

Board Highlights • January 2016

RECOGNITIONS

In honor of Texas School Board Recognition Month, the superintendent recognized the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Board of Trustees for their dedication, leadership and continuing service to the children of the district.

The Board of Trustees recognized the following students, staff and community members for their achievements:

- Sarah Sanders, CFISD K-12 art coordinator, for receiving the Texas Arte Educator of the Year award by the Texas Art Education Association;
- Bryan Moses, theatre arts teacher at Cypress Ridge High School, for receiving the Troupe Director of the Year award by the Texas Thespian State Board, an organizational member of the Educational Theatre Association; and Laura Alexander-Wilson, theatre arts teacher at Aragon Middle School, for receiving the K-8 Educator of the Year award by the Texas Educational Theatre Association; and
- Adam Schmidtendorff, science teacher at Arnold Middle School, and Elaine Pham, student at Cypress Creek High School, for their selection as Argonauts for the 2015 JASON Argonaut summer program.

The superintendent recognized students and staff members for honors and achievements earned in recent weeks. Congratulations were extended to the following:

- the CFISD Board of Trustees, in honor of School Board Recognition Month;
- CFISD, for being selected as an honoree for Districts of Distinction, **a national recognition program that highlights school districts leading the way in the successful implementation of new ideas. The district was selected for the establishment of its New Arrival Center program, a one-year innovative approach for students who have been in a U.S. school for six months or less and who speak limited or no English. As a result of being named a Districts of Distinction honoree, the NAC program is featured in the November edition of the District Administration magazine, “New Arrival Centers – Get the NAC!”**
- CFISD, for being one of 10 finalists under consideration for the Raise Your Hand Texas **\$5 million Raising Blended Learners demonstration initiative**. CFISD representatives will attend a workshop in February to receive professional assistance in refining their blended learning plans. Five winners, to be announced as demonstration

sites in April, will each receive up to **\$500,000 in grants** and technical implementation support for three years;

- more than 2,500 visitors who attended the second annual Career Options Fair at the Berry Center on Dec. 1—an increase of 1,000 attendees from its inaugural year. Middle school and high school students and parents met with representatives from the district’s 17 career and technical education (CTE) programs as well as 38 postsecondary trade and technical schools; and
- CFISD wrestling programs, for hosting the **14th annual CFISD Invitational Wrestling Tournament** at the Berry Center Jan. 8-9. Thirty-five CFISD wrestlers won medals, including one gold medal, in their respective weight classes. The Langham Creek High School girls’ team was the highest-placing CFISD representative, finishing third out of more than 70 teams. The Cypress Woods High School boys had the highest CFISD finish, placing 10th with 138 points.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Jodi Matteson, principal at Millsap Elementary School, was named the new principal at Arnold Middle School. Matteson replaces Vicki Snokhous, who was named the new principal for Cypress Creek High School.

Joy Dauphin, an assistant principal at Yeager Elementary School, was named the new principal at Millsap Elementary School. Dauphin replaces Jodi Matteson, who was named the new principal at Arnold Middle School.

Dr. Heather Bergman, associate principal at Cypress Springs High School, was named the new principal at Dean Middle School. Dr. Bergman replaces Chris Hecker, who was named the inaugural principal for Cypress Park High School.

Tamera Felder, an assistant principal at Emmott Elementary School, was named the new principal at Wilson Elementary School. Felder replaces Pam Link who retired from the district in December.

BOND UPDATE

The administration provided a design development report on the progress of the design of the New Matzke Replacement School located at 10002 Mills Road.

The Board authorized the Superintendent or designee to negotiate and execute any and all contracts, easements, utility service and development agreements, etc., necessary for the continued site development of the 127.8-acre multi-campus site located in the Bridgeland to facilitate the construction of High School 12, Elementary School No. 55 and a future middle school.

SUPERINTENDENT’S BRIEFING

The **sixth annual Houston Methodist Cy-Hoops Invitational** was held **Dec. 10-12**, the first year with **Houston Methodist Hospital** as title sponsor. Dr. Henry thanked Houston Methodist and the other corporate sponsors for helping make the tournament a success. CFISD teams faced top competition from throughout the state, and **Cypress Ranch finished fourth**.

CFISD conducted a test of SchoolMessenger, the district's emergency notification system, on Jan. 4. Parents and employees received a phone call, an email and a text message reminding them that during an actual emergency, this is how they will receive official information. If parents and employees did not receive this notification by all three methods, they were instructed to visit the homepage of the district website for instructions or to contact the communication department. Parents can now download the new CFISD mobile app and stay connected to grades, calendars, lunch menus and much more online. The app is fast and free and available from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

January is designated as **National Mentoring Month**, and this year's theme is "**Mentor in Real Life.**" The month-long outreach campaign focuses attention on the need for mentors and the district is reaching out to individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations, nonprofits and schools to work together to mentor young people. Mentoring can make such a difference in the lives of students struggling with academics, personal issues and/or staying in school. Currently, there are more than **500** students in CFISD who are paired with a mentor, and many more are needed. Dr. Henry thanked district mentors for making such a difference in the lives of these students. Those interested in becoming a CFISD mentor can visit www.cfisd.net/mentor for upcoming training dates or contact the Community Engagement department.

School counselors will be honored **Feb. 1-5** for **National School Counseling Week**. CFISD counselors can have a tremendous impact helping students achieve success and plan for a career. Dr. Henry expressed appreciation for their unique contributions.

On **Monday, Feb. 1**, CFISD will hold a ceremony at the **Berry Center** to honor **183** students who have been recognized by the **National Merit and National Hispanic Scholars Programs**. The program will be broadcast live on the CFISD website, www.cfisd.net, and replayed throughout February and March.

The **22nd Annual Cy-Fair ISD Livestock Show and Sale** will be held **Feb. 4-6** at the **Exhibit Center** at 11206 Telge Road. Approximately **690 student exhibitors** and **more than 900 student projects and animals** will be exhibited and judged. The **buyers' luncheon** will be held **Feb. 6** at 11 a.m. at **Arnold Middle School** and the **premium auction** will start at 1 p.m. at the **Exhibit Center**. Students raised **\$889,174** last year due to generous corporate and individual participation in this sale.

The **Cy-Fair Educational Foundation** will present **Salute to Our Heroes** on Saturday, **Feb. 13** at 6:30 p.m. at the Omni Hotel Westside. The event honors the brave men and women who are serving or have served to preserve our freedom and liberty. Proceeds will create an endowment in the memory of fallen soldiers, which will be used for college scholarships for CFISD students. **For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Marie Holmes** at the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation, 281-370-0144 or www.thecfef.org.

The **third annual Superintendent's Fun Run & Festival** is scheduled for **Feb. 27** from **8 a.m. to noon** at the **Berry Center**. Proceeds from the event will help fund scholarships and teacher development grants through the **Cy-Fair Educational Foundation**.

AGENDA ITEMS

In other action, the Board approved:

- tax refunds of \$500 or greater for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD;
- the attendance boundaries for Cypress Park High School, High School #12 and multiple middle schools;
- authorizing the Superintendent or designee to negotiate and execute the First Amendment to the Water, Sewer and Drainage Services Contract between Harris County Municipal District No. 264 and Cypress-Fairbanks ISD for providing utility services to Holmsley Elementary School, Langham Creek High School and Barker Transportation Center;
- the appointment of Bob Covey as the district's representative on the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards Positively Promoting Public Schools Committee;
- awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item;
- the Calendar Committee's recommendation for the 2016-2017 instructional calendar;
- the campus and district performance objectives for the 2015-16 campus and district improvement plans; and
- on first reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:
 - BE (LOCAL) Board Meetings (Revise)
 - CAA (LOCAL) Fiscal Management Goals and Objectives: Financial Ethics (Revise)
 - CB (LOCAL) State and Federal Revenue Sources (Add)
 - CDA (LOCAL) Other Revenues: Investments (Revise)
 - CO (LOCAL) Food Services Management (Add)
 - DBB (LOCAL) Employment Requirements & Restrictions: Medical Examinations & Communicable Disease (Revise)
 - DEA (LOCAL) Compensation and Benefits: Compensation Plan (Revise)
 - DEAA (LOCAL) Compensation Plan: Incentives and Stipends (Revise)
 - DEAB (LOCAL) Compensation Plan: Wage and Hour Laws (Add)
 - DFFA (LOCAL) Reduction in Force: Financial Exigency (Revise)
 - GKA (LOCAL) Community Relations: Conduct on School Premises (Revise)
 - GKD (LOCAL) Community Relations: Non School Use of School Facilities.