

Alvord ISD Family:

I have some highlights for you from a December 21 called board meeting and the January 25 regular meeting.

The board approved hiring Mr. Norman Reuther at the December 21 board meeting. Mr. Reuther is teaching science at Alvord High School.

January 25 Board Meeting Highlights

Board Appreciation Month – each January is designated by the Texas Association of School Boards as Board Appreciation Month. This gives us the opportunity to thank our school board members for their service to our kids and schools. The board was served a wonderful meal by the High School FCCLA students with assistance from Mrs. Bennington and Mrs. Hand. The HS Ag Department gave the board members hams. The middle school provided a gift bag with goodies and a monopoly game board made by the middle school art students. The elementary classes made slide shows and videos for the board meeting. I want to thank everyone who helped with board appreciation month, the school board really enjoyed it. We are blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers who truly serve on the school board because they want to serve and see our students and staff succeed. If you see a school board member, please thank them for their service! Your Alvord ISD School Board members are: Jim Bloomer, Mark Gose, Jimmy Looney, Russell Rice, Daniel Ruddick, Lance Thweatt, and David Warren.

Financial Audit –the board approved a “clean” 2019-2020 financial audit which means the audit contained no findings or concerns. The Texas Education Agency recommends school districts keep at least 3 months of operating expenditures in our fund balance, we now have 4.9 months in our fund balance. This will allow the board to consider some additional projects in the upcoming months.

Budget Update – the board heard an update on this school years’ budget and took an early look at what the budget for next year may look like.

2020-2021 Revenue: Our enrollment and ADA (Average Daily Attendance) are down this year due to COVID-19. Statewide student enrollment is down 3%, we are down about 6%. For the fall semester the Texas Education Agency (TEA) funded us as last year’s ADA due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope they will do the same for the spring semester, if not could see as much as a \$200,000 reduction in funding for this school year.

2021-2022 Revenue: if we do not see our enrollment / ADA come back up we will need to lower our ADA projection some to be conservative when projecting revenue next year’s budget. As a result, next year could be a very tight budget year, but I do believe our enrollment / ADA will come back at some point.

COVID-19 Bonus – during the budget discussion a COVID-19 bonus for employees was discussed. The board and admin team recognized the fact that the stress and workload of all employees has certainly increased this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A COVID-19 bonus

will be on the next board meeting agenda. This expenditure would be paid for out of the fund balance.

TAPR - Each year we are required to hold a public hearing of our Educational Performance and the Texas Academic Performance Report. We have created a web page that contains all of the required information. You can see the webpage at <https://www.alvordisd.net/academicperformance>

School Board Election –the board called for a May 1 school board election. Place 1 (Jimmy Looney), Place 2 (Jim Bloomer) and Place 7 (Lance Thweatt) are up for election this year.

Extended Sick Leave Resolution – the Emergency Paid Sick Leave provision required school districts to give employees 10 days of additional leave if their absence was due to COVID-19. This Emergency Sick Leave expired as of December 31, 2020 but the need for additional leave for employees could still exist this semester. The board approved the recommendation to extend the additional 10 days of available COVID-19 leave employees for the remainder of this school year.

Board Policy DEC (LOCAL) Revision - The Emergency Paid Sick Leave issue brought a related issue to our attention. It has been the practice of Alvord ISD for several years (since before my time here) to allow employees who have no leave left to use up to 10 additional extended sick leave days with only the cost of the substitute teacher docked from their pay. This board approved the revised board policy, aligning our practice with the board policy.