

# ON BOARD

BY - THE - MINUTES REPORT

MARCH 2016



*Band students qualifying for the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest include Megan Eborn and Caitin Sneed, solos, and Zane Belcher and Ethan Doster as an ensemble. Also included in the ensemble was Preston Matthews who was unable to attend.*

## Board cancels May 7 election

Three incumbents filing for a place on the CISD Board of Trustees remained unopposed at the end of the filing period. Therefore, the Trustees were able to cancel the election and declare Kathleen Hooten, Gabe Wittkopf and Michael Beane winners. They will be sworn in after May 7.



## 21st Century Grant application approved

The CISD Board of Trustees approved a resolution supporting the District's partnership with Texas A&M University-Commerce in applying for a 21st Century Grant. The five-year grant would provide Pre-K through fifth-grade students after school, summer and Saturday tutoring and enrichment opportunities.

Assistant Superintendent Charlie Alderman explained that the \$607,000 grant would include working with the Boys & Girls Club. Seventeen university tutors and seven CISD teachers would be led by a project director and two site directors over the course of the grant.

A&M-Commerce has officially applied for the grant, which was written by Erin Swinson, Director of Innovation Strategies & Special Projects, A&M-Commerce, and Alderman.

The extensive program would include tutoring in math and science and instruction in robotics, piano and other activities.

A&M-Commerce should learn if the grant has been funded by July.

## Capital projects on target

Director of Finance John Walker reported capital projects were currently underway with the lighting retrofit project completed and plumbing on track. Roof repair is commencing across the district on all buildings. Superintendent Blake Cooper said these capital projects were the first ones the district has been able to accomplish since his arrival due to a shortage of funds.

With a \$1 million budget authorized by the Board, administrators plan to undertake CHS track repair, additional playground equipment at ACW along with other needs submitted by campus principals.

## Campuses name top teachers

*Campus Teachers of the Year were recognized by the Board in March. Left to right include: Mahra Sanders, CES; Anquetette Whiteman, ACW; Elizabeth*



*Bialecki, CMS; and Earvin Larry, CHS. Campus winners complete essays and will be interviewed by a selection committee during the process of awarding elementary and secondary teachers of the year. Those winners will be announced at the end-of-year staff recognition lunch on June 3.*

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## Superintendent's report...

- Enrollment is 1,634, up 19 students from last month. Mr. Cooper said that enrollment was at a nine-year high.
- The Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation will host its annual Boots & BBQ Celebration and Fundraiser at 6 p.m., April 16 at CHS.

## In other action...

- The Board accepted the resignations of Helen Robinson, CHS teacher; and Cameron Grubert, CES teacher.
- The next regular Board meeting was set for Monday, April 18, 2016, with executive session at 6 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7 p.m.

## Thanks for our Business Partners! Northeast Texas Children's Museum and Alliance Bank



*Sharline Freeman, director of the Northeast Texas Children's Museum, with Superintendent Blake Cooper*



*Alliance Bank-Commerce President Gary Rusch with Superintendent Blake Cooper*

## Business partners recognized in 'Back the Orange and Black' Campaign

The CISD Board honored business partners during its March meeting. CISD is fortunate to have so much support from our business and university community. From sponsorships of activities, food donations, volunteers, partnership initiatives, Commerce ISD students benefit from many people who want to help our students.

The Northeast Texas Children's Museum, directed by Sharline Freeman, was recognized. Although technically not a business, the Children's Museum benefits our students throughout the year by developing interesting and challenging programs to tie into the school's curriculum. The recent "Weird Science" program for fifth graders is only one example.

Alliance Bank-Commerce President Gary Rusch was recognized for his bank's contributions through the Tiger Spirit Card. He is quick to accept the challenge of providing food for school events.

Business partners receive a "We Back the Orange and Black" decal for their place of business and they will be listed on the Texas Association of School Boards website.

Last month's honorees included Dixie Stachiowiak, Dixie Turman State Farm Insurance; and Ken Moyer, Lone Star Grill & Eatery.

### BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 • 3315 Washington

#### 2016

Thursday . . . . . March 24  
Monday . . . . . April 18  
Monday . . . . . May 16  
Monday . . . . . June 20