

Boardroom Notes

February 21, 2008

Vice President Michael Gaspie convened the meeting with Mike O'Donnell, Wayne Ogle, Gloria Peña, Erich Ramsey, Sherri Wade and Hector Montenegro present.

Public Hearing

Dr. Wally Carter, director of research and testing, and Associate Superintendent **Steve Brown** presented the required Academic Excellence Indicator System report to the board. To view the entire report visit www.aisd.net.

Strengths to be sustained

- In 734 of 1,119 comparisons, AISD showed improvement or maintained Exemplary- or previous-level performance
- In 46 of 109 comparisons, AISD met or exceeded state results
- Outstanding grade 5 achievement - highest passing rate increases
- Outstanding grade 6 achievement - exemplary-level passing rate for 10 of 12 student groups on English TAKS reading
- Grade 11 achievement - recognized-level passing rate for 11 of 12 student groups on TAKS social studies
- English-language learner progress, advancement to higher level - two-thirds or more of LEP (ELL) students advanced in English-language proficiency for 10 of 11 student groups
- Exams for higher education - student performance on college entrance, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement exams continues to outpace the state by a wide margin

Areas for focus

- Grade 3 TAKS Reading
- Grade 4 Spanish TAKS Reading & Math
- Grade 5 TAKS Reading & Math
- Grade 9 TAKS Mathematics
- Grade 10 TAKS Science
- Grade 11 TAKS English Language Arts - Higher Education Readiness
- AP/IB participation
- Graduation rate

District Profile

- AISD operating expenditure per student is \$649 less than state average
- The AISD Instructional Expenditure Ratio is 68.0 percent, compared to 64.1 percent for the state
- AISD spends 1.7 percent of its budget on central administration, compared to the state average of 3.5 percent
- AISD's fund balance is higher than the state average

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Montenegro congratulated **Yiye Fu**, a graduating senior at Lamar HS for being named one of more than 2,600 candidates in the 2008 Presidential Scholars Program. Inclusion in the Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Candidates are selected for their exceptional performance on either the SAT or ACT assessment.

Students from the **sports and entertainment marketing class at The Class in the Parks** are competing with other school districts to get as many students as possible to attend the Dallas Stars v. Phoenix Coyotes game on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. Students have developed a promotion plan to spread the word. Information will be available next week at www.aisd.net. This class project with the Dallas Stars supports the curriculum in the sports and entertainment class. Montenegro encouraged the community to support our kids by purchasing tickets.

AISD has partnered with **UTA to offer free SAT math prep classes** to juniors starting Saturday, Feb. 23. Classes are held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Mac Bernd Professional Development Center. For more information and registration details, students and parents should contact their counselor's office. Montenegro went on to thank UTA for their continued support of our students.

He also congratulated **Marlene Legatski, Knox ES; Lynn Stokes, Farrell ES; Alicia Camp, Johns ES;** and **Gina O'Brien, Ditto ES** for being selected to attend the Colonial Williamsburg Institute. The institute is a week-long workshop that immerses participants in early American history on location in Williamsburg, the restored capital of 18th-century Virginia.

The **families in transition office**, under the guidance of Nelva Hardin, has been selected to receive the Texas Gold Star Award at the Texas Homeless Project Spring conference later this month. The families in transition office was selected for meeting the academic and associated needs of homeless students.

Score-A-Goal in the Classroom has named AISD's own **James Rose**, director of student affairs, as the recipient of the prestigious Bayard H. Friedman Hero Award. The award is given to outstanding school employees who make a difference in the lives of children. MrRose will be presented with the award at the Dallas Stars v. Chicago Blackhawks game next Thursday.

Montenegro reported that earlier this week the **public information office**, under the direction of Veronica Sopher, won eight Gold Stars, one Silver Star and one Best of Category gold metal from the Texas Schools Public Relations Association for various publications and projects. AISD-TV's **McKenzie Stokes** and **Spence** won the Best of Category for their submission of an AISD volleyball telecast in the Sports Video category. **Mandy Rabalais**, events coordinator, won several gold stars for her work on Teacher of the Year and Service Recognition events.

In addition, Montenegro shared that one of AISD's greatest business partner, **National Semiconductor** won a crystal award from the Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE) at their annual awards banquet. National Semiconductor focuses on ways to help students embrace the magic and creativity of science. National Semiconductor's signature initiatives since 2000 have been the Internet Innovator Awards, the Science in Action initiative and a \$250,000 grant to the AISD for Full Option Science System (FOSS) science curriculum kits.

Montenegro asked Maggie Campbell, President and CEO of the Downtown Arlington Management Corporation to come to the podium for a presentation regarding the proposed **Levitt Pavilion**.

Action Items

The board approved the following:

- **Sandra White** as principal of Wood Elementary. She joined the AISD in 1996 as a special education resource teacher at Wood Elementary. White was later promoted to assistant principal of Wood. She will begin her new post on March 3. A reception in her honor is scheduled for March 3, 2008, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Wood Elementary.
- **Campuses** that will be closed to transfers for the 2008-2009 school year. The transfer process begins in March, as per previous years. All elementary schools are open to transfers until grade-level cutoffs (19 for grades K-fourth, 22 for grade five, and 25 for grade six) are reached. All junior high schools will be open to transfers except for Barnett Junior High. Arlington, Bowie, Lamar and Martin high schools will be closed to transfers. Out of district transfers will not be accepted.
- **Administrators' contracts** - the administrative term contracts are issued each year for a two-year term. This update replaces their present contract.
- **Resolution** to adopt a resolution to establish a goal to reduce annual electrical consumption by five percent each year for six years.

Open Forum/Non-Agenda Items

- **Polly Walton**, UEA, thanked the board for rescheduling the DATE vote, so that it would not conflict with Texas Public Schools Week open houses.
- **Peter Baron**, shared with the board and the new superintendent his professional background, and went on to say he had concerns regarding DATE and merit pay.