

EYES ON THE BOARD



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THE STATE AND SCHOOL BOARD UPDATES

Since 2004 Texas Educational Employees have not been able to claim their spouses Social Security. They can claim their own if they have earned 40 quarters of working experience. AFT (American Federation of Teachers), Texas AFT, and McAllen AFT have worked hard to open the loop hole so that our educational employees can get their Social Security. In McAllen we have ask you to sign petitions to open the loop hole. We delivered these petitions to our U.S.

Senators Cornyn and Cruz. We ask you to key in on your computer or iPad the Texas AFT Hotline URL and write to Cornyn and Cruz in regard to this important issue.

<http://texasaftblog.com/hotline/?p=3324>

MISD BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 28, 2013

During the Public Comment session of the Board meeting we delivered the petitions that many of you signed to support the PCI Clinic. We thanked the

Board members for the opportunity to have an alternative method of health care. Please tell your Board members that the clinic has been an economical support for you and your family.

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD MEETING

1. The Superintendent's amended contract is posted on our web site.
2. The new Coordinator for Special Education is Josie Reyes.
3. Ponce indicated veteran teachers need to get on board and welcome technology.
4. Board approved the Lincoln Middle School Improvement Plan to comply with the Texas

Accountability Invention System.

5. Board approved the Plato courseware for McAllen Hi, McAllen Memorial, Rowe, and Lamar Academy. Software will be used to recover credits.
6. Board approved Inter-Governmental Agreement and Stadium License Agreement between MISD and the city of McAllen (improvements to the stadium— City giving \$3 million and the school district \$2 million.)
7. Board approved an agreement between Teach for America and the District— total of



\$194,000 for 2 (two) years. This will cover the training for 29 first year teachers and 9 (nine) second year teachers from Teach for America.

MISD BOARD MEETING ON OCTOBER 15, 2013

During the Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas (School FIRST) Hearing a packet was given to those in the audience who wanted one. In the packet was a copy of Dr. Ponce's amended contract. Please click on our website and you will be able to see his contract.

A master plan for McAllen Veterans Memorial Stadium and McAllen High School was presented. In my humble opinion the documents were beautiful and combined McHi and the stadium as one. This change would come under a bond election next year. The voters will decide.

The City and McAllen ISD have agreed to a Stadium lease for 10 years and renovations. The City will invest \$3 million and the school district \$2.

Another item on the agenda is the installation of tennis facilities at Memorial High School for the district and the public.

Another proposal was paying Teach for America \$87,500 for 2013-2014 teachers provided by them for McAllen ISD. A second year is involved--another \$87,500 (\$3,500 for

each teacher). There are 17 new teachers to the program, and there are an additional eight (8) teachers in year two (2).

The Board of Education approved an expenditure of \$61,000 for Public Relations Consulting Services.

This was a very long meeting and much ground was covered. The included seemed to be most important.

REPORT TO MEMBERS CONCERNING OUT STEP CASE--A \$1.2 MILLION CASE AGAINST MCALLEN ISD--MARTHA OWEN OUR ATTORNEY

The Commissioner of Education found that McAllen AFT members were entitled to back pay for the two years covered by Tex. Educ. Code Section 21.402, 2009 - 2010, and 2010 - 2011. The district appealed the decision to Travis County district court.

AFT sought and received an order from the district court to send the case back to the board of trustees for additional fact findings regarding the second

year, 2010 - 2011. This hearing, for the purpose of supplementing the record on appeal, took place in May 2013. The record was supplemented and the case sent back up to the Commissioner to determine if the supplemental record regarding the second year changed his determination.

The Commissioner issued a Decision on Remand on September 26, 2013, in which he reaffirmed his original determination that AFT members are entitled to back pay for both years and included additional fact findings regarding the second year. The district now has the opportunity to file a Motion for Rehearing

of the Commissioner's Decision on Remand. Assuming that this motion is overruled, then the case will be set for hearing before the Travis County district court.

