

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Taylor Stephenson
January 14, 2013

- 1. Marla and I have discussed reports to the school board on school finance. We have prepared a report to the board comparing revenue projections used in budget preparation with actual revenue as of the 3rd six weeks of school ending in December, 2012. Cash flow is not a problem at BISD as it is to private business. Our fund balance of \$5 million plus the revenue guaranteed by the state and payment of local tax dollars is the basis of my thinking. Most of our funding comes from TEA based on attendance and enrollment in special programs. The settle up of funds from TEA will come after the end of the fiscal year, generally in September. So, the reports that we will discuss tonight are revenue projections compared to budgeted revenue. Future reports will compare budgeted expenditures with actual expenditures.**
- 2. On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, Region 20 personnel will conduct an on site visit to Brackett ISD and do a special education audit. The team of two from ESC 20 will interview administrators, special education teachers, diagnostician and related service providers, along with a general education group. Thursday, the team will visit all special education programs at BISD. I will receive a formal report in a week or so, and will have a committee that reviews the report and makes changes as needed. I will share the report with the school board.**
- 3. This month, Adrian Collett ESC 20, will do a formal review of the Career and Tech Ed Department at BISD. We will review the report, and make necessary changes.**
- 4. Melanie Jones continues to have difficulty and has had a surgery this past week. Michelle Frerich will serve as a long term substitute for Mrs. Jones until Melanie returns to work. Michelle is certified in special education and as a diagnostician. I welcome her experience to Brackett ISD.**
- 5. The district is totally out of classrooms at the Junior High and High School. We continue to grow, and this past week (over the Christmas holidays), the district grew by 12 students. The legislature is considering changes in course requirements doing away with the 4x4 curriculum requirements and putting to sleep many of the state testing for Texas students. They are also considering changing credit requirements to allow more emphasis on preparing students for the job market after high school graduation. In other words, more emphasis on the fine arts, career and tech ed and less emphasis on having all students take 4 years of science, math, English and History. This could have a major effect on the secondary schools of Texas. Elementary and secondary schools could see much less emphasis on paper and pencil tests as required Texas assessment.**

But, the need for classrooms is real in Brackettville. I would like to begin a formal study of options available to the school district. I will include the Brackett District advisory committee, and appropriate school staff in my study. It would be helpful to have a board member or two serve on the committee. Volunteer(s)???

6. The legislature is in session for the next few weeks. If you have legislative contacts, I would appreciate visiting with board you about the public school educational agenda for 2013-14 & 2014-15.

7. Our basketball teams are doing well, and are in district play. I expect both boys and girls basketball teams to go on to post-district play. The spring sports program is extremely busy at BISD because of the number of sports that we offer to students. Golf, tennis, track, baseball, and softballhopefully I have listed them all. It takes a huge cadre of coaches to offer this many programs in a small class A school district.

8. Marla Madrid and I will spend Tuesday morning with Region 20's finance guru, Larry Stavinoha. My goal is to review the budget at BISD and through an outside set of eyes, suggest ways to bring the revenue and expenditures into balance in the next fiscal year.

About 85% of school budgets are spent on staff. We are likely overstaffed in some areas, and may need to shift staff in other areas. Larry won't point on specifics; just what can the district afford and what changes he suggests. He is one of the most knowledgeable people that I know in school finance in Texas. I will share the basis of his review with the school board and with appropriate staff.

9. All continues to go well at BISD, thank you for your support. BTW, I meet with district administrators each week and also with the Central Office Team. The meetings allow input into administrative decisions, bring uniformity to campuses, and help me stay in touch with campuses and instructional and support staff needs of the district.