

PTA/PTO Presidents and Principals' Meeting

Welcome

Dr. Don Stockton, Superintendent, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He introduced Board members Lynda Sasser, Ann Snyder, and Chris Irish to the group and thanked them for attending as program supporters. He addressed key current events in the District and explained that students are currently taking state and standardized tests and that the Board of Trustees is in the process of developing the budget for the 2009-2010 school year. He provided a brief update on the financial status of the District, reiterating that the District is in good financial shape. He reported that the District is closely monitoring ways to reduce spending and to save costs, especially in the area of energy management. He reported that the District has received a clean financial audit as well as numerous financial awards. The District is cautiously optimistic about reports of a Stimulus Package from the federal government and awaits further information on guidelines to utilize these funds.

Dr. Stockton shared that the Texas Legislature is in session and may address the school finance system and the school accountability system. He explained that CISD is monitoring current student growth and using that information before starting any new CISD bond projects. He strongly emphasized the need to keep the system of checks and balances in place with PTA/PTO/Booster Club funds and monitor same to minimize the opportunity for fraud.

Annual Performance Report

Dr. Jean Stewart, Deputy Superintendent, presented the 2008 Annual Performance Report sharing that longitudinal information is gathered to study the District's strengths and weaknesses over time and the data is used to measure attainment of student academic goals. She reported that CISD is the 21st largest district in Texas and has 76% of its campuses attaining the two top accountability ratings of Exemplary / Recognized. Her report also included the data to support that the District is making significant progress in closing the achievement gap between student groups in the areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Writing, Social Studies, and Science. The report included the comparison of CISD with 9 other Texas school districts which are similar to CISD in growth and percentage of economically disadvantaged students. The comparison verified that CISD students are performing well academically compared to the students in those districts and that CISD is efficient with the resources needed to reach that goal.

Recycling and Energy Management

Dr. Chris Hines, Associate Superintendent, presented the CISD Recycling and Energy Management Programs. The goal of the recycling program is to reduce the solid waste from CISD campus dumpsters and eventually landfills by diverting certain materials to be recycled. The materials for recycling are paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, and plastic. The current program is partially funded from grant monies with some district costs for training, instructional supplies, and related custodial costs. The cost benefit to the District will be studied and shared when the data is available. Hines also shared the CISD Energy Management Plan which goals include the efficient use of natural resources as well as cost benefits/savings for CISD. It was reported that a 13% reduction in Kilowatts per Hour (KPH) has already been attained using some of the strategies developed in the plan.

Honor Flight Program

Dr. Hines explained that the Honor Flight Program in Montgomery County has recently and successfully taken former WWII Veterans from our county to the Veterans Memorial and Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. This program has been well received by the now eighty year old veterans and is in need of support to continue the effort. Members of the group were asked to consider adopting a vet to help defray the cost of some of the expenses to maintain the program. Contact information was shared with the members.

Sharing of Best Practices

In order to share practices that schools utilize to increase parental involvement the group was divided into four smaller groups and a facilitator led discussions and noted key ideas on chart paper. The ideas will be compiled and sent to the campus principals. The facilitators and groups were:

- Senior High.....Marguerite Weatherall
The Woodlands High School
9th Grade Campus, Principal
- Junior High.....Jeff Fuller
York Junior High Principal
- Intermediate....Jean Anne Gloriod
Travis Intermediate School Principal
- Elementary.....Dr. Cathy Gibson
Assistant Superintendent
for Elementary Education