

# EYES ON THE BOARD

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A Union of Professionals

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## SECOND BUDGET MEETING

### MCALLEN ISD BOARD MEETINGS 3/19/12

Absent at 3 p.m.—de la Garza, Farias, Caporusso;

Absent at 6 p.m.—Farias and Caporusso

**3 p.m., 6 p.m., 6:15 p.m.**

Miss Lopez, Assistant Superintendent for Business, suggested that there was no need to non renew the 56 still on probation from last year. If money had been tight, then the Board could have non renewed these teachers again this school year.

The Board approved the contracts for 2012-2013 of administrators, teachers, and other professional personnel.

During the last month, we have seen a large number of people on TINA's and probationary being non re-

newed (first year). We worked Wednesday-Sunday (of last week) at the office to be sure everyone's concerns were taken care of that we knew about.

Don't forget if you sign up with a charter (IDEA) school you have no rights. You don't have a contract you have two (2) weeks' notice, no conference period, no duty free lunch, no health insurance, required fund raising, and more. You may get a laptop and cell phone, but you are hooked to them day and night.

All 32 of McAllen AFT former members have left IDEA and gone back to public school and Texas AFT.

Suddenly in the new budget information presented to the Board administration needs more custodians, more trades people, and addi-

tional classified positions. There is still no answer on the custodians having 260 days or 242—thus cutting their wages. Erica de la Garza pushed for leaving the 260 employees alone. Administration cut heavily into these classified positions last year. With a \$40 million fund balance NOW administration admits they need these classified positions back and more.

The largest discussion of the evening was on facilities, maintenance, and operations. The board seemed to support allocating \$4+ million for repairs. Out of this process it was announced that Alvarez will have a new roof. Milam should soon know about their needed repairs.

It seems to be a good time to leverage money to work on buildings as the board is not making very much money on their savings. The district used to make a \$100,000 in interest every year—but not now.

There was a brief discussion of tearing Travis down and replacing the building—an expenditure of approximately \$45+ million.

Ponce said there was still 40% of the building that was good and renovation could be done.

Ponce said very expensive jobs like tearing down Travis and starting over were too much for future budgets. There is \$23 million in the budget for 12-15 to possibly renovate Travis. Hilda Garza-DeShazo pushed for a new building.

Sam Saldivar, Board President, ask other Board members if they opposed the plan to allocate \$7 million for roof replacements at Alvarez and Milam elementary schools, air conditioning replacements, electrical upgrades, tennis court and parking resurfaces and a new school pavilion.

### **No one opposed.**

Ponce also started talking about how big high schools and middle schools should be.

He mentioned 2,300 for high schools and no number for middle schools. We still do not know the number of student projected for 2012-2013.



## PUBLIC COMMENT

# The Self Defense Pledge For For Texas Workers

The attacks on teachers, firefighters, nurses and other dedicated public employees in Wisconsin, Ohio, and Indiana are coming to Texas. Some very rich individuals who want even more wealth, such as the Koch brothers, have financed national attacks on public-sector as well as private-sector union members. These business interests want to end traditional pension systems as we know them and convert them to riskier 401(k)-style accounts that would benefit the financial industry, not workers. And that's just for starters.

Take The Pledge to Protect Your Pension!!

[www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org)

Good evening, my name is Ruth Skow, and I represent McAllen AFT. We represent employees from the teacher to the bus driver.

### TEXAS AFT WEB SURVEY

A recent Texas AFT web survey of more than 3,500 teachers, school employees and parents reveals the extent to which our schools are experiencing widespread layoffs, cuts to key programs and services, larger class sizes, and stressful conditions for teaching and learning—all related to the \$5.4 billion in state budget cuts enacted this year.

In addition to quantifying some of the impacts, teachers and other school employees consistently commented on significantly lower morale from lack of resources to teach schoolchildren, and from longer work hours, more duties, increased paperwork, bullying by administrators, reduced planning time and lack of learning materials and supplies.

We know the Board of Education in

McAllen is interested in getting up-to-date information on what is going on across the state.

<http://tx.aft.org>

### 9th/10th GRADE

#### INITIATIVE

**All year long we have asked for information regarding the 9th grade initiative be presented to the public and received little or nothing. Now we understand that you are moving to a 10th grade initiative. You have spent thousands of dollars on the 9th grade initiative—what is the cost of the 10th grade plan?**

**Your committee meetings are closed door meetings. The Board needs to be transparent and tell the truth. This year has been like moving back to some previous superintendents who ruled by fear.**

**Thank you.**