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EYES ON THE BOARD

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A Union of Professionals

October 2012

EVALUATION TIED TO STUDENT SCORES

Volume 21, Issue 2

McAllen ISD Regular Board Meeting, October 22, 2012

Dr. Caporusso was absent (3rd meeting in a row).

The new Assistant Principal at Memorial High School is Miguel Carmona.

In Public Comment, a letter was read to Dr. Ponce regarding Race to the Top. The letter is attached.

The following were approved: District Performance Objectives, purchase of Thinking Maps, approval of NBA Cares event, revision of HVAC Parts and Equipment Catalog, approval of lumber-parts and supplies,

Alternative attendance posting, Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences (second reading), list of certified appraisers, September Budget amendment, and repair services for iPads and other tech items.

In addition, approved District Accountability Intervention System.

Other items approved at the last Board meeting.

McAllen ISD Regular Board Meeting, October 9, 2012-- Briefing Meeting-- Detailed discussion

Dr. Caporusso was absent (2nd meeting in a row).

The following is a Summary of Important concerns at the meeting:

The MISD Board voted four (4) (Farias, Alesida, Vela, De-Shazo) to two (2) (de la Garza Lopez and Saldivar) to approve the restated fourth amendment to the superintendent's contract.

We continue to say the raise is on the backs of counselors, paras, and hourly employees.

A copy of Ponce's amended contract is up on our web site.

The MISD Board voted 6-0 to approve a Memorandum of Understand for Race to the Top District Grant.

If the seven (7) districts that McAllen is with win a grant in December, then Utica Community Schools,

Sterling Heights, Michigan; Mooresville Graded School District, North Carolina; Joint School District District No. 2, Idaho; Vancouver Public Schools, Washington; Piedmont City School, Alabama; Horry County Schools, South Carolina) will work together.

Utica Community Schools in Michigan will manage the money from the grant of a possible \$40 million.

The seven (7) school districts would have in total 25,000 students who qualify for specialized help.

Now we will see how your students scores are attached to your PDAS Evaluation.

On October 23, 2012, we met with the Executive Director of Plant Operations. During the Thanksgiving Winter Break a great deal of work will take place at McHi regarding the asbestos/air quality and student concerns.



A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

Approval of Alternate Attendance Posting Time for Certain Groups of Students.

The TEA Student Attendance Accounting Handbook for 2012-2013 requires that each campus must determine attendance for all grades by the absences recorded at the one particular point in time the campus has chosen for roll to be taken (a snapshot, e.g., 9:45 a.m.) during the second or fifth instructional hour of the day or its equivalent. The selected time may vary from campus to campus within the district. However, once a time has been selected, a campus may not change it during the school year.

A campus may choose an alternate attendance. To implement the alternate attendance—taking time, a local school board must have established documented procedures allowing for an alternate attendance.

MISD Board Policy DEC (Local): Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences (First Reading)

On numerous occasions Ponce has said that the health and benefit plan is too rich.

In a revision to DEC (local), it clearly reflects the record keeping for paid leave; allows the accumulation of

local leave without limit for persons hired before July 1, 2012, and limits the accumulation of local leave to a maximum of 30 days for persons hired after July 1, 2012.

The Board was not required to vote on this policy. Another loss for employees!

On Tuesday evening October 16, 2012 the first of 15 Forums under the leadership of Texas AFT was held at the Holiday Inn and Suites.

McAllen AFT and La Joya AFT were hosts for the event. Educators, parents, community members, and elected officials were invited to create a vision for Texas Public Schools. A few brief introductory remarks were made by Louis Malfaro, Secretary/Treasurer of Texas AFT--moderator, Ruth Skow, McAllen AFT President, Gregg Barrera, President of La Joya AFT, J.J. Luna, Staffer for La Joya, and Ramiro Hernandez, one of the new project leaders for the Valley.

Then round table discussions began. We had 9 tables with 8-10 individuals discussing the following questions: What do students in our community need for a high-quality education?; What have your experiences been with standardized testing? Are there changes you think should be made to the

state accountability system?; Do you believe our schools are adequately funded? What should we do to ensure

that schools have the resources required to meet the needs of all students?; What role should parents play in assuring that their children are well educated?

We had educators, parents, school board members, and other elected officials. Hilda Garza-DeShazo, President of McAllen ISD School Board, was

in attendance as well as Sam Saldivar. Ruben Cortez, District 2 State Board of Education, (up for election on November 6) was present. Terry Canales, District 40, up for election on November 6 was there. Two school board members from La Joya were present. Sergio Munoz Jr., District 36, was there also (up for election on November 6). Dr. Ricardo Chapa and Nick Quesada (former McAllen ISD Board members) were also present. A White Paper (a detailed summary of the combined events) will be produced from these sessions for the Legislative Session in January 2013.