



**CISD Regular Board Meeting
President's Report Recap
June 24, 2024**

Superintendent Search

- The job posting closed on June 15th for candidates to apply.
- We are pleased to report we received 25 applications.
- We have reviewed the applications and have selected those in which we have an interest in inviting for an interview.
- Our plan is to start interviews next week with an expectation to have a selection and a new superintendent in place prior to Dr. Ledbetter leaving at the end of August.

Title IX Lawsuit

- As you know, Carroll ISD filed this lawsuit to protect its students and staff from the unlawful expansion of Title IX by the Biden administration.
- As it currently stands, the new rule will go into effect in Texas on August 1.
- As you may be aware, courts in Louisiana and Kentucky have already stopped the implementation of the rule in their respective states. But those decisions do not apply to Texas school districts.
- Relatedly, a few weeks ago, a federal court in Fort Worth recognized that previous Department of Education guidance documents, relating to Title IX, interpreting "sex" to mean gender identity were unlawful. This was the lawsuit filed by the Texas Attorney General.
- That decision does not fully protect Carroll ISD's students and staff because it only relates to actions taken before the Department issued the new Title IX rule.
- Without this lawsuit, the school district would run the risk that it would have to implement policies that violate the rights of its students and staff.
- We expect in July, the court will likely decide on the district's request to stop the rule from going into effect on August 1st. Stay tuned.

(continued)





Office of Civil Rights (OCR)

- As reported previously, the district received a letter from OCR on May 6, 2024, that included a “proposed resolution of action items” relating to the four complaints. OCR gave the district 90 days to sign the proposal.
- However, OCR did not provide the district their findings and conclusions with supporting evidence and fact to substantiate those findings and conclusions.
- As reported to you, we have requested the findings and conclusions, with supporting evidence and fact, from OCR on three different occasions and OCR has refused to provide us those in every instance.
- Afterall, that is what we provided them. In fact, I’m proud to tell you this Board has made an exhaustive review of the district’s handling of the four complaints, and steadfastly stands behind the teachers, principals, counselors and administrators that conducted reasonable, timely and effective investigations into the complaints, meted out punishment where appropriate, and are satisfied that CISD was in full compliance with the law.
- It is easy for people to summarily state that CISD engaged in harassment against these students or failed to protect them. However, to substantiate such a statement, what you must demonstrate is that those teachers, principals and counselors who handled the bulk of the investigations of the complaints didn't care about the students enough to protect them. This is not a conclusion we are prepared to make without actual evidence.
- It is still unfathomable to this board how any reasonable person would agree to essentially signing a confession without knowing what you are guilty of and why.
- CISD has fully cooperated with the OCR in its investigations, provided thousands of pages of documentation, and has spent over \$320 thousand of this community's tax dollars in doing so, not including thousands of staff hours.
- We have clearly made CISD's position known to the OCR, provided our evidence and our complete analysis of such evidence. Again, why would the OCR withhold its evidence, analysis and findings, if they exist, amid a "good faith negotiation?"
- Incidentally, there are many examples of other OCR investigations, across the country, where they intimidated a school district into signing a list of demands only to follow up saying their investigation did not find any violation, leaving the school district bound to what they had signed and agreed to.
- Therefore, we continue to wait patiently on OCR to provide us the documentation we have requested so that we can consider entering into “good faith negotiations”.
- We plan to continue to keep the community updated through email and Dragon eBlast communications, as appropriate.

