

## Board Highlights • September 2015

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### RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Trustees was recognized by Dr. Pam Wells, Region 4 Education Service Center executive director, for representing Region 4 as the Board of the Year.

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

- **CFISD** and all of its 82 of its eligible campuses for earning a rating of *Met Standard* (or *Met Alternative Standard* for Windfern HS) in the **TEA 2015 State Accountability Ratings**, the highest of the two ratings under the accountability system. The district *Met Standard* on all four applicable index targets used to measure performance index. In addition, many schools earned a *Distinction Designation* in one or more designations, based on comparisons with similar campuses across the state;
- CFISD, for earning the elite-level status, Platinum, from The office of Glenn Hegar, Texas Comptroller for Public Accounts, in the sixth annual **Leadership Circle Awards**. CFISD won the Platinum award in 2014, and had earned the previous-highest designation of Gold in the Leadership Circle Awards from 2009-2013. This award spotlights local governments that have opened their books to the public in order to provide clarity of spending and share information in a user-friendly format that provides taxpayers with easy access to information. The Platinum Award spotlights entities that go above and beyond providing financial transparency; and
- the 317 community volunteers who assisted elementary school bus drivers in the ninth annual **Bus Buddies** program during the first three days of school. Sixty-six businesses and organizations, in conjunction with the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, participated in the program. The program had a 62-percent increase in participation from 2014.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

**Kimberley Criswell**, an assistant principal at Danish Elementary School, was named the new principal at Jowell Elementary School. Criswell replaced Dr. Julie Manuel, who retired from the district in June.

### TAX RATE

The Board approved the 2015 Tax Rate Resolution to support the 2015-2016 Maintenance and Operations and Debt Service budgets by setting the 2015 M&O and Interest and Sinking tax rates. The M&O tax rate was set at \$1.04 and the Interest and Sinking tax rate was set at \$0.40, leaving the \$1.44 total tax rate unchanged from the previous year.

### **BOND UPDATE**

The Board adopted an order authorizing the issuance of Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds, Series 2015-A; providing for the award of the sale thereof in accordance with specified parameters; and enacting other provisions relating thereto.

The Board adopted an order authorizing the issuance of Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2015-B: in accordance with specified parameters; and enacting other provisions relating thereto.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEFING**

As of Sept. 1, 2015, the district's student enrollment was **113,153**. This figure represents a growth of **1,289** students when compared to last year's enrollment figure of **111,864** as of Sept. 2, 2014.

**September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.** You can help make a difference in the lives of those impacted by the No. 1 disease killer of American children and adolescents by simply taking the time to learn what you can do to help. Many organizations, such as the **American Childhood Cancer Organization** and **Children's Cancer Research Fund**, provide opportunities for people to get involved and support ground-breaking research that aims to help save lives. Help us bring awareness of childhood cancer to the community by wearing gold during this month.

Oct. 5-9 will be designated as **College and Career Awareness Week (Generation Texas Week)**. In an effort to promote college and career readiness, CFISD campuses will focus on college and career awareness during the week and throughout the month of October. Counselors will provide teachers with age-appropriate information, discuss college majors and use lessons and materials aimed at helping students and their parents make early plans for college and careers. The guidance and counseling department is also coordinating **College and Career Night** at the Berry Center on **Oct. 7** for our high school juniors and seniors.

Tenth- and 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students are invited to take the **PreSAT (PSAT) on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015 for a fee of \$20**. High schools will administer the test and students should register on line to test at their home campus. This testing provides practice for the SAT, an opportunity to enter the National Merit program and information about college readiness. In addition, the **ACT ASPIRE 10** (formerly known as the PLAN test) will be offered to all 10<sup>th</sup>-grade students free of charge during the week of Nov. 9-13, 2015. ACT ASPIRE 10 preps students for the ACT test.

Gov. Greg Abbott has proclaimed Oct. 14 as **Texas Education Human Resources Day** to honor HR staff who ensure district schools are staffed with high-quality employees. Dr. Henry recognized their important contribution to hiring individuals who embody the CFISD principles and values.

The community engagement office is seeking adults to serve as **mentors** for students in all grade levels. Mentors meet with a selected student on a campus for up to one hour per week, serving as a guide and friend, and helping with educational and personal development. This is a great way to make an impact on the life of a student. Please call the community engagement office at 281-894-3950 to learn how to become a mentor or visit the mentor page on [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net) under “Community Involvement.”

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

In other action, the Board approved:

- awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item;
- on second reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:
  - CCA (LOCAL) Local Revenue Sources: Bond Issues (Revise);
  - FNC (LOCAL) Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Conduct (Delete);
  - FNCC (LOCAL) Student Conduct: Prohibited Organizations and Hazing (Delete);
  - FO (LOCAL) Student Discipline (Revise); and
  - GKG (LOCAL) Community Relations: School Volunteer Program (Revise);
- tax refunds of \$500 or greater for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD;
- a Financial Advisory Agreement between Cypress-Fairbanks ISD and First Southwest Company, in connection with the issuance of obligations of indebtedness and in accordance with the terms of the agreement;
- on first reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:
  - CDA (LOCAL) Other Revenues: Investments (Revise);
- the granting of a dedicated 0.014-acre Unobstructed Visibility Easement to the Public located at the corner of Barker Cypress and Cypress N. Houston for the Sadie Harris Woodard Elementary School site and authorized the Superintendent or Designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents; and
- the granting of a 0.0045-acre (196 square feet) and a 0.0046-acre (200 square feet) tract for a waterline easement to the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) located near the intersection of Round Robin Drive and Plantation Myrtles Drive at Emery Elementary School and authorized the superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents.