

Alvord ISD Family:

I have some highlights for you on the July 26, 2021 board meeting agenda:

STAAR Test Results – The board heard an overview of our 2020-2021 STAAR testing results. We are very pleased. While we did see an overall decline in scores from the previous tested year, we knew that was to be expected due to the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Our goal is always to outperform the state in every tested subject area, which we did for the second time in school district history this past year. The last year we met this goal was in 2019, meaning this is the second consecutive tested year that we have reached this goal. Alvord ISD students outperformed the state by at least 10% points in 17 of the 22 subject areas and by at least 20% in 8 of the subject areas. Our 8th grade math scores were 30 percentage points better than the state average.

These results will be used by our staff as they always are, which is only to make sure our students are learning. Our students and staff are to be congratulated for their hard work and well deserved success!

Student Meal Program – Alvord ISD will again be offering all students one free breakfast and one free lunch meal every school day of the 2021-22 school year. Second meals and snacks will not be free. The free meals are federally funded and are being made possible due to the waivers available from the US Department of Agriculture.

Income Surveys – parents will not complete free and reduced lunch applications this year because of the free meal program. Alvord ISD is required to collect and report the socioeconomic status of each student to the Texas Education Agency for the purposes of the annual state accountability ratings and for federal reporting. We will require parents to complete an income survey this year when registering students for school to meet this mandate. The Registration Fair will be August 3rd, 4th, and 5th at the High School cafeteria.

Facilities Update – Director of Operations Charlie Mann gave the board an update on some HVAC concerns the district is facing. The pandemic has caused a shortage in available replacement parts needed to repair HVAC units. We have two units down now that we cannot repair until we receive parts. We are concerned that when school starts back we may have additional repairs needed and the shortage will cause longer than usual delays. We are taking steps now to be proactive, we may have to move students to areas that are cooled if we are unable to make necessary repairs.

Old MS / Old HS Renovation Project – the board received a preliminary cost projection for the project, discussed phasing options, and reviewed the options available to pay for the project out of the district fund balance. We will soon be seeking bids for

the work on the project, the board will consider approving a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the project at a future board meeting.

Budget Workshop – The board reviewed preliminary budget projections. The certified taxable values in the district increased \$51,746,903 from the previous year. We are projecting a decrease in the M&O Tax Rate from \$1.0547 to \$.9752 due to the increase in taxable values. The I&S tax rate is projected to remain at \$.184. The board reviewed the total tax rate (M&O and I&S) from recent years:

2018-2019: \$1.354

2019-2020: \$1.244

2020-2021: \$1.2387

2021-2022: \$1.1592 (projected):

August Called Board Meeting – The board scheduled a called board meeting for Tuesday, August 31st at 6 p.m. to adopt the budget and tax rates for the 2021-2022 school year.

Bank Depository Contract – the board approved a depository contract with First Financial Bank. First Financial will not charge the district any banking fees.

The board also approved the Student Code of Conduct and reviewed all student and employee handbooks for the upcoming school year.

Dr. Randy Brown

Alvord ISD Superintendent