



## BOARD BRIEFS

### Mineral Wells Independent School District

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#### A Summary of Actions by the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of September 11, 2017

The Board of Trustees met on September 11, 2017 for the purpose of holding a board workshop/regular board meeting. Members present were Maria Jones – President, Scott Elder, Sunny Lee, Greg Malone, Laretta Poole, and Joe Ruelas.

#### Action Items:

1. Approved the Monthly Financial Reports and Accounts Payable Listing.
2. Approved the Water, Electricity, and Gas Reports.
3. Approved the board meeting minutes for August 14, 2017, August 17, 2017, and August 29, 2017.
4. Approved Facility Use Agreements for Category 1 Organizations.
5. Approved the Application for Optional Flexible School Day Program as presented.
6. Ratified the tax rate of \$1.17 for maintenance and operations and \$0.26 for interest and sinking.
7. Approved computer refresh purchases for the 2017-2018 school year as presented.
8. Approved the contract with Infinity Contractors Int'l Ltd. for the 2017 Junior High Boiler-Chiller Replacement as presented.
9. Approved the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program and the First Amendment to the Agreement between the City and MWISD for the 2017-2018 school year as presented.
10. Approved the Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Medical Services as presented.
11. Approved the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Mineral Wells, Texas, the Mineral Wells Independent School District, and Palo Pinto County, Texas, for the joint purchase of a school zone flasher system as presented.
12. Closed Session Items: None.

#### Information Items:

1. Board held a workshop at 5:30 p.m. to discuss Planning for 2017-2018.
2. Karyn Bullock, Communications Director, shared information about a family of five recently affected by Hurricane Harvey. The family was in the process of moving to Mineral Wells from the Houston area and had placed their belongings in storage in preparation for the move. They lost everything in the flood. Because they were in transition and their items were no longer in a home, they received no assistance from FEMA. The family contacted MWISD to work out transfer for their children. Carey Carter immediately began working with this family and helping to locate supplies they needed. After internal brainstorming, MWISD reached out to the public through social media for additional resources for the family. The Mineral Wells community has always taken a stand to help those in need. They responded to this post and came together in a huge way.
3. President's Report:
  - Maria Jones, Board President, reported that a few of the board members are headed to Dallas for the TASA/TASB Annual Convention, October 6-8.
  - Ms. Jones read a thank you note received from a community member thanking the Board for saving the foundation on the east side of Lamar where a basketball goal has been put up and a trash can set up. There is almost daily use by kids playing ball, skate boarding, or riding bikes - even moms pushing strollers.
4. Superintendent's Reports:
  - John Kuhn, Superintendent, called on campus principals for a brief overview of themes, programs, and new procedures:
    - Kendra Fowler, Lamar Elementary Principal, introduced Assistant Principal Traci Costlow, and says Lamar students are "Wild About Learning" and will continue focus on their six pillars of character. Teachers are loving the common planning time where all teachers gather for an hour to collaborate on "Wacky Wednesday." Due to state changes in food and nutritional guidelines, PreK students will have their own breakfast line as their food choices differ from kindergarten and first grade. Thanks to PreK teachers that applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from Parker-Hannifan, Lamar will be receiving mini iPads for their students. Lamar continues to work with Houston on a Targeted Improvement Plan and have implemented a new phonics scope and sequence in curriculum to assure students get the necessary, basic reading skills.
    - Tabitha Bleeker, Houston Elementary Assistant Principal, says Houston's theme is "Unleash the Super Hero in You." New this year, and a part of Opportunity Culture, are the two multi-classroom leaders (MCL) for math and reading. Houston will continue to offer the Chess Program, coding, STEAM Universe at Region 11, U.I.L., Science Fair, History Wax Museum for third grade. New is a Student Leadership Group to work with students to develop community and service skills; Principal's Pick each six weeks; and new focus this year is Guided Math.
    - David Wells, Travis Elementary Principal, recognized Assistant Principal Andy Pool, and says Travis will "Launch into Learning." Exciting changes at Travis are highlighted by the fact that they are an Opportunity Culture campus. They have two MCLs (one for math and one for language arts) that will aid and assist teachers by mentoring, coaching, co-teaching, help guide planning, and work small group instruction with students. A new position, referred to as a Reach Associate, goes into assigned classrooms to assist struggling students not served through other designated programs (such as SPED, etc.). Noticeable benefits of Opportunity Culture include the new summer hires coming to Mineral Wells due to the extra layer of support they receive through this program. Also new, designated writing classes were added to 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade schedules.
    - Shanna Coker, Mineral Wells Junior High Principal, and her team assessed needs at MWJH and targeted SPED population, ELL population, and Teacher Retention. Through restructure, they developed a Resource ELA class, added math labs, and scheduled reading intervention class for each ELL student. Seventh grade has split their ELA class into two sections – one for reading and one for writing. MWJH has also gone from a 7-period day to an 8-period day. Teacher Retention developed a new Teacher Academy with guidelines for each month and then they meet as a group. Assistant Principals, Joey Hobbs and Kelly Wilson, were introduced. The theme for MWJH is "The Power of . . . YET."

- Jon Almeida, Mineral Wells High School Principal, introduced Assistant Principals, Ben Schoonover, Jeff Williams, and Nichole Gray, then proceeded to address the Board on A-Z and Beyond. There are many new programs and changes including, but not limited to, added Health Science teacher and sections (due to student request); added Criminal Justice course; added Sports Medicine; added Spanish V courses; added PLTW courses; added College Algebra as a dual credit course; 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade allowed to take dual credit classes; Juniors allowed to take dual credit English 1301 & 1302; brought back Certified Nursing Assistant certification; added Talent Pipeline Initiative with DFW and Weatherford College Logistics Certification; Ventamatic internship; moved girl's athletic period to 7<sup>th</sup> period; continuing Mega Lunch Schedule which allows for tutorials, enrichment, and involvement; continue Optional Flexible School Day Scheduling; new locker room configuration for equality; added "Ramcast" a once a week podcast, through the Digital Audio class; offer onsite testing for ACT, SAT, and TSI Assessments; continue the Solar Car Program with plans to be in San Jose, CA next summer.
  - Jeff Smith, Mineral Wells Academy Principal, introduced lead teacher, Peggy Harvey. MWA is purchasing Chromebooks this year. Goals continue to be to graduate 30 students, increase STAAR passing rate, increase number of students taking dual credit courses, and encourage students to consider higher learning opportunities.
  - Mr. Kuhn reported on enrollment for the first ten days of school. Day 10 in a three-year comparison shows positive growth with an enrollment of 3,304 for 2017.
  - Mr. Kuhn shared results from the ACT College Readiness Letter, reporting that MWISD out-performed the state in three of the four subject areas, missing math by a fraction. The composite rating for the district was 22.3 compared to the state average of 20.7.
  - Carrie Martin, Director of Food Services, shared that food service has a goal this year and that is to "break the chains of bondage that food service is horrible." They are visiting campuses, talking with students, gaining feedback on meal likes/dislikes, and striving to accommodate student preferences. No child goes without a meal. Ms. Martin also reported that the district's change from free and reduced paper applications to online applications has made a huge difference not only in processing applications in a timely manner and relieving staff of the paper burden, but more applications are turned in on time.
  - James Bradford, Maintenance Director, reported the High School girls locker room renovation is complete and the girls coaches office will be finished by the end of the week. The locker room renovation allows access between the locker rooms and showers.
  - David Oestreicher, Technology Director, and Janalee Martin, Instructional Technology Specialist, shared plans for student-lead collaboration, professional development for teachers, and staff meetings. Ms. Martin will work closely with teachers during PD and individually to prepare them for this year's roll out of 1:1 use of Chromebooks, beginning with 8<sup>th</sup> grade this fall and 9<sup>th</sup> grade next spring. Mr. Oestreicher explained that the refresh plan puts elementary on a three-year cycle and secondary on a four-year cycle. Elementary will have a 2:1 ratio on Chromebooks with classroom carts available for checkout and Secondary, beginning with 7<sup>th</sup> grade, will have a 1:1 ratio. Technology purchases are made with the end goal in sight – education.
  - Randy Marshall, Transportation Director, reported they are bussing 2,500 students per day. There have been a few complications with the new routes but Mr. Marshall has taken all calls, reviewed the situations, and adjusted as necessary. Technology will soon have transportation set up with stand-alone internet which will solve many problems. New this year will be the Safe Rider Recognition to be conducted each six weeks. Online training program is now available for drivers.
  - Carey Carter, Executive Director of Curriculum, presented 2017 MWISD STAAR testing data. MWISD 2017 test scores improved in 11 areas compared to 2016 scores. These include Reading 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>; Math 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>; Science 8<sup>th</sup>; and Social Studies 8<sup>th</sup>. US History remained the same as last year and was higher than the state for both years. As a district, MWISD had 1,471 students that met progress and 385 students exceeding progress.
5. A Public Hearing was held regarding the Optional Flexible School Day Program. Following a brief overview by David Tarver, Assistant Superintendent, the floor was opened for questions and discussion.
  6. John Kuhn presented proposed revisions to Board Policy DGBA(LOCAL), FNG(LOCAL), and GF(LOCAL). The Board will review the proposed policy during the month of September and will take action at the October board meeting.

**Information:**

The Board received calendars for September and October.

**Next Regular Meeting will be on October 9, 2017**

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