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EYES ON THE BOARD

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A Union of Professionals

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MORE TO THINK ABOUT!

McAllen ISD Board Meeting— February 11, 2013

1:30p.m.-4:50
p.m.

This Board meeting dealt with interviews for the hiring of a law firm to be general counsel for the district. There were six (6) firms interviewed. Each had 15 minutes with 10 minutes to answer questions. The Board vote to negotiate with Atlas, Hall, and Rod-

riguez. Atlas has 30 attorneys and have been lead counsel for MISD for 40+ years. If negotiations fail with Atlas, Hall, and Rodriguez the next law firm to negotiate with is Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green, and Trevino.

MISD Regular Board Meeting 6 p.m.-7:25 p.m.

Final payment for roof repairs for portable buildings, Seguin Elementary, Milam Elementary, and Rowe H.S. will

be voted on February 25, 2013.

MISD is up for the HEB Excellence in Education Award.

Meeting with Hitchcock

On Friday, February 15, 2013 we visited with Kevin Hitchcock. We followed up on the asbestos issue at McAllen High School. Hitchcock said he hoped the roof at McHi would be finished by February 22. Water leak issues have kept the roof from being finished. The gym should be complete in June. The Auditorium will not be redone until it is dry. Other considerations are damaged seats and ceiling in Auditorium. Mr.

Hitchcock was working on the budget he will present to the Board after Spring Break. He is hoping to do some updates on individual campuses.

MCALLEN AFT PRESENTATION

Monday,
February 25,
2013

Good evening my name is Ruth Skow, and I represent the McAllen Federation of Teachers (McAllen AFT). For more than 28 years we have served the employees of McAllen ISD. We listen to our members and



work with the guidelines and policies McAllen ISD provides. Our focus is on keeping our members informed and represents their concerns.

As an organization, we are also focused on the 2013 Legislature in Texas. We worked to elect people who will listen and help education recover from the deep cuts in financial support to our school districts across the state. In the next two years many of our veteran teachers will retire. This group of fine people has spent their entire career giving their all to children, parents, schools, and their community. In the short time since I retired and was elected to lead the McAllen AFT the profession of teaching in Texas has changed. We don't mind testing, but the joy of teaching has been deeply diminished with constant testing.

The children of our school district are the precious treasures of our future. The 15,000 students I have had over my years of teaching have scattered all over the U.S. The recession brought many back to the area. Through social media I have been able to keep in touch with the changes in their lives. The returning students have made a great difference in my life. They have brought a new outlook for me. Change is always a big challenge to handle whether it is new school board members, new city commissioners, or a new mayor.

Thank you.

If you plan on applying at a charter school or IDEA, consider the following:

These schools teacher employees are at will: That means you have no rights and can be let go with two (2) weeks notice.

We have now had more than 50+ McAllen AFT members go to work at IDEA. All have left after a year or two at the most.

You are required to fund raise and are expected to work on Saturday and Sunday.

If you get crosswise with a parent, the parent wins and you are gone.

The work day is 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and perhaps on into the evening.

You get a cell phone and a lap top. You must answer parent calls until 9 p.m. Reports for school are due by 9 p.m. each night.