

## Board Highlights • January 2015

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### RECOGNITIONS

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

- the Superintendent recognized the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Board of Trustees in honor of Texas School Board Recognition Month for their dedication, leadership and continuing service to the children of the district;
- **Karri Parlevliet**, Keith Elementary School volunteer, for being one of 15 Texans honored by the State Board of Education (SBOE) with the Heroes for Children award during the SBOE meeting in Austin on Sept. 19; and
- **Tammi Raley**, speech and debate coach at Cypress Springs High School, for being recognized with a Diamond Award for excellence in coaching from the National Speech and Debate Association.

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 receiving a five-star rating from the office of Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller, for academic and financial performance in the Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST). CFISD is one of only 46 districts among more than 1,200 statewide to win the honor. This is the fifth year in a row CFISD has received this rating, and is one of only four districts to achieve five stars for all five years of the FAST program;
- the CFISD community programs department, for recently being selected as one of 12 programs in the state to be profiled in the Texas School Business *Eighth Annual Bragging Rights* edition. This publication showcases innovative thinking, determination and strong leadership within Texas public schools;
- the Office of Advanced Academics, for hosting the first CFISD Career Options Fair at the Berry Center on Dec. 2. The event was a collaboration between the district College & Career Specialists, the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Coordinators, the CTE Coaches and the CTE Counselors. All 15 CFISD CTE high school training programs were represented by CFISD teachers and students. In addition, more than 35 post-secondary

trade and technical school representatives were in attendance. A total of 1,517 middle school and high school students and parents attended the event;

- the Cypress Ranch High School football team, for completing its best season in school history, falling to Allen High School in the UIL Division I Class 6A state championship game at AT&T Stadium in Arlington on Dec. 20. The Mustangs finished the season with a 13-3 record and were District 17-6A runners-up; bi-district, area and regional champions; state finalists and state runners-up; and
- CFISD wrestling coaches, for hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> annual wrestling invitational tournament on Jan. 2-3 at the Berry Center, with 75 teams competing from the top programs in Texas and Louisiana. The tournament is one of the largest in the nation. The Cypress Ridge girls' team won its third consecutive team title and the Cypress Lakes boys' team placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Four CFISD athletes won gold medals at the event. The Cypress Ridge girls also won its second consecutive Texas High School Wrestling Coaches Association (THSWCA) Girls Dual Championship and will compete again in early February at the CFISD District Championships.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Kim Dameron**, assistant principal at A. Robison Elementary School, was named the new principal at Walker Elementary School. Dameron replaced Melissa Ehrhardt, who retired in December.

**Susan Brenz**, the principal at Yeager Elementary School, has been named the new principal for Sadie Woodard Elementary School. Named after a 39-year veteran educator in CFISD, Woodard Elementary School will open on Cypress N. Houston Road at Barker Cypress Road in August 2015.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Board held a public hearing to discuss the 2013-2014 annual report describing the educational performance of the district and of each campus in the district.

#### **BOND UPDATE**

The Board approved the CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC Blanket Utility Easement to provide electrical service for the Food Production Center Warehouse Addition.

The Board approved the CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC Blanket Utility Easement to provide electrical service for High School No. 11.

#### **2015-2016 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR**

The Board approved the Calendar Committee's recommendation for the 2015-2016 instructional calendar.

The committee met in the fall to discuss various components of developing the instructional calendar before arriving at a consensus for the following calendar recommendation to be presented to the Board of Trustees:

- students begin school on **Monday, Aug. 24, 2015**;
- Labor Day, **Sept. 7**, is a student/staff holiday;
- the calendar has a five-day Thanksgiving holiday (**Nov. 23-27**);
- an 11-day winter break is scheduled for students (**Dec. 21-Jan. 4**);
- a one-week spring break is scheduled for **March 14-18**;
- Good Friday, **March 25**, is a student/staff holiday;
- the school year will end on **June 1, 2016**; and
- **Feb. 15** and **June 2, 2016** are designated as inclement weather makeup days.

Start and end dates for the 2015-2016 school year are contingent upon potential legislative action in the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative session.

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S BRIEFING**

The fifth annual Cypress Hoops Invitational Tournament, held Dec. 11-13 at the Berry Center, raised more than \$20,000 for the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation “Donate to Educate” program. Of the 24 teams participating, Cypress Lakes placed fourth, Cypress Falls placed fifth and Cypress Woods placed sixth in the event.

January is designated as National Mentoring Month. This month-long outreach campaign focuses attention on the need for mentors—whether individuals, businesses, faith-based organizations, nonprofits or schools—working together to mentor young people. Mentors can make such a difference in the lives of students struggling with academics, personal issues and/or staying in school. Currently, almost 500 students in CFISD are paired with a mentor and many more are needed. Those who would like to become a CFISD mentor can visit [www.cfisd.net/mentor](http://www.cfisd.net/mentor) for upcoming training dates or contact the Community Engagement department.

CFISD will honor its school counselors Feb. 2-6 for National School Counseling Week. Counselors can have a tremendous impact helping students achieve success and plan for a career.

CFISD will hold a special-called board meeting at the Berry Center on Monday, Feb. 2 to honor 146 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](http://www.cfisd.net), and replayed throughout February and March.

The 21st annual Cy-Fair ISD Livestock Show and Sale will be held Feb. 5-7 at the Exhibit Center at 11206 Telge Road. Approximately 680 student exhibitors and more than 800 student projects and animals will be exhibited and judged. A flyer is also available on the CFISD website showing the times and designated animals for the livestock judging.

The buyers’ luncheon will be held on Feb. 7 at 11 a.m. at Arnold Middle School, and the premium auction at the Exhibit Center will start at 1 p.m. The district invites everyone to attend and support students who have been working diligently for months in preparation for the show and sale. These dedicated students raised more than \$800,000 last year due to generous corporate and individual participation in this sale.

The Cy-Fair Educational Foundation presents Salute to Our Heroes on Saturday, Feb. 14 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 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 at 281-807-3591 or [www.thecfef.org](http://www.thecfef.org).

The Second Annual Superintendent Fun Run will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. on Feb. 21 at the Berry Center. Proceeds from the event will help fund scholarships and teacher development grants through the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation.

The community can sign up now for *SchoolMessenger*, the district's new mass notification system, to keep CFISD families informed about district and campus activities, attendance, transportation, food service and, most importantly, accurate, real-time information during an emergency situation. Please visit the district website for more information.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

In other action, the Board approved:

- awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item:
  - Automatic Bus Wash System;
  - Career and Technology Education (CTE) Automotive Tire Balancers;
  - CFISD Data Center Infrastructure Upgrades;
  - Emergency Generator Repair Service and Preventative Maintenance;
  - Printing Services; and
  - Restaurant Catering and Delivery Services;
- the purchase of GPS software and hardware for the Transportation Department;
- on second reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:
  - FDA (LOCAL) – ADMISSIONS: Interdistrict Transfers (Revise);
  - FEA (LOCAL) – ATTENDANCE: Compulsory Attendance (Revise);
  - FFF (LOCAL) – STUDENT WELFARE: Student Safety (Delete); and
  - FL (LOCAL) – STUDENT RECORDS (Revise);
- the tax refunds of \$500 or greater for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD;
- on first reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:
  - DCB (LOCAL) Employment Practices: Term Contracts (Revise);
  - DCC (LOCAL) Employment Practices: Continuing Contracts (Revise);
  - DCD (LOCAL) Employment Practices: At-Will Employment (Revise);
  - DCE (LOCAL) Employment Practices: Other Types of Contracts (Revise); and
  - GKB (LOCAL) Community Relations: Advertising and Fund Raising in the Schools (Revise);
- affiliation agreements with (1) Lone Star College, (2) Texas Woman's University Houston and (3) Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing to provide clinical placements in Cypress-Fairbanks school clinics to fulfill the curriculum requirements in collegiate Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) programs;
- the interlocal agreement between Harris County Department of Education and Cypress-

Fairbanks Independent School District in reference to a CASE for Kids City Connections grant awarded to the Community Programs department. The grant is a matching funds grant to establish an after-school soccer program for the spring of 2015 at Bane Elementary School; and

- authorizing the Superintendent to submit a second letter of non-objection to Harris County Commissioners Court regarding the construction of a Neighborhood Walmart adjacent to Woodard Elementary School.