

MCALLEN AFT EYES ON THE BOARD

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A Union of Professionals

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MCALLEN ISD SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Job Description

Approval of job description for Head Football Coach/Boys Athletic Coordinator

MCALLEN ISD WORKSHOP MEETING, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Governance Team

Governance team (Board and Superintendent) Team building and self-assessment

MCALLEN ISD REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 26, 2015

Cyber Crime

Since school started, we have been busy dealing with Cyber Crime and employees accused of doing wrong. We are asking you to take what we are about to say very seriously. Please do not open your personal email at school--will only bring you trouble and could cost you your job.



McAllen ISD Regular Board Meeting, October 26, 2015

IB Program

The Board of Trustees of McAllen ISD approved funding for IB Middle and IB Elementary schools until June 2016. At that time, the Board will reevaluate the program and other options. The Board voted to only fund the annual school fees portion of \$227,160 for all 20 elementaries and 7 middle schools. They voted to withhold \$94,080 which pays for teacher training in summer 2016.

In the discussion over other concerns it was revealed that 500 students left McAllen this last school year. Many moms and dads saying that they did not like the IB program. In addition, many teachers left for the same reason. Three teachers from Gonzalez spoke against IB in elementary and middle school.

Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations

The committee looking at the audit to be done in Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations is working on final details regarding the bidder in first place.

Superintendent's Evaluation

The Board approved the Summative Evaluation of the Superintendent. No mention was made of when information would be made public.

Scoreboard Project

A discussion occurred regarding the scoreboard for the stadium. Nothing final yet.



CONTINUED



MCALLEN ISD REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 13, 2015

The new principal at Castaneda Elementary School is Jessica Estringel.

New Assistant Superintendent Information

The position of the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Job Description and Position was approved. The salary will range from \$101,383 to \$126,447. We hope the salary will draw quality candidates.

Concerns Regarding Audit of FM & O

The ranking of firms for request for qualifications No. 2015-056 for a comprehensive audit of McAllen ISD FM &O was approved. Staff (school district staff) will begin the process.

IB Discussion

A very heated conversation about IB was held. Some Board members want to cut elementary and middle school expenses for IB. Two others want to keep elementary and middle school IB program. As time went on, the conversation got more and more heated. IB does not seem to have helped low test scores. **More debate will continue at the next board meeting on October 26, 2015.** In the conversation there was also discussion about AP and perhaps working on it as well.

College Readiness

Rachel Arcaute gave an excellent report on college readiness.

SBEC VOTE ON SUPERINTENDENT QUALIFICATIONS

By a narrow margin of six to four, the State Board for Educator Certification voted on October 16 to make it easier for someone with no teaching experience to become a superintendent in Texas. Texas AFT and other teacher and administrator groups all opposed the change as the dilution of an important professional prerequisite for effectiveness in leading a school district. Contrary to some news reports you may have heard, the SBEC vote is not the final word on this regulatory change. The 15 elected members of the State Board of Education still have a say in the matter and have the power to reject the SBEC proposal by a two-thirds vote at an upcoming meeting.

ELECTION RESULTS

In a low-turnout general election, Texas voters approved all seven proposed state constitutional amendments by big margins. Included were two that (a) modestly expanded a statewide property-tax exemption for homeowners that will save them about \$10 a month and (b) grabbed billions of dollars in state general-purpose revenue and dedicated those dollars exclusively to highway construction. Together the two amendments will take more than three billion dollars per year off the table when lawmakers must decide how to meet neglected needs for public education and other core state responsibilities.

Combined with other steps taken by the legislature this year to cut business taxes and to dedicate additional funding streams to highway construction by statute, the amount subtracted from general revenue available for other purposes will be upwards of ten billion dollars per biennium. The old expression about robbing Peter to pay Paul comes to mind. While transportation infrastructure certainly needed a boost, major new investments in public education also are overdue. Now that legislators and voters have addressed overcrowded and poorly maintained roadways, it's past time to marshal the resources to address overcrowded and underfunded classrooms.