

# McAllen AFT Eyes on the Board

**Business Name**



*A Union of Professionals*

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## MISD BOARD MEETINGS

APRIL 29, 2014

### **McAllen ISD Special School Board Meeting, April 28, 2014 at 2 p.m.**

All Board members were present.

Miss Lopez discussed possible salary raises. One path would be a 2% raise or a 4% raise. No decision at this time. There was a discussion of going to \$44,000 for "0" year teacher. Other districts are going up on "0" year salaries. Nothing new on stipends.

There was a discussion of having higher standards for new hires.

There was a big discussion regarding class size. Some Board members are not concerned with how big the classes are.

### **McAllen ISD Regular School Board Meeting, April 28, 2014 at 6 p.m.**

A donation from Ben Milam PTO was accepted by McAllen ISD. The Board approved new color printer for \$8,256.

The Board voted to spend \$103,000 for the Teach for America contract for 2014-15.

A donation from Perez PTO was accepted by McAllen ISD. The Board then voted to take the donation and purchase electronic equipment for the campus. The cost will be \$20,366.

Locker room renovations were approved for McHi and Memorial. The cost will be \$1.1 million.

New job descriptions were approved-- Master Teacher, Elementary Literacy Coach PK-5, Elementary Math Coach PK-5, Elementary Science Coach PK-5, Elementary Social Studies Coach PK-5, Secondary Literacy Coach 6-12, Secondary Math Coach 6-12, Sec-

Science Coach 6-12, Secondary Social Studies Coach 6-12, Dual Enrollment Advisor, District Digital Media Content Manager, Community Information Legal Assistant, and Chief Human Capital Officer (in HR). Check McAllen ISD online for job information—**job descriptions may not be up yet.**

### **McAllen ISD Regular School Board Meet April 15, 2014**

The Superintendent recommended the renewal of 2014-2015 employee contracts of Administrators, Teachers, and other professional personnel for the



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Calendar B was discussed. Sam Saldivar suggested a change to Calendar B—have November 4 as a holiday to allow for voting at more campuses. November 5, 2014 would be moved to another date.

Spring Break will be aligned with STC's calendar because of dual enrollment.

**At the April 28th meeting, the calendar now has November 4th as a holiday and November 13 a regular work day. Spring Break will be aligned with STC's calendar because of dual enrollment.**

Dr. Ponce's formative evaluation was approved. There was no discussion.

Pool services design was discussed.

Starting school early was discussed at the last board meeting. It seems as it may cost \$2 million to start early.

There was a discussion of Hidalgo County continuing to collect taxes for McAllen ISD.

There may be possible action to name the elevator at McHi was discussed.

Discussion of TASB Energy Cooperative Fixed Rate Transportation Fuel Pool.

### **Help End the Testing Madness—Contact Congress—Hotline for April 28, 2014**

Every child should get a great public education. In today's world, that means our students must be prepared to compete—not with respect to their test-taking skills, but regarding their ability to solve problems, analyze and apply knowledge, and work with others.

That is why U.S. Reps. Chris Gibson (Republican of New York) and Krysten Sinema (Democrat of Arizona) have introduced the Student Testing Improvement and Accountability Act, H.R. 4172. It reduces federally mandated tests from 14 to 6, and it gives states the freedom to focus on learning and high-level thinking skills instead of test preparation. H.R. 4172 would give new momentum to efforts here in Texas to scale back standardized STAAR testing to a minimum in grades 3-8.

H.R. 4172 would state as official congressional findings what teachers know to be true:

"Following the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Federal education policy has placed an increased emphasis on testing assessments, requiring students to undergo standardized testing every year in grades 3-8. Reducing the frequency of federally required testing would allow more time for classroom instruction, decrease the burden on educational resources associated with testing, and move our public education system away from the practice of 'teaching to the test.'"

**Urge Congress to pass H.R. 4172 and reduce the testing fixation** that has diminished the joys of teaching and learning. This bipartisan bill is a good start toward reclaiming the promise of public education by improving the way we educate our students today and preparing them for a better future tomorrow.

It's time to end the educational blight caused by overuse and misuse of standardized testing. H.R. 4172 will help. **E-mail your representative** and ask him or her to join in reclaiming the promise of a great education for all students.