



# Board Update

## **Board Sub-committee and Staff Make Progress on Board Goals**

In February the school board and the superintendent met to determine board goals. Five board goals were developed. The board goals include:

- Develop a plan for increasing documentation that reveals the District's success in retaining students in school and follow up on their progress after high
- Develop a plan to educate staff on chain of command, role of the board, and code of ethics
- Increase the number of students participating and the scores in Advanced Placement, plus additional dual credit courses as we continue to raise scores on the state and standardized tests
- Develop and implement a plan for parent and community support for education
- Study the master plan and develop a plan for increased efficiency of operations

In addition Mr. Cardenas, Beeville ISD Board President, asked for Mr. Art Gamez and Mr. John Fish to be on a sub-committee to work on plans to address the board goals. Various staff members have been assigned to work on the respective board goals. Heather Lee at the high school has been working on goal #1; Nancy Jones has been addressing goal #3; Erasmo Rodriguez and Linda O'Connell are working on board goal #5; and I am working goals #2 and #4.

The sub-committee of the board\* and staff (excluding Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. O'Connell) met on September 26, 2006 to go over our progress and refine plans. Ms. Lee could not find sufficient justification to support purchasing a packaged program to track our students after graduation. We agreed that we need to do some research internally and develop our own program.

Ms. Jones worked with us on goal #3 regarding dual credit, Pre-AP, and AP participation. We discussed the fact that dual credit and AP opportunities compete against each other. We went over ideas that would consider options to cover costs for textbooks in dual credit classes and the costs for testing on the SP exams. Our thinking is to eliminate as many hurdles as possible for students so that they have every opportunity to begin/transition into their post high school experience.

\* Mr. Fish could not attend the meeting due to a conflict.

Ms. Jones and Ms. Lee agreed to look at the dual credit data that was shared with the board at the joint board meeting with CBC to determine grade levels and other dynamics of the students taking the dual credit classes. We agreed to also look at the class rank of students taking dual credit and AP classes. The focus is to make sure we know who is taking advantage of dual credit/AP and who may not be finding opportunities to access the system as it is being implemented.

I went over the steps that have been taken to address board goals #2 and #4. Steps to address board goals #2 are attached with the other information discussed in the process of planning for goals 1-4. Similarly, attached are the steps we are planning to address board goal #4. Note that Minnie will be organizing a calendar to hold campus chats. The framework for the campus chats will include the need for 2 board members and the superintendent to be at each meeting. Please let Minnie know the date and time that works best for you as a board member. Minnie will be forwarding you dates for your consideration so that you can choose.

We did not discuss board goal #5 which is an extremely important goal with the potential to help us address our difficult budget challenges. It may be hard to believe that we could have a greater challenge than we had this past budget cycle. However, I predict it will be increasingly more difficult unless we find a way to be more efficient in our administration of programs until we can see an increase in enrollment.

Since our meeting Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. O'Connell, along with the help of OBR (Robert Gadbois), have developed a PowerPoint presentation to be shared at the October board meeting, along with the other 4 board goals. These presentations will bring us up-to-date on our current challenges as defined by the master planning task force last spring while allowing the board to see versions of "Option 8" which came up as an alternative to the master planning team's "Option 5b". It will be critical that we follow a timeline on examining options so that we do not miss an opportunity to address our needs while having time to communicate with our parents/taxpayers.