

ON BOARD

BY - THE - MINUTES REPORT

JANUARY 2016



Ted Oats served CISD over seven years as a member of the Board of Trustees. Monday, January 19, was his final meeting due to a recent move.

Oats resigns top spot due to relocation

Board president Ted Oats has resigned his position on the board because his move to the Rockwall/Rowlett area makes him ineligible to serve.

During a presentation at the January regular board meeting, Superintendent Blake Cooper thanked Oats for his service to the students of CISD and his passion for ensuring that the direction of the district is focused on what's best for them.

Oats ran unopposed in his three bids of office which began in May 2008. He was elected president in May 2014. He and his wife Ellen, both long-time Commerce residents, are moving to be closer to their children and grandchildren. He will continue to serve Hunt County veterans in his position in Greenville.

Two options are available for replacing him. A new board member could be appointed within 180 days or the position could be opened to the election process.

Homestead exemption 'hold harmless' fails

Director of Finance John Walker explained that the recent increase in the homestead exemption to \$25,000 would decrease the amount of tax revenue to the district by roughly \$152,000.

"When the legislation was passed, schools were told they would be held harmless, but when John worked the template, our reimbursed amount was projected to be zero," Superintendent Blake Cooper said.

Coupled with the negative information came news that the district's ADA (average daily attendance) was 1506, which is the amount from which funding is calculated. Due to that fact, Walker said the district is "trending \$800,000 to the good." The increased enrollment and high attendance rate causes funding to go up.

"We are above what we anticipated in the budget at this time," Walker said.

In a facility update, Cooper said the energy conservation updates were on schedule with new lighting installed in several areas at CHS. Lighting, plumbing and HVAC retrofitting will continue throughout the district with energy savings beginning immediately. Work will continue during after school hours.

He said the next project would be to fix roofs throughout the district at a cost of \$650,000. Several roofs which were damaged during the spring of 2014 have been repaired with an insurance settlement.

Other increased costs will stem from a proposed TASB pay survey which should increase salaries, making them more competitive with areas districts.

However, the 163 student increase since the fall of 2014-2015 will help with finances.

"It is a credit to our staff and teachers that we have increased our enrollment. Everyone is sharing the good news about CISD and people are listening," Cooper said.



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Superintendent's report...

- Enrollment is 1621, up three students from last month. Mr. Cooper noted that enrollment had increased 163 students from the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.
- Filing for the board of trustees began January 20. Places held by Kathleen Hooten, Gabe Wittkopf and Michael Beane are up for election. Filing continues through February 19 at the CISD Administration Building. The election will be held May 7 at Commerce City Hall.
- In other action, the Board accepted resignations from Maegan Jones, CES teacher, effective January 21 and Kathy Campbell, CMS librarian, effective at the end of the current school year.

The next regular Board meeting was set for Monday, February 15, 2016, with executive session at 6 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7 p.m.

A special meeting will be held on February 1 to discuss the TASB pay survey

BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

2016

Monday February 15
Thursday March 24
Monday April 18
Monday May 16
Monday June 20



Board Appreciation Month...

Dr. LaVelle Hendricks proudly showcases a t-shirt which was presented to Board members by CES Principal Diane Stegall. The Board was served a special dinner along with administrators prior to the Board meeting. ACW gave each Board member a CD of a touching campus video and CMS and CHS showed videos produced honoring the work that the Board does for the students of the District.