

# EYES ON THE BOARD

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## TEAM BUILDING

**The McAllen Board of Education met on August 13, 2012 to discuss team building among the Board and Superintendent.**

Mr. Farias was absent. Roel Pena, Specialist and Tony Lara, Deputy Director at Region I made the three (3) hour presentation.

The details included population changes, jobs, salaries based on completed levels of education, retiring Baby Boomers, graphs and charts about TAKS and STAAR, End of Course results, comparison scores from 37 Valley districts, and peer

comparisons of the 5A schools. The following are some of the highlights of the meeting:

Changing society means roles and responsibilities must change for the School Board and the Superintendent (years from now until 2040).

A board member may have his/her own agenda.

By 2030, 76 million Baby Boomers will have retired, but only 46 million Generation X's and Y's will enter the work force.

"The Team of Eight" (Board and Superintendent)

has the ultimate goal to ensure success for everyone in all our schools (LEPS, Special Education, migrants, recent immigrants, and all other subgroups).

"Same Circus-Different Clowns" said one of the presentators referring to the opinion of the community—about newly elected Board members.

An activity called "Evaluate your team" from 1-10 showed MISD Team averaged between 7-8 (above average for most School Boards/Superintendents).

The Board members must work as a team whether newly elected or experienced.

Board's job is three-fold: Superintendent, budget, and policy.

Individual authority or power is gone whether you are elected or experienced.

Communication, Communication, Communication.

The community expects Board to be prepared and attend all meetings.

No Board member has authority EXCEPT when the Board meeting is in session.

Community sensitive positions include hiring a football coach, attorney, Director of Instruction, Auditor, etc.

What constitutes what may or may not be in the best interest of students or district itself is tough for Board members to explain in late night phone calls from the community.



# CONTINUED

Follow the chain of command.

Highly effective boards do the following: Focus on serving all students; understand the school board's role; works well as a member of team; act with professionalism and integrity.

HB2563-Hancock is a law that school board must follow.

Discussion of the 11 duties of the superintendent (TEC 11.201).

Financial Rating System of Texas (FIRST) is 70—Superior.

Superintendent's evaluation has to be ON-GOING.

Board members must provide proof that they have had appropriate training in superintendent evaluation.

How will TLC<sup>3</sup> be a part of Board goals? How about an evaluation for the community? Check YouTube on the MISD website for feedback.

Need an instrument to measure the TRUST of the community—will be researched.

Set high, but realistic goals for the district (MISD's five (5) long term goals were highly

praised).

Don't leave anything to chance—Board is MOVING in the Right Direction.

Before the meeting adjourned, the presenters asked the Board how they felt about this training. Hilda DeShazo, Board President, replied that she felt much more comfortable and informed. The Board was wished "good luck" with the interview for Board of the Year (under Sam Saldivar's leadership).

The Board is considered in the TOP 10 in the state. They will be interviewed as a team by 8-9 retired school board members and superintendents. BE PREPARED AND MAKE US PROUD OF YOUR TEAM!! COME BACK WITH THE WIN!!

**Attended and written by  
Rebecca McMillan**

**Regular School Board  
Meeting, August 13, 2012  
6 p.m.**

Javier Farias--absent for all three (3) school board meetings. Dr. Caporusso--absent 1/2 of regular school board meeting.

New Principals and Assistant Principals for 2012-2013.

- **Cathey Middle School Principal--Melvin Benford**
- **Thigpen/Zavala Elementary Assistant Principal--Albert G. Irlas**

- **Rowe High School Assistant Principal--Jennifer M. Martinez**

Summary of the highlights of the meeting:

Approval of lease purchase agreement for Student Apple iPad2 and iPod devices (total of \$3.5 million for all equipment--over 2 years). Approval of IB fees, training and Instructional materials for IB program--\$569,000.

Approval of license agreement for Imagine Learning--needed for the 37 languages spoken in McAllen ISD--\$58,000. To be approved on August 27, 2012--NovaNet renewal licenses for McHi, Memorial, Rowe, Lamar Academy, I & G, and Evening Study Centers.

HEB Grocery Stores and Texas Valley Communities--donated \$15,000 for family sessions for middle school. Parks and Recreation Director for the City of McAllen--discussed a new soccer facility located around De Leon Middle School--could seat 4,000. Approved copier paper and paper products--purchase of paper down 30%.

**Attended and written by  
Ruth Skow**

