

MCALLEN AFT 1500 DOVE MCALLEN, TX 78504  
956-682-1143

# EYES ON THE BOARD

a publication of the McAllen AFT



A Union of Professionals

January 2013

Volume 20, Issue 7

## CHANGE

### Regular Brd. Mtg. BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 14, 2013

All board members were present.

At the January 28, 2013 Board meeting there will be a AEIS Public Hearing. If you have any ideas, send them to me--rbskow@gmail.com.

Mrs. Arcata presented a report on the 21st Century After-School Community Education Program, Year 5, Fall 2012. The district plans to re-apply for the program.

The May 11, 2013 School Board election was discussed. (Not enough details.)

There was a discussion to suspend grading/progress reports to parents for the 2012-2013 school year only.

A new job description and new position of Special Education Transition Coordinator was presented. (no salary shown).

Dr. Barrera discussed the new soccer fields around De Leon.

(No information shown during the meeting.)

Renewal of Bid on Health/Medical Supplies and Equipment Catalog Bid was discussed. (Cost approximately \$80,000)

Approval of Bid on Gasoline and Delivery Services was discussed. Gas is going up about \$200,000 a year.

New PDAS Appraisers were approved. A bid regarding school and office furniture catalog was discussed.

E-Rate for Internet access and telecommunications services was discussed. Legal Counsel services will be selected

through the interview process.

### INPUT ON STAAR/EOC PRO- POSALS

Did you know TEA is allowing educators to comment regarding the STAAR/EOC proposals? That's the good news. After reading the announcement, anyone who wants to file a comment can do so on this page: <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2013/index.html>



# MORE INFORMATION

## **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 29, 2013**

In a 4-1 vote (Farias absent and Erica de la Garza Lopez absent and out on training for her new job) Kevin Brewer of Garland Rowlett High in Garland ISD was hired as the new McAllen Hi Head Football Coach and Athletic Coordinator. Sam Saldivar voted no.

A public hearing for 2011-2012 District Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) was presented by Mrs. Arcaute. A lot of detail was missing and I felt a clear picture was not given. A copy should be on every school campus soon.

Suddenly Mrs. DeShazo, President of the MISD Board, said that there would be a recess of the Board to attend a City of McAllen Resolution regarding MISD getting an award. Many of the items on the agenda had been covered at the first meeting of the month.

## **MEETINGS WITH BOARD MEMBERS**

During the month of January we have met with Dr. Caporusso, Sam Saldivar, Hilda DeShazo, and Erica de la Garza Lopez.

Debbie Crane Aliseda did not return our phone call. Mr. Farias refuses to meet with us.

We discussed Texas legislative issues, congratulations on state School Board of the year, Race to the Top and the lack of a 70% buy in from staff, and McAllen AFT's lack of ability to be a member of JPCC. In addition, Dr. Barrera has allowed TSTA, ATPE, and TCTA to vote to try to stop McAllen AFT from entering campuses. The Texas Education Agency gives us the right to give a standard of service to our members on school campuses.

The last item talked about was the grievance process. Administrators should not be represented by Human Resources Directors. The citizens of McAllen should not be paying administrators bills. We brought up several suggestions for changing the process.

## **ATTORNEY/CLIENT MEETING--CONFIDENTIAL**

On Wednesday January 30, 2013 members qualifying for the STEP CASE settlement proposed by McAllen ISD met at First Christian Church. We were the only professional organization to file a grievance. I (and my support team) wrote the grievance for ALL teachers,

librarians, counselors, nurses and speech path. in the district

The proposed settlement was for AFT members only.

Our attorney reviewed our original grievance, and what had happened since. Then four (4) of the McAllen AFT Staff circulated the room and showed each member their possible money amount. There were many errors on the spreadsheet given to us by McAllen ISD. Money amounts were for one (1) year only. The original decision by the administrative judge from the Texas Education Agency was for two (2) years plus interest.

After each person saw their proposed amount, our attorney answered numerous questions from the audience. After about 20 minutes, our attorney asked the members to vote to settle or to continue with the case. The members voted unanimously to continue with the case.

The next court date is May 7, 2013. We will keep you informed.

