

# Independent School District **BOARDGRAM**



**Vicki Adams, Superintendent**

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**GOOD MORNING TO YOU!** I hope you all are having a very blessed Memorial Day weekend! As you can see from the legislative update I sent you this morning, our state government officials have not come to a decision on public school financial issues. It looks like a very real possibility of going into a special session.

After this week, Boardgrams will be less regular and less frequent over the summer. To keep you updated on summer events, I will still send one out every two or three weeks.

**EAST SIDE . . .** East Side students were all treated to a movie treat in El Campo for reaching their grade level goals on TAKS. Students also enjoyed some extra time in the pool during the week. Students earning ‘money’ throughout the school year were able to participate in an auction in their classrooms.

Teachers spent Thursday after early release and most of Friday organizing their classrooms for summer vacation. Friday at lunch, Coach Figirova grilled hamburgers and the teachers had skits to roast Susan Kopacz and Jamie Girndt who are leaving the campus. Jeanette Allums is very humorous and quite a ham.

**JUNIOR HIGH . . .** At the junior high on Monday, tests and projects were completed. Then on Tuesday, the 7th graders were treated to a movie and skating in El Campo while 8th graders checked in books, cleared fines and took care of any unfinished business. Then on Wednesday while the 7th graders were taking care of end-of-year items, the 8th graders traveled to El Campo for a movie and bowling.

Thursday morning the 7th and 8th graders gathered in the library to watch an end-of-the-school year PowerPoint that Jil Treybig spent the last couple weeks compiling. After an early lunch, the students attended the “Jam Fest” which provided food and games for the rest of the day until early release. The school year ended on a very positive note for all these students.

**HIGH SCHOOL . . .** At the high school on Monday, reviews were held for all six weeks tests. Then testing was done on Tuesday through Thursday. With exempt students either off campus or watching movies, everything went very well. Most of the students seemed to take their exams seriously.

On Friday, graduation practice was held from 10 am to noon on the football field. Pizza and drinks were served to the seniors once practice was finished. Graduating seniors were to be on-site in the main portion of the high school by 6:30 pm in order to get ready for the ceremonies and for administrators to address any

dress code issues. Despite the wind, graduation went very well. (Thank you to Mary for the idea and use of her purse during the ceremony!!!) Kudos to Dr. Norris, Mayra Garcia, Sherri Seaman, and Tricia Carrizales for having the graduation evolve into a more efficient yet still very meaningful ceremony.

**ELEMENTARY AWARDS CEREMONY . . .** The awards ceremony went pretty well Thursday evening. It ran more efficiently and students were not as restless. Even though we had a good turnout of students and parents, there were still quite a few who were not able to make it. We probably need to have some conversations about how we want to continue this event. Do you think it would be better to continue the 1st semester ceremony in the FAB in January but have the campuses do the year end ceremony on their campuses? The reason being, we had one or two students who the E.S. campus office had sent letters that the children would be receiving awards and then when final grades were tallied, they fell off the honor roll list. At least one of these students showed up at the ceremony and then did not receive an award. By no means was this done intentionally and they are working on a system to try to prevent that from happening again, but I am still concerned about that possibly reoccurring. I would love input about the ceremony. Like I mentioned, we could have separate ceremonies at the campuses; we could have extra certificates at the FAB for students who may not have one; or we could have the ceremony earlier in the week and not worry about giving extra certificates for students who have fallen off the honor roll or who may have missed perfect attendance the last week. Ideas????

**WINDMILL UPDATE . . .** We had not heard anything about the status of our windmill project for weeks until last week when we received word from the United States Department of the Interior. Their fish and wildlife department is concerned about the whooping cranes, bald eagles and non-endangered migratory birds near the Colorado River. We will continue to wait to see if the funding will be granted and that time make a decision as to whether we want to go ahead with the project. There may be a group who studies wildlife along the Colorado River and its wildlife inhabitants for approximately four months before they make a decision. They are more concerned about the turbines being placed in Matagorda than they are about ours.

**PERSONNEL UPDATES . . .** East Side interviewed eleven candidates for the two teaching positions at East Side. They sent me three who the committee felt were the most outstanding candidates. When visiting with Carolyn, I agreed with them that all three seemed excellent and Brandi Pustka seemed to be the overall best candidate. Before choosing her, I asked Rebecca and Carolyn to weigh very carefully the problems the team or East Side

may incur due to having Amy Kubecka's sister teaching at the same grade level. They decided to choose Brandi and Sabrina Cuellar from Markham for their teachers because they want to put the very best person with their students. Carolyn, Rebecca and the committee feel they will be a huge asset to the East Side team.

Mary Johs an aide who had been paid with stimulus funds will be moved to Central. Marisol Figirova has been assigned to the special education student that the MCES board approved an aide to assist with.

Coach has visited with a couple candidates for the science/coaching positions (Coach Zimmerle resigned so we now have two science coaching positions open) but has been unable to find a suitable head baseball coach replacement. He is visiting with someone who is a retired baseball coach and feels he retired too early because he really misses the kids and coaching. So I will keep you informed if that happens to pan out.

Mr. Kelley and his committee will be interviewing for a special ed teacher this coming week as well as the high school committee will be interviewing for a principal this week.

The teacher who allowed the young man (who was not a student and did not have permission) to ride the bus and to attend a reward trip was issued a reprimand by Dr. Norris and the teacher will not be allowed to take students on reward trips for the next two years. He will still continue to take students on all competitive trips, just not any year-end trips for the next two years. After speaking with the teacher, he admitted that was extremely poor judgment on his part and is truly remorseful that it happened.

No cartoon or funny story this week. I wanted to share with you a note from one of our parents/educators because it demonstrates what kind of wonderful educators (both the sender and the person being mentioned) we have in our school district:

*Mrs. Adams,*

*I would not normally bother the superintendent of schools with anything, but I have seen how open and available you make yourself and I just have to share! I would like to sing this from the mountain tops, but I fear we are lacking mountains around Palacios. =) When we moved here to Palacios, we were seeking an excellent education for our twins who are in 6th grade. They had a subpar 5th grade math teacher, which worked for Zachary because math is easy for him, but Cheyenne lost a year of math. She received As all year from her well meaning young math teacher, but then barely passed the 5th grade math TAKS by the skin of her teeth. She had exactly what she needed to pass, which I believe worked out to a 67%. They refused all year to put her in tutorials under my request because she had As from this teacher. I needed to share that story for you to fully understand my joy*

*and appreciation.*

*I shared this same story with Debbie Kubecka at Meet the Teacher Night in August. Imagine my happy surprise when Cheyenne came home the first day of school telling me about her math tutorials with Mrs. Kubecka! Debbie has been in constant contact with me sharing any struggles Sissy is having and sending home material so that I can work with her on these skills as well. There was constant communication and Mrs. Kubecka truly listened to my concerns and was proactive in addressing the lost year of math. Her positive attitude was apparent at all times, as Cheyenne shared all that she learned and how much she loves Mrs. Kubecka. The day of the math TAKS Cheyenne asked me if I thought she could get commended....my heart sank...what do I say...I just smiled and told her to take her time, use her strategies and I knew she could do it! Well Cheyenne took that to heart. She diligently worked on her test. At the end of the school day I received an email from the principal that Cheyenne was still working on her test and they would call when she finished. I again began to panic...I hope she wasn't over thinking the questions! I picked up a very exhausted, stressed out little girl at 4:30. Debbie sent me an email at the end of the day and shared how hard Cheyenne had worked and that she has asked her at the start of the day if she thought she could get commended. She told me that she told Cheyenne "She was sure she could!"*

*Fast forward through the wait time...Cheyenne got her results on Monday – Commended on both tests! I started to cry when she told me and I am tearing up now sharing it again. Here is my little girl who has always struggled in math, always disliked math, and she got Commended on the Math TAKS! This is all because of Debbie Kubecka! She took the time to listen to a parent's concerns and do something to address them immediately. I cannot tell you enough how amazing I feel Debbie Kubecka is as a teacher. Never in a million years did I think Cheyenne would be able to get commended on math even though I wanted it for her so much. Mrs. Kubecka's caring, listening, and hard work means the world to me as a parent and a fellow educator. She taught Cheyenne to believe in herself and to love math. For this I will be forever grateful.*

*Sincerely,  
Marquelle Adkins*

Take some time out today to think of our soldiers who have sacrificed their lives that we may continue to enjoy our freedoms as well as take time to remember our own loved ones we have lost.

**Have a great week! I know I will - Vicki**