



Board Report HISD



Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees- October 10, 2005

“Celebrate What’s Right With Hallsville I.S.D.”

Recognitions: Bobcat Pride Award

Brad Coleman, Frank Craig, and Rickey Dugger: Brad, Frank, and Rickey all of whom work for the City of Hallsville, were presented Bobcat Pride Awards for their support of Hallsville I.S.D. They have allowed the school to use a back hoe and wash truck which aids in cleaning out sewer lines. Through this partnership with the city, HISD has been able to save money for the tax payers of HISD.

Communication from the Superintendent:

Enrollment of Hurricane Katrina/Rita Evacuees: Mr. Wright gave a report on the enrollment of Hurricane Katrina/Rita evacuees. We currently have 14 students from Katrina and 15 from Rita for a total of 29. He stated that a total of 46,300 children have enrolled in Texas schools and that state officials are still counting the number of Hurricane Rita evacuees enrolling.

National Merit Commended Students: Mr. Wright announced that Lindsey Faires, Stephanie Griffith, and Darren Williams are National Merit Commended students. Everyone is very proud of these students for their academic excellence.

Ladycat Volleyball: Mr. Wright commended the Ladycat Volleyball team for being a perfect example of Tradition + Pride + Hard Work = Success! He encouraged everyone to attend the Hallsville vs. Pine Tree volleyball game on Tuesday night. The volleyball team coached by Cheryl Bell has made the playoffs for 10 consecutive years.

Public Hearing on Schools FIRST, Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas: Tim Brittain stated that the primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources. Twenty- one indicators are evaluated to determine the rating. Hallsville received the highest accountability rating possible “**Superior Achievement**”. This rating shows that Hallsville’s schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving these results cost-effectively and efficiently.

Consent Items:

Minutes from the September 12, 2005, Board meeting, September 2005 Financial Report, and Personnel were approved.

Attendance: The Intermediate, Middle School, Junior High, High School and the District set **new attendance records** for the first six weeks. Mr. Wright complimented campus administration, attendance office personnel, teachers, parents, bus drivers, nurses, cafeteria workers, and all H.I.S.D. employees for the outstanding start to the new attendance year. He said we now have an effective system in place that produces “**Exemplary Attendance**”.
Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!!!

Please see the attendance chart on the following page.

Attendance Chart: First Six Weeks

**Hallsville ISD
Attendance Comparison**

1st Six Weeks

Campus	2005	2004	Record
Primary (EC-K)	96.4	96.6	96.6
Elementary (1-2)	97.4	97.3	97.5
Intermediate (3-4)	*98.2	98.0	98.1
Middle School (5-6)	*98.0	97.8	97.9
Jr. High (7-8)	*97.9	97.7	97.7
High School (9-12)	*97.5	97.0	97.2
District	*97.6	97.4	97.4

*** Indicates School Record**

Funding Change Due to Attendance Increase: Mr. Wright informed the Board that Hallsville I.S.D. will receive **\$107,800** back into the budget because of the **outstanding attendance from the 2004-2005 school year**. The 0.63% increase in attendance makes a significant difference in the operating funds that we have available. The hard work by the campuses have made a significant impact on funding for Hallsville ISD and gives more opportunities such as, increasing instructional expenditures, and providing salary increases.

Drug Testing Policy Revision: The Board approved revisions in the Drug Testing Policy.

Collection Procedures – The current policy indicated that urine samples will be collected from behind a closed restroom stall. The proposed change states: “A student shall be escorted to the school’s testing site and shall provide a sample from a location that ensures reasonable privacy for the student.”

Reasonable Suspicion - This is a proposed new category for our Drug Testing Policy. “When an Administrator or Extra-curricular sponsor has a reasonable suspicion that a student subject to this policy is currently using illegal drugs, the administrator and/or sponsor, shall require the student submit to a drug test.”

Refusal to Test – This category was amended to add the language: “or who is in possession of a masking agent” shall be deemed to have a positive result. This would mean that if a student refused the drug test or was in possession of a masking agent, the consequences would be the same as a positive test result.

These proposed changes were drafted by TASB and approved by Schwartz and Eichelbaum (H.I.S.D. school attorney) prior to requesting Board approval. Mr. Wright said these changes will support one of the **most comprehensive drug testing policies in the State**. He is very proud of the **Board** for taking a **proactive stand** against **drugs**.

Student Code of Conduct Revision: The Board approved the offense of being in possession of a masking agent as a Level II DAEP offense to the Student Code of Conduct. The sale, gift, delivery, or possession of a **drug masking agent** would be a mandatory placement in the DAEP.

Special Recognition: Mr. Wright recognized **Ann Talley** for writing a grant proposal for School-Based Student Drug Testing Programs that was selected for funding under the United States Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools' Office. The amount awarded to Hallsville ISD for the 2005-06 school year is in the amount of \$29,900.00, and will cover the costs for the school's Extra-Curricular Drug Testing Program (grades 7-12). The grant also extends for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years in the amount of \$28,900 per year. Mr. Wright said the grant could not have come at a better time with all Extra-Curricular students (grades 7-12) being tested. The grant money will support the extra cost for additional testing.

Mr. Wright also informed the Board about Frank Uryasz, President of the National Center for Drug-Free Sports in Kansas City, Kansas, will be a guest speaker at Hallsville High School, Monday, October 24, 9:30 a.m., in the auditorium. Mr. Uryasz will be speaking about steroid abuse prevention and drug awareness. Parents are welcome to attend.

Mr. Wright said that Hallsville I.S.D. is being **proactive**, not reactive, in the **fight against drug abuse!** Hallsville I.S.D. is the **leader** of East Texas and the State in drug testing policies and drug awareness prevention!

Nomination of Appraisal District Directors: Directors are nominated and selected by the governing bodies of voting taxing units in the appraisal district. Voting and taxing units for all appraisal districts are the county, cities, towns and school districts participating in the appraisal district. Directors are selected in the fall of each odd-numbered year. The Board nominated Ben Preston, Jason Petersen, and Rob Key.

Exemplary Plan Focus:

Junior High- Eve Ford presented the Exemplary Plan to the Board for the Junior High Campus.

Support Programs

- ⇒ Teachers mentor students, meeting with them twice monthly.
- ⇒ Content Mastery, serving both regular and special education populations.
- ⇒ Teaching assistants working with Language Arts and Math departments in classroom with targeted students.
- ⇒ Read 180 is a program to improve the skills of struggling readers in (grades 7-8).
- ⇒ Inclusion teachers working with special education in Social Studies and Science classrooms.
- ⇒ Community in Schools (CIS) is a program which focus on supporting our at-risk population.
- ⇒ Tutorials during school day, twice a week. Tutorials will also be used for UIL academic teams and TAKS review.
- ⇒ Non-Core Subjects are completing activities at the beginning of class that are TAKS based.

Departments

New Strategies for 2005-2006

- ⇒ Language Arts
 - Using History textbook to teach Language Arts skills
- ⇒ History – Word Walls
 - Timeline displayed in the classroom
- ⇒ Math – Manipulatives to show problems and concepts
 - Warm-up activities- TAKS based
- ⇒ Science – Training with D. Wise
 - TAKS formatted material

Special Education Department- Patsy Wood presented the Exemplary Plan to the Board for the Special Education Department. She stated that each campus has two goals embedded in their TAKS Improvement Plans:

- 1) To reduce the number of special education exemptions on state assessments.
- 2) To increase the number of students in mainstream settings.

Special Education provides support to campuses through staff training, individual student assistance, student assessments, individual and group counseling, and IEP development and support.

ESL Grade Language Classification: Patsy Hodnett presented an ESL Classification report to the Board. The total number of English as a Second Language (ESL) students enrolled in Hallsville is sixty-four (64). Nine (9) of the sixty-four (64) are non-English speakers. Thirty (30) of the sixty-four (64) students are limited English speakers. Twenty-five (25) of the sixty-four (64) students are fluent English speakers.

ESL Program Evaluation: Patsy Hodnett gave the annual evaluation of the ESL Program. She stated that the purpose of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program is to enable English language learners (ELLs) to become competent in speaking, reading, and writing the English language and to facilitate their integration into the regular education program. This was the largest group of ESL students in the (PK-2 grades) with over half of the total enrollment in this area. All LEP students at the fourth grade passed the writing portion of the TAKS test with one student making commended performance. ESL students in (grades 3-6) are served by inclusion which means these students are totally immersed in the English language.

Personnel Approved:

Professional:

None

Paraprofessional:

Kim Henry – Secretary to Campus Principal - Intermediate

Lisa Wadley – Computer Lab Assistant – Intermediate

Gladys Longorio – Special Education Classroom Assistant – High School

Retirements:

None

Resignations:

Elicia Powell – Secretary to Campus Principal – Intermediate

Kimberly Nixon – Special Ed. Classroom Assistant – High School

Beth Godsey – Secretary to Director of Curriculum - Administration

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work!

Bobcat Pride Begins With You

Tradition + Pride + Hard Work = Success