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EYES ON THE BOARD

a publication of the McAllen AFT



A Union of Professionals

A FEW THINGS TO SAY

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McAllen AFT wishes all our members and friends a great Winter Break.

Our prayers are with you all. In addition, we have extended our support and prayers to our Newtown AFT local in Connecticut. Your McAllen AFT Executive Board will discuss our response to their needs. We will inform you as soon as we can. Our office will be closed from De-

ember 22, 2012 to January 3, 2013. You can always text 607-0193 for Ruth. Be sure to say who the text is from.

We will be visiting your campuses beginning January 7, 2013. Ask a friend to join.

The McAllen ISD wellness program provides counseling for employees. If you should need this assistance, it is a confidential program through

Dear Oaks. The telephone number is 1-866-327-2400 and ask for an age appropriate counselor.

Life has its ups and downs, and we all need help.

MCALLEN ISD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 17, 2012

All Board members were present.

A moment of silence was observed for Newtown, Connecticut and the beautiful children, teachers, administrators, and all other school employees.

The new assistant principal at McHi is Jacob M. Camacho (from PSJA). The vote was 7-0.

The McAllen ISD's \$5 million fund balance in health insurance could pay for the Step Case and money owed to teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses, and speech path. Talk to your Board members.

No new information on the master plan for the stadium was discussed.



JUST A LITTLE MORE

The fencing bid at Milam was rejected. There is no new timeline for completion as yet.

No new report from Kevin Hitchcock, MISD Executive Director of Plant Operations, regarding changes in his departments and completion of hail damaged school repairs.

No new information on the De Leon soccer complex.

Chief Esquivel (MISD Police Chief) reported that the former Crockett Elementary is being referred to now as the Emergency Operational Center. The district will be working more closely with McAllen City Police regarding officer training, safety drills, and fire drills.

REGULAR MISD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 10, 2012

All Board members were present.

New Principal for Fossum Middle School is Paz Elizondo, Jr. (coming from La Joya ISD).

The following is a summary of the meeting: McAllen ISD has a \$5 million fund balance in our health insurance plan. Imagine how that balance could be used to have a better plan. As I have mentioned before, Superintendent Ponce dissolved the District Insurance committee. As an employee, your health benefits are

not being adequately represented. Since the arrival of Ponce our health benefits have been lowered, classroom size increased by 25%,

morale is down by 50% for both employees and principals, the school day is longer, and work on the weekend is typical not unusual. Library books, audiovisual materials and instructional reading materials catalog bid was increased from \$800,000 to \$1,050,000. Items to be used for IB, AP, GT, and other areas.

Eli Ochoa, Architect for ERO, reported on various building repairs going on because of hail damage on March 29, 2012. Hopefully the roof at McHi will be finished by January 18, 2012 (a detailed explanation was given by Ochoa). Kevin Hitchcock, MISD Executive Director of Plant Operations, reported on various repairs done by his departments.

The new De Leon soccer complex was briefly discussed by Ms. Gavlik (Director of Parks and Recreation). Nothing new at this point.

Some members of the Board felt that they were not in the loop to discuss this change. The new baseball complex at 29th and 5 mile was discussed by Ms. Gavlik. Again some on the Board felt that they were not in the loop to discuss this also.

Taxes collected by October 12, 2012 are \$370,000.