

BOARD BRIEFS

A Summary of Actions of the Randolph Field ISD Board of Trustees

Meeting of April 26, 2007

Lone Finalist Selected

Billy Walker, currently assistant superintendent for business services for the Killeen Independent School District, has been selected from a field of 63 candidates as the “lone finalist” for becoming the new superintendent for the Randolph Field ISD. Trustees last February began the process of searching for a person to replace Dr. Barbara Maddox who will retire in July and retained the consulting firm, University Associates, to conduct the search process. The 63 candidates were pared to five who were called for personal interviews last week, and Walker was selected from that group to become the Lone Finalist. According to state law, there will be a 21-day waiting period before he can be officially selected as superintendent. During that time details of his contract will be negotiated. Walker has served in his current post since 2002 after having served for one year as Killeen’s executive director for fiscal management. Prior to that he was superintendent in Tenaha for five years. He also was principal of Newton Elementary School for one year and was principal of Bleakwood Elementary School in Newton for two years. Walker was a teacher/coach 19 years and earned his bachelor’s degree from East Texas Baptist University and his master’s of education degree from Lamar University.

Textbooks Are Adopted

Trustees officially adopted textbooks for two new courses that can be used in the RFISD beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. The RFISD will add a computer science course and an Advanced Placement music theory class to the electives that students may take next year, and texts that were adopted will be Computer Science, grades 9-12, and Music Theory, grades 9-12.

Contracts Are Approved

Trustees approved plans for removing four-year-old laptops that have been used by seniors from the district’s inventory by making them available to the students who have used them. The Senior Class laptops will be collected and cleared, and district software will be removed. Students who return their laptops for processing and removal from the RFISD Technology inventory will be allowed to purchase the same laptop after processing for \$25.

Goals Are Adopted

Through legislation passed by the 79th Legislature, a High School Allotment was passed for schools to use to improve student achievement in high school and to increase college readiness for students. Randolph Field ISD is receiving \$275 per student for this purpose, and rules call for the Board to establish annual performance goals for the programs, activities and strategies that are implemented through use of the allotment funds. Randolph’s use for the funds has been for establishing a mathematics project class for students in grades six, seven and eight who are struggling in math. The district has provided all high school students with the opportunity to have laptops checked out to them which helps support students in the writing process and allows more efficient and effective use of resources for writing research papers.

Goals that have been adopted are to increase the number of students graduating on the Recommended
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High School Program and on the Distinguished Achievement Program; to increase the number of students successfully participating in advanced placement classes, and to increase the number of students who achieve a scale score of 2200 on the math and the English language arts exit-level TAKS and who score a 3 or better on the exit-level essay.

Membership Is Renewed

Board members approved a resolution to renew membership with the State of Texas CO-OP Program for the 2007-2008 school year.

Vehicle Is Purchased

The Board approved the purchase of a new suburban that will give the district a vehicle to accommodate small group field trips as well as other extra/co-curricular activities. The Chevrolet suburban will be bought through the State of Texas CO-Op Program.

Test Scores Reviewed

Ninety-four percent of Randolph Field fifth grade students who took the TAKS math test recently passed the exam. Eight-two students were tested and 77 passed, leaving five students who will retake the math test in May after having received intensive math support. Forty-nine percent of the fifth graders received the "Commended" designation for math, missing four or fewer questions out of 44 total questions.

RFISD third and fifth grade students also completed the reading portion of TAKS. Ninety-nine percent of third graders passed the reading portion, while in fifth grade 95 percent passed. Eight-five third graders tested and 84 passed. In fifth grade 82 students tested and 78 passed. Intense reading support will be provided for those not passing. Forty-five percent of third graders and 39 percent of fifth graders received the "Commended" designation for reading.

On the Exit Level test, the RFISD had three seniors take one or more sections of the TAKS retest in February. One student who was new to the state took all four sections and passed each of them, while two other students took the science section and passed, while one took the math section and passed. TAKS will not be a barrier to graduation for any Randolph senior this year.