

MCALLEN AFT EYES ON THE BOARD

KEEPING YOU INFORMED!



A Union of Professionals

April/May, 2015

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ELECTION DAY, MAY 9, 2015

MISD BOND VOTE

For—2,291
Against—5,127

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Place 1

Suarea—3121
Olivarez—661
Gonzalez-Alcantar—2,043
Abbott—2,642

Place 2

Alvarado—4,381
Delaney—1,047
DeShazo—2,946

Place 4

Lopez—3,830
Forina—4,378

Place 5

Vela—7,182

MISD Regular Board Meeting, May 20, 2015

The McAllen ISD Board of Education met at 8 a.m. Officers were nominated and elected. Conrado "Ito" Alvarado was elected President, Vice President--Larry Esparza, and Tony Forina, Secretary.

SPECIAL EDUCATION STIPEND

We received more than 50 calls, emails, and texts yesterday regarding non payment of stipends for Special Education teachers. Miss Lopez, Asst. Superintendent, let me know that you will received your check this May. Rosie Larson, Principal at Memorial High School, will be the new Director of Special Education for 15-16.

EDUCATIONAL AIDES

A bright spot we can report now concerns funding for the program of tuition scholarships for educational aides who enroll in college to become teachers. Rep. Donna Howard (D-Austin); got this done. McAllen AFT presented the petitions for you to sign to get this benefit funded. A career path for aides to a better life.



CONTINUED

UTRGV Citizen League Luncheon May 28, 2015

Speaker - Dr. Kristin Croyle - VP of Student Success at UTRGV

There are 9,000 overall applicants for the undergraduate program (all Valley campuses) - no interviewing process for non-medical students.

There are over 75 undergraduate programs.

Marine Biology will be offered at Brownsville.

Other programs will eventually be available to students all over the Valley so that they live close to where they go to school.

Medical School:

- Six (6) months of interviewing
- Academic indicators
- Research experience
- Internship
- Understanding of what medical school means and what is involved

60% acceptance rate at UTRGV

40% statewide acceptance rate

Undergraduates and graduates work together leading to more experience for the undergraduates. Core credits are all fully transferable (e.g. STC).

UTRGV is trying to raise funds to give the first class of medical school students free tuition in the fall of 2016. There will be 28,000 students -

(2nd largest in the country) (3rd in the number of Hispanic graduates).

Four (4) Priorities of UTRGV

- Student success
- Expanding educational opportunities
- Improve health/healthcare in the region
- Research problems affecting the Valley

There 22 people on staff in the department for Research of Diabetes & Obesity - \$12 million in funding.

UTRGV hired 1150 staff and 795 faculty members so far and staffing is 82% complete. Expected hiring should be done by the end of June, 2015.

Tuition:

There is a four-year guarantee of \$3,665 (per semester). That is the lowest rate of tuition in the country. <http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/costs-financial-aid/tuition-fees>

The University eliminated almost all the fees that are normally added to tuition.

Same tuition rate for the length of education (locked in rate) for all four years.

Students pay for 12 hours cap (additional hours free/ over 18 hrs - dean's permission needed - 15 hours per semester needed to graduate on time).

There will be \$44 million awarded in financial aid to the new class for the fall 2015-2016.