

Board Highlights

May 2014



Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District

RECOGNITIONS

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

- students from Cy-Fair, Cypress Falls, Cypress Ridge, Cypress Woods and Langham Creek high schools who have achieved state honors in swimming and wrestling;
- students from Cypress Creek, Cypress Ranch and Cypress Woods high schools for winning first or second place in the Future Business Leaders Association (FBLA) State Leadership Competition;
- students who placed first or second in the Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) events at the State Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Leadership Conference;
- students from Cy-Fair, Cypress Creek, Cypress Woods and JerseyVillage high schools who won awards at the Texas Association of Journalism Educators (TAJE) Clip Contest;
- students who earned All American honors from the National Forensic League (NFL), a society that honors and celebrates competitive speech and debate activities;
- CFISD, for winning the Readers' Choice Best School District Award from the Cypress Creek Mirror;
- students who placed in the following state and national art and photo competitions: Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) and National Scholastic Art Awards;
- students who won silver medals at the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards;
- students from Cypress Ranch High School who placed either first or second at the SkillsUSA Texas Leadership and Skills Conference;
- students who placed Best in Show, first or second in the SkillsUSA Texas 2014 Competition;
- students who were selected and participated in Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State Band, Choir and Orchestra; and
- students from Hamilton and Smith middle schools, and Cypress Woods, Langham Creek and Jersey Village high schools who placed either first or second in state at the 2014 Technology Student Association (TSA) contest.

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

- Board of Trustees member **Bob Covey**, who has been elected as a director of the **Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards (GCAASB)** for the 2014-15 school year. The voluntary organization is composed of over 50 school boards in the greater Houston area. Member school boards and associate members support public education, provide training and information to local school boards, impact legislation and provide scholarships;
- the **Cypress Ranch** and **Cypress Falls** theater programs, who both qualified for the Region III Area 1 competition after being selected to advance from the District 17-5A contest;
- **six Destination ImagiNation** teams from CFISD who placed at state and are headed to **DI** global finals in Knoxville, TN, later this month. Winning teams are from **Adam Elementary School, Cook, Bleyl and Spillane middle schools** and a combined team from **Cy-Fair, Cypress Creek and Cypress Woods** high schools. **Cypress Ranch** placed second at state in a non-global **Texas eXtreme** challenge;
- CFISD middle and high school students who recently competed in the state Science Olympiad. **Cypress Woods** placed first at the Gulf Coast Regional tournament to qualify for state;
- softball teams that qualified for the playoffs. The undefeated **Cy-Fair** Lady Bobcats won district, **Cypress Falls** placed second, **Cypress Woods** placed third and **Cypress Ranch** placed fourth. All four teams won their Region III-5A bi-district playoff games. **Cypress Ranch, Cypress Woods and Cypress Falls** finished their season as area finalists. **Cy-Fair** advanced to the regional quarterfinals;
- the **Cypress Ranch** boys and **Cy-Fair** girls who won the district championship in golf. The **Cy-Fair** boys placed second and the **Cypress Ranch** girls placed second;
- the **Cypress Creek** girls water polo team, who won the region; **Jersey Village** girls, who placed third; **Jersey Village** boys, who placed second; and the **Cypress Creek** boys, who placed third, at the **Texas Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association (TISCA) Region 2 Water Polo Tournament**. All four teams advanced to the state tournament for the second straight year. **Cypress Creek** placed second in state at the event;
- the **Cypress Ridge, Cypress Ranch** and **Cy-Fair** boys' track and field teams, who placed first through third in the district meet. The **Cypress Springs, Cypress Creek and Cy-Fair** girls placed third. In the area meet, the **Cypress Springs** girls placed first, **Cypress Creek** placed second, the **Cypress Springs** boys placed second and the **Cypress Ranch** boys placed third at the area meet. More than 130 CFISD students advanced to regionals, where the **Cypress Springs** girls won first. Three boys and 18 girls qualified for state, where the **Cypress Springs** girls placed second, their best-ever season;

- longtime Cy-Fair head baseball coach **Woody Champagne**, who was recently honored at the Bobcats' final game. **Coach Champagne** is retiring this year after 34 years of service to the school; and
- **Langham Creek** head baseball coach **Armando Sedeño**, who recently achieved his 500th career victory. The win secured the District 17-5A championship for the Lobos. **Cypress Ranch** came in second and **Cy-Fair** was third. These teams, along with **Cypress Creek**, won their bi-district playoffs and advanced to the area round. **Cypress Ranch**, **Cy-Fair** and **Langham Creek** advanced to regionals.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board held a public hearing on the adoption of the 2014-2015 budget.

2014-2015 BUDGET

The Board adopted the 2014-2015 budget in the amount of \$833,513,043 during the regular meeting on Monday.

The budget includes local tax revenues of \$390,917,772, state revenues of \$393,120,271 and miscellaneous/federal revenues of \$49,475,000.

The proposed tax rate for 2014-2015 of \$1.45 – comprised of a \$1.04 Maintenance & Operations Tax rate and \$0.41 Interest & Sinking (I&S) Tax rate – remains unchanged from the 2013-2014 school year. The I&S Tax rate could potentially decrease upon the Harris County Appraisal District's release of updated property values this summer.

The 2014-2015 budget plan provides for:

- a starting teacher salary of \$50,025;
- a salary increase of \$2,600 for all classroom teachers;
- equity pay increases to teachers on hiring schedule steps 2-7;
- a 3.25-percent-of-midpoint salary increase to all other employees;
- pay range adjustments and equity increases to certain clerical, hourly support, instructional administration and central administration positions;
- summer school elementary literacy initiative;
- summer school secondary math and algebra initiative;
- final three-year phase-in to establish a comprehensive police department;
- the opening of David Anthony Ed.D. Middle School;
- capital outlay purchases;
- student enrollment and other cost increases;
- funding for FF&E replacement schedule;
- operating costs for restoration of transportation services;
- instructional materials allotment dedicated for technology services; and
- an additional district contribution to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS).

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Board approved a resolution to continue the residence homestead exemptions for CFISD residents for the 2014 tax year. CFISD is among a select group of Houston-area school districts that offer a 20-percent Local Optional Homestead Exemption to all resident homeowners. Coupled with a state-mandated \$15,000 homestead exemption, [CFISD residents pay less per year than residents of most neighboring districts on homes of the same value.](#)

BOND UPDATE

The Board approved construction proposals and contracts paid from bond funds to the recommended contractor and authorized the superintendent or designee to execute all necessary documents related to such contracts as follows:

- High School No. 11 Site Package One
- Sadie Woodard Elementary School No. 54.

SUPERINTENDENT'S BRIEFING

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated **May 15** as **Peace Officer's Memorial Day** and the week in which that date falls as **Police Week—May 12-16**.

The **Cy-Fair Educational Foundation** will hold the 26th Annual B.F. Adam Golf Classic on **May 15** at Blackhorse Golf Club. Proceeds from the event help provide scholarships for Cy-Fair students. For information visit www.thecfef.org.

District facilities will be closed on **Monday, May 26** in observance of the Memorial Day holiday as we pause to remember those who have given their lives for our freedom.

A districtwide **Career Fair**, hosted by the Human Resources department, will be held **Thursday, May 29** at the Berry Center. Prospective teachers and employees are encouraged to attend. More information is available on the district website.

The **last day of classes for the 2013-2014 academic year** is **Thursday, June 5**. Friday, June 6 is a **professional day** for district employees. Dr. Henry wished students, teachers, administrators, support personnel and community volunteers a well-deserved, restful and safe summer vacation.

All CFISD **graduation ceremonies** will be held at the **Berry Center, June 4-7**. More than **7,200** graduating seniors will be celebrated. The schedule for this year's graduation ceremonies, as well as parking information, can be accessed on the district webpage at www.cfishd.net. Graduations will be broadcast live on Channel 16.

CFISD recently partnered with **Feed the Future Forward**, founded by Kenny Thompson; **Cy-Hope**; and the **Cy-Fair School Food Service Association** to unveil the CFISD Lunch Super Hero Account. Donated funds will provide for students who have exceeded their lunch account. CFISD was the first district to create its own "Lunch Super Hero Account."

The first secondary summer school session for original credit will be **June 16-July 10**, and the second session will run **July 14-Aug. 6**. **High School locations** are Cypress Creek and Cypress Falls. **Middle School locations** are Goodson and Truitt. Information on **elementary general and special education, bilingual and ESL, make-up credit, summer camps** and other **summer programs** can be accessed on www.cfisd.net through the “calendar” or the “Curriculum and Instruction” tab under “Departments.” **Summer school graduation** is scheduled for Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Berry Center.

From **June 9 – Aug. 1**, all district facilities and campuses will be **closed on Fridays**. Employees will work 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday. Closing the buildings will accomplish a cost savings and allow for a three-day weekend over a period of eight weeks—maximizing productivity while giving the staff some flexibility during the summer.

On **Monday, May 5 at 7 p.m.** the district recognized its “**Spotlight**” teachers, one selected from each campus, during the 2013-2014 school year. This special-called board meeting took place at the **Berry Center**. Also during the Spotlight recognition, the **paraprofessional and ancillary Spotlight employee winners were recognized** for their contributions to the district. This event was taped and can be viewed on the CFISD website.

The inaugural **Cy-Fair Middle School Book Festival** was held at the **Berry Center** with more than 870 guests in attendance. Several well-known authors were present and shared their passions for reading and writing with students. The theme “**Reading Forward-Giving Back**” was promoted by the CFISD librarians throughout the school year through books written by the visiting authors and through a charity drive which raised more than **\$1,600** for **Cy-Hope**.

AGENDA ITEMS

In other action, the Board approved:

- awarding bids and contracts and/or authorized purchase orders recommended in the posted agenda item;
- advanced courses for 2014-2015;
- authorizing the superintendent or designee to enter into the miscellaneous professional service contracts related to the following projects:
 - High School No. 11 Site Package One – Material Testing Services
 - Sadie Woodard Elementary School No. 54 – HVAC Testing & Balancing Services; Material Testing Services; Roof Inspection Services;
- budget amendments for the period of Jan. 1, 2014 through March 31, 2014;
- on second reading revisions to district policies:
 - EC (LOCAL) SCHOOL DAY (Add)
 - EED (LOCAL) INSTRUCTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: STUDENT SCHEDULES (Revise)
 - EIA (LOCAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: GRADING/PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS (Revise)

- EIC (LOCAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: CLASS RANKING (Revise);
- tax refunds of \$500 or greater for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD;
- on first reading revisions to district policies:
 - BP (LOCAL) Administrative Regulations
 - CFEA (LOCAL) Payroll Procedures: Salary Deductions and Reductions;
- the superintendent's contract recommendations for school year 2014-2015 of administrators, non-teaching professionals, paraprofessionals and teachers to issue probationary, term and annual contracts;
- the granting of a 4.211-acre tract for an Access Easement to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 105 located on Westgreen Boulevard Multi School Site and authorized the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents;
- the granting of a 1.6414-acre tract for a Sanitary Control Easement to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 105 located on Westgreen Boulevard Multi School Site and authorized the superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and executed all related documents;
- the granting of a 1.061-acre tract for a Waterline Easement to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 105 located on Westgreen Boulevard Multi School Site and authorized the superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents;
- the granting of a 0.0207-acre tract for a Water Meter Easement to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 105 located on Westgreen Boulevard Multi School Site and authorized the superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents;
- the superintendent's recommendation to give notice to Ferdinand Mark that it is proposed that his employment with the district under a probationary contract be discharged. It is further recommended that the president of the Board notify the teacher of the proposed action to discharge his employment pursuant 21.103 of the Texas Education Code; and
- declaring as surplus approximately 7 acres of land as part of the Maintenance Center tract located on Windfern Road near the Perry Road intersection.