer will save the District \$24,000 without sacrificing the esthetics in the original plan.

Board upholds sex offender policy

The Board voted unanimously to enforce Local Policy GKC which allows parents and guardians who are convicted sex offenders limited access to schools. Offenders may only visit schools for scheduled conferences with school personnel, to pick up assignments, transport students to and from school or attend the student’s high school graduation. For the complete policy, go to [http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/116903/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=GKC\(LOCAL\).pdf](http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/116903/pol.cfm?DisplayPage=GKC(LOCAL).pdf)

In the Consent Agenda...the Board approved...

- Minutes of the regular meeting on October 27, 2008;
- Financial statement and investment summary for October;
- Bids for resale properties by the Hunt County Tax Assessor-Collector; and
- memorandum of understanding between the CISD Police Department and TAMU-Commerce Police Department.

Board increases sick day donation maximum

For years the District has allowed employees to donate up to two of their state personal days to other employees with a catastrophic illness who have exhausted their own sick days. In this action, Board members increased the number of sick days allowed to be donated to an employee from 15 to 30.

e-Rate project gets Board approval

Technology Director Al Shipp explained the e-Rate program and proposed seeking grant funds for improving the technology infrastructure at Commerce Elementary School. The federally funded program funds the most needy schools first with schools having 90 percent free and reduced lunch participation with an almost guarantee of funding. With CES's 75 percent free and reduced lunch population, the school should qualify for funding. Although formal approval was not required, the Board asked Shipp to proceed with the project.

Enrollment gains seen at elementary schools

Enrollment is up nine students thanks to 15 new students at CES and ACW. Secondary school enrollment dropped six students.

CMS teacher resigns

Tiffany Rosson has resigned her position as an English/Language Arts teacher at Commerce Middle School.