

Interview with Leslie Vann, CISD Superintendent

District students excelled during school year

Coffee being served in elementary class under investigation

By Bill Terry

Recently the Comfort Independent School District has been in the news regarding an incident in which coffee was given to students **before a state exam**. In an interview with Leslie Vann, superintendent of the District, I asked him about the incident and whether or not the district's policies had been violated or needed clarification for the future.

"I am limited on what I can share about this," Vann said. "It ~~is being~~ **has been** investigated by the elementary principal. Procedures have been followed; there are procedures in place to prevent it from happening again. Serving caffeine products is a gray area. They are served at parties ~~all the time in the school system~~ **when provided by parents**. We addressed this issue in a way that if a parent wants to provide coffee for their child there is an option for that but the District staff will not provide it at the elementary level."

Vann encourages anyone with an interest in, or questions about, the District's activities to visit attend a School Board meeting. The meetings are held the second Monday of every month beginning at 6 p.m. The board does have the option to adjust those dates based on scheduling conflicts.

During the meetings there's a specific time for individuals to voice their **thoughts or** concerns with the board.

"There are some limitations on what people can talk about," said Vann. "We have printed policies about the meetings and those are available at the administrative office. The board welcomes guests who want to attend the meeting and I personally encourage people to attend. Just remember that even though it's an open meeting its primary purpose is for the members of the board to meet and discuss District business, not for members of the public to meet with the board.

Vann noted that three Board positions will be coming up for election in November; positions four, five and six. In order to vote on those positions you must live within the district. Information about the election will be available from the District beginning July 25.

Vann is proud of the students' accomplishments during the year just ended.

"As a whole our students did very well this year. They excelled in all areas of athletics and many of them made it to the playoffs," he said. "The kids especially put forth a lot of effort in the track meets, and that's a sport where you're competing against yourself more than someone else.

"The kids in our vocational programs also excelled this year. The building trades program has continued to grow four-fold. In those classes students are learning such things as cabinet making, electrical skills and structural construction principles. This year we took a bus load of students to vocational competition. And we applied for a JET grant, a Jobs and Education for Texans grant through the Texas Workforce Commission. If we receive that grant we can buy \$45 thousand dollars of welding equipment. That would greatly improve our welding program and enable us to offer a certification program through the Alamo Workforce Commission. Students

who complete the program and pass the appropriate test will receive certification for employment.

“Students in our health occupation courses students have a good start towards becoming Certified Nursing Assistants. They are able to leave here prepared to see if they want to go further in the medical field in areas such as nursing or radiology.

“The students in our Ag program have also done exceptionally well. We have several students going to the FFA state convention. Four will be receiving their FFA Lone Star Degree, the highest achievement award in the FFA. And we have students who are State and National officers.

“University Interscholastic League activities will be our focus this year. We want to enhance the program and encourage the students to participate. Some of the categories we’ll emphasize are one act plays, mathematics, writing skills, social studies, speaking events and debating.”

There will be new principals in the District next year.

“Josh Limmer will be the **middle school principal**,” said Vann, “Donald Love will be the new principal at the elementary school and Kristyn Day will be his assistant principle.”