

# ON BOARD

**AUGUST 2022**

## **CCC plans Sept. 12 fundraiser**

CISD Director of Health Services Kathy Myers, representing Commerce Community Cares, invited the Board to attend its annual BBQ fundraiser at 5:15 p.m., Monday, September 12 at the First Baptist Church.

CISD has benefitted from the financial support of CCC for many years.

This year's honoree will be the late Gene Casselberry, a staunch supporter of the community.

## **Upcoming CISD Board meeting**

Monday, September 26

*All meetings are held  
at 7 p.m. at the CISD  
Administration Building,  
3315 Washington St.*



## **Security updates approved**

In response to Governor Greg Abbott's call for all Texas school districts to implement a safety and security committee to analyze schools and propose additional security protocols and procedures, the CISD Board of Trustees approved adding an additional police officer, four metal detector wands and signage for each school and the administration building. The signs would state that staff is trained to protect students and staff.

The committee is made up of school health and safety personnel, administrators and city fire and police staff.

Board member LaVelle Hendricks stated that he once was against the use of metal detectors that he encountered in large districts, but now he said that we have to protect our students and staff with many resources.

Gabe Wittkopf, board member, relayed that police presence would be increased in schools as stated by Commerce Director of Public Safety Chris Bassham.

The safety and security committee will meet throughout the school year to examine to assess the security of our buildings and grounds.

## **District gets B in TEA accountability rating**

Commerce ISD received a rating of B in the TEA accountability rating system. We are particularly proud of our Relative Performance of our Economically Disadvantaged Population (71.1%). We were rated an A.

Relative performance measures the academic achievement of all students relative to districts or campuses with similar economically disadvantaged students.

- Commerce High School was rated a B overall. CHS was also rated a B for relative performance with an economically disadvantaged student population of 60.2%.
- Commerce Middle School was not rated according to Senate Bill 1365. Senate Bill 1365 states a campus is not rated when the domain or overall scales score is less than 70. Commerce Middle School's scaled score was 69. We are reviewing all data and calculations and will appeal if we determine there is sufficient documentation. It should be noted that Commerce Middle School made significant progress in Closing the Gap and received a C rating for this domain.
- A.C. Williams improved from a D rating to a C rating. The most significant progress came in the Academic Growth component of the School Progress Domain.

## On Board news

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### Board selects turf contractor

In a special meeting held on August 22, the CISD Board of Trustees selected Hellas Construction Inc. to install turf on the softball and baseball fields.

A representative from Texas Sports and Civil Engineering analyzed bids from Hellas and Symmetry Construction. Hellas is currently onsite working on the multi-purpose building, which put them in a favored position.

The Board approved Hellas's \$1,998,600 bid plus added alternates such as backstops, netting, fencing and dugout railing for an additional \$464,000.

The Board voted to move \$500,000 from fund balance to the bond account to cover the additional expenses.

Board President Kathleen Hooten, agreed with Dr. LaVelle Hendricks, board member, that we should do it right the first time and not revisit projects at a later date.

### Tax rate set at \$1.4429, certified appraisal rolls drop

Director of Finance John Walker explained that the Texas Education Agency actually sets the maintenance and operations tax rate for all Texas districts. The rate of .9429 will be added to the interest and sinking (I&S) rate of 50 cents, which results from the bond payment for a new middle school and other improvements. The proposed tax rate goes from \$1.3092 to \$1.4429 per \$100 valuation. The tax rate passed unanimously.

The certified appraisal rolls dropped \$17 million in value from the \$7.16 million preliminary values projected earlier this summer. Walker said the district anticipated losing value because of the large number appeals considered by the appraisal district. The final appraisal rolls were \$695 million for Hunt County and \$4 million for Delta County.

### In other action...

The Board approved:

- resignation from Dustee Daugherty, CHS ag teacher,
- employment of Jacklyn Brent, CHS ag teacher; and William Brasher, 6th-grade social studies teacher and coach,
- approved the CISD Professional Development Plan as required by the Effective Schools Framework Clearinghouse. All requirements were met by staff prior to school starting,
- approved two easements adjacent to CES to allow drainage and an entrance drive to the new housing addition south of the campus. Superintendent Charlie Alderman said the addition would be a boon to our property taxes and student enrollment,
- offering innovative CTE courses this semester including General Employability Skills, Principles of Exercise Science and Wellness and Kinesiology II. NETCAT Director Dr. Andrea Ellis and CHS Career and College Readiness Coordinator Joyce Sample said the courses would allow students additional ways to meet graduation requirements. Sample will be teacher of record for the employability skills class as students gain work experience and have lessons and assessments on being a successful employee. CTE classes are weighted to garner additional funding for the District.

### Informational reports...

- Dr. Rob O'Connor has been named owner's representative to act as a liaison between the construction firm and CISD administrators. O'Connor has overseen numerous construction projects as a superintendent in large and small districts.
- Bids will go out on August 22 for subcontractors for the new middle school. Estimates are three to five percent lower than anticipated. Recent price changes may allow some items to be placed back into the plans.