

## **Manor Independent School District**

312 W. Murray Avenue / Manor, Texas 78653 / (512) 278-4000

**BOARD NOTES**

### **MISD Board of Trustees**

#### **Board Recognition**

The Board recognized Mr. Les Simpson as Manor ISD's Teacher of the 2006-2007 School Year. Mr. Simpson is originally from West Texas, and has lived in Austin for the last six years. Before starting his teaching career, he worked as a radio journalist for Clear Channel Radio Networks and wrote as a freelancer for several publications. One of his students won "Big Scream" film contest, and Mr. Simpson was recognized as "Teacher who Makes a Difference" by Fox 7 News. He was recognized for technological innovations in the classroom by Apple Store, and at the request of his students, transferred to Manor New Tech High School.

The Board also recognized Ms. Linda Burrell and Ms. Kim Butcher, the two new Assistant Principals at Decker Elementary, Mr. John Crosby – the new Transportation Director, Ms. Edwina Hayden – one of the new Assistant Principal at Manor High School, Ms. Nakeenya Haynes – the College Readiness Coordinator, Ms. Karen Jackson – the new Director of Special Education, Ms. Wanda Maldonado – the new Director of Bilingual Programs, Mr. Vernon Rogers – one of the new Assistant Principals at Manor High School, Ms. Paula Simmons, the new Assistant Principal at Manor Middle School, and Mr. Bill Sommers who will be working with Leadership and Organizational Development.

#### **Board Approvals**

The Trustees approved the hiring of administrators, teachers, and support staff. They also approved the PDAS and TAP Appraiser List and Evaluation Timelines.

The Texas Kids First Student Accident Insurance is the optional student insurance carrier that is being offered to students from R.A.D. Insurance Group.

Final Budget for MISD was approved, and the Trustees approved a 4% of mid-point salary increase for Manor ISD employees. The final review of the district's proposed budget includes \$1,625,746 worth of budget managers needs list items.

The Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate at \$1.020 and Interest and Sinking Tax Rate at \$.495 for a total Tax Rate of \$1.515 was approved. That will mean an approximate \$200.00 per year decrease in taxes.

#### **AAMP Approval**

The African American Mentoring Project via Mr. Richard Franklin recently worked with Covington Middle School in Austin ISD in a Group Mentoring Program for African American male middle school students. The program was very successful as determined by an increase in TAKS scores and reduction in discipline incidents among the targeted population. It has been approved by the Board to pilot this program for the 2007-2008 school year for the African American male middle school students. If successful, the following year the program would be targeted towards Hispanic male students.

#### **House Bill 3678 – Student Expression / Religious Viewpoints and Antidiscrimination Act**

As per House Bill 3678, enacted during the most recent legislative session, a policy was adopted on student expression at certain school events. TASB released two DRAFT policies, and Walsh Anderson revised the policy that the Board approved.

#### **Information, Updates, and Reports**

##### **Manor Education Foundation**

Linda Young gave a brief overview of Foundation work on behalf of the District, indicating a total contribution of more than \$400,000 in scholarships, innovative grants and special projects such as a \$150,000 grant for Colors Curriculum to provide a marquee for the New Tech High; the recent AT&T grant for \$22,000 for software and training for the New Tech High, and many other examples.

Young also outlined some of the contributions in addition to funding, including volunteer hours by board members on ISD and ISD community events, and particularly the significant hours provided regularly by MEF executive director to help with projects, events and duties for the district administration or campuses of MISD. She pointed out that Geovanna Ricaldi had written grants and had worked with district staff jointly on

grants and had helped find MEF partners to provide services and resources for specific needs for the district.

Young concluded with the Foundation board appreciation of the MISD board and administration for their support of the Foundation program of work and events, such as the recent Golf Tournament of the MEF, which netted more than \$32,000. She said the Foundation looks forward to future opportunities to collaborate.

***Project Mustang***

Project Mustang's free afterschool program provides a safe place for children to build relationships based on mutual respect and trust. Project Mustang offers Character Education, Project Based Learning, Homework Assistance, Tutorials, Enrichment Clubs, Monthly Family Nights and Adult Education Classes for students and their families at Bluebonnet Trail, Decker, and Manor Elementaries, as well as Manor Middle School. Project Mustang is funded partially by a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant from TEA.

***TAP Grant***

Teacher Advancement Program provides four components to MISD schools:

1. Multiple Career Paths
2. On-Going Professional Development
3. Evaluation Process/Accountability
4. Performance Pay

At this time, Blake Manor Elementary and the New Tech High School are the only two campuses that are utilizing this program. MISD is going to investigate the feasibility and sustainability of a district model that promotes student performance, teacher quality and teacher retention.

***Meet the Board***

The members of the Manor ISD Community will have the opportunity to 'Meet the Board' at the football and volleyball games on September 14<sup>th</sup>.