



To: Barry Edwards & the BISD Board of Trustees
From: Dr. Kristi Lee, Deputy Superintendent
Date: 21 January 2025
Re: Board Update for January

Athletics: Eliot Allen

Bastrop High School

- BHS girls basketball is having the best start to a season in 30 years (currently 24-2 and with a district record of 4-0). Coach Roberson, her staff, and the players are all into attacking greatness this season. Boys currently sit at 1-2 in District play. They are looking to have a strong January, creating a push to make the playoffs in district play.
- Girls soccer just finished December scrimmages and now are beginning pre-season play. They are looking to have a strong tournament season. This year's squad is looking to seal a playoff position.

Cedar Creek High School

- Coach Jared Shaw, the new Campus Athletic Coordinator and head football coach, has reported for duty. He is on campus and we are excited to see the changes he brings to our athletic program
- Boys basketball finished the 2024 calendar year with 3rd place at the Corpus Christi West Oso Tournament. We are currently 3rd place in district with the goal of a district title. Our girls are continuing to grow as leaders on and off the court. District play is underway, and we're looking to have a strong first round finish. District play will wrap up February 4th.
- Before the break boys soccer rounded out the scrimmages with a 2-2 win vs Lehman and a 3-0 win vs Hays. The recent Governor's cup results were not what we wanted but a good learning experience for our athletes. Girls soccer season just kicked off on 12/30 and our program is 66 girls strong. We competed in the Wimberley Tournament this past weekend, and went 0-3 against good competition: tied 6A Willis 3-3 but lost 2-3 in PK's, lost 2-5 vs. Godley and after scoring first, couldn't maintain the lead and lost 1-2 against Waco.

Communications: Cassie Balderas

Newsletters: Recent editions of our bi-weekly parent and staff newsletters are included below:

- Family Connects (Dec 4) - <https://secure.smores.com/n/4tr89>
- The Insider (Dec 11) - <https://secure.smores.com/n/0e459>
- Family Connects (Dec 18) - <https://secure.smores.com/n/sa4z7>
- Family Connects (Jan 8) - <https://secure.smores.com/n/4g8q2h>

News Media: We have worked with local media to encourage their coverage of positive stories in Bastrop ISD and/or to respond to reporter inquiries. The following are stories that were either in print or on television.

- KXAN - [Bastrop's Blue Saints and Blue Santa toy drive helps those in need during the holiday season](#)
- Community Impact
 - [Cedar Creek High School gets new head football coach, athletics coordinator](#)
 - [Bastrop ISD proposed boundaries underway: public input needed](#)
 - [Bastrop ISD partners with Walgreens for pharmacy technician program](#)

- Elgin Courier
 - [Bastrop ISD names new director, CFO](#)
 - [New lead for Cedar Creek football](#)
 - [CRCA student selected as state teen ambassador](#)
- Nov 22 Bus Accident
 - Statesman - [No students seriously injured in Bastrop school bus crash Friday morning](#)
 - KXAN - [Bastrop ISD school bus involved in crash](#)
 - CBS - [11 students taken to hospital after crash involving Bastrop ISD bus](#)
 - KVUE - [Bastrop ISD school bus involved in crash on SH 71](#)
 - FOX - [Bastrop ISD school bus crash: 1 adult, 11 students taken to hospital. Texas DPS says](#)

Community Impact (CI) Paper (Mailed to all residents in 78602 and 78612)

- [Jan 2 - Jan 31 online edition](#)
 - Pg. 5 - Bastrop ISD Recruitment ad
 - Pg. 14 - CTE students to intern with Walgreens
- [Nov 29 - Dec 30 online edition](#)
 - Pg. 5 - Bastrop ISD Ad - TEA FIRST Rating

Community Relations: Karen Trevino

Early Learning and After School

- Over 70 students, ages 4 -13, registered for care with our STARS program from December 20th through January 3rd. STARS remained open throughout Winter Break to ensure that students have a safe and engaging place to be while their parents work.
- The Cedar Creek Child Development Center expanded its capacity by utilizing a portable building that the district purchased from Head Start. This allowed them to move six children off of the waitlist and into high quality care at a Texas Rising Star 4-star facility.

Community Education

- The Hoopstars basketball season has begun with 277 players on 40 teams. Games will be played on consecutive Saturdays from February 1st through March 8th at both Bastrop Middle (PK- 2nd grade) and Cedar Creek Middle (3rd - 6th grade). March 8th is the tournament day for older students. As an added bonus, all players will receive a free ticket to the Austin Spurs game on Sunday, March 16th.
- For the first time in recent years, Bastrop ISD is offering in-person driver education classes. Registration is now open for the spring sessions being held at CRCA. Participants will receive 30 hours of classroom instruction followed by guided driving. In addition, we are working with TxDOT to pilot a grant that will provide free driver education for approximately 40 students in the very near future.

Community Relations

- The Community Relations team distributed toys to over 900 children at the Winter Blast event on Saturday, December 14th at Cedar Creek High School. Toys were made possible through donations from Toys for Tots, The Sutton Law Firm, David Weekley Homes, and Dell Children's Health Plan. The latter three made donations of at least \$500 in support of the event. First National Bank of Bastrop hosted a toy drive and provided volunteers to help distribute the toys.
- December was a big month for adding new parent volunteers, and we closed out 2024 with 940 approved volunteers in Raptor.
- Over 130 Bastrop Education Foundation grant applications were requested by teachers and other district staff. Grants will go through the approval process with campus and district administration through February, and be shared with grant readers with the foundation in March. Grant Patrol, when awardees are paid a surprise visit from BEF, will take place in April. Last year, the Bastrop Education Foundation awarded \$267,050 to 51 grantees.
- Camino Real Elementary recently completed the PTA chartering process. As a result, we now have 12 campuses with active PTA/PTSA's. In addition, several of our Bastrop ISD groups have been

recognized by the Texas PTA for their efforts in recruitment and leadership. These include Lost Pines Elementary PTA, Cedar Creek Middle School PTA, and Cedar Creek High School PTSA.

- Community Relations is partnering with the BISD communications team and the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce to share the *We Believe in BISD* initiative at the upcoming TSPRA (Texas School Public Relations Association) conference in San Antonio. This interactive session entitled **We Believe: Our Chamber of Commerce Believes in Us!**, will give participants a peek into a *We Believe in BISD* visit as well as provide historical background, community impact, and time for questions and answers.

Construction & Planning: Lee Raspberry

- **BHS (2023 Bond) - PROJECT ON TIME - Construction 0% Complete** - Early Interiors Package bidding January 2025 and work begins Summer 2025. Early Site Package for new construction- bidding and permitting February - April 2025.
- **BMS/CCMS Weight Rooms PROJECT ON TIME - Construction 99% Complete** - Fire Alarm Final completed before Christmas Break, punchlist corrections ongoing, Building Final with Chief Ackerman scheduled for 1/9/2025, expecting C.O. early next week, permanent storefront is scheduled to arrive in March, fencing scheduled for installation mid-January.
- **BIS/CCIS Conversion - PROJECT ON TIME - Renovations 25% Complete** - Science wing demo ongoing, library refresh ongoing, furniture moving ongoing, TV's installed, IT WAP, phone and IDF rack install 1/6/2025, VLK punch walk, 100 & 200 wing (classroom wings) to be turned over by 1/8/2025. **Additions - 10% Complete** - Gym building pads complete, Fine Arts building pad underway, south parking lot grading underway, new storm line complete, new sanitary sewer to begin 1/8/2025.
- **PD/Ops Center - Construction 0% Complete** - County Site Development Permit issued 12/31/2024. Pre-con TBD, Union Pacific permit approved, TCEQ review ongoing, City easement approval expected mid-January, City PIP (Project Improvement Plan) pending approval.
- **Adelton Elementary - PROJECT ON TIME - Construction 25% Complete** - site utilities complete, temp power complete, irrigation and gas sleeves complete, kitchen area MEP & CMU complete, Admin area roofing complete, Gym/Music CMU underway, Area B (classroom) structural steel complete, roof decking installed.
- **Elementary School #10** - Design Development phase. Silverleaf joint development discussion 1/8/2025. Approval has been given to switch sites with Amenity Center.
- **BMS/CCMS Renovation - PROJECT ON TIME - Construction 0% Complete** - CD's issued, Pre-con held 12/13/2024.
- **CCHS Additions - PROJECT ON TIME - Construction 15% Complete** - building piers underway, site utilities complete, acid tank relocated.
- **Gateway Renovation and CRCA/Genesis Renovation - PROJECT ON TIME - Construction 0% Complete** - In pre-design
- **Elementary Cafe Painting - Complete**
- **BMS Library & Cafeteria Flooring - Complete**
- **Mina Elementary Reno Phase 2 - PROJECT ON TIME - Construction 3% Complete** - Demo permit issued, electrical relocation underway, staff parking modified, make safe underway, GMP 1 issued.

Human Resources: Diana Greene

Spring 2025 Planning

- The **Adelton Elementary Principal** position was posted in early January. We are committed to filling this position with the most suitable candidate and are excited to begin the process. Drawing from our experiences with the opening of Camino Real and Colony Oaks, we better understand the timeline and processes involved, which will guide our efforts moving forward.

- Additionally, our department is finalizing the timeline for internal transfers and the posting/hiring process for the 2025-2026 school year. We plan to begin posting positions on February 10, 2025, and hire on March 3, 2025.
- In collaboration with Special Programs, the Multilingual Department, and Curriculum & Instruction (C&I), we will ensure the staffing needs of all students are met as we prepare to open two new middle schools and our newest elementary school.

Building Partnerships

The HR Department is actively cultivating partnerships with organizations to enhance recruitment and professional development opportunities for our staff. These include:

- **Huston-Tillotson University:** As part of their **Educator Preparation Advisory Committee**, we are strengthening this partnership to attract well-trained candidates from a local source, ensuring we have access to high-quality talent nearby.
- **240 Certification and Tutoring:** This cost-effective organization provides teacher certification support and study guides to help our degreed candidates pass their content tests. A representative from **240 Certification** will meet with our degreed candidates on **January 21, 2025**, to discuss enrollment in their Educator Preparation Program. Additionally, due to our partnership, these candidates will receive a discounted rate on test preparation materials.
- **Teachworthy/Indiana Wesleyan University:** This potential partnership will allow our non-degreed candidates to complete their degrees efficiently and affordably. Upon degree completion, candidates will join Teachworthy's Educator Preparation Program to earn their Texas Certification.

Spring Evaluations

HR will work closely with other departments and Campus Principals to ensure that all required spring evaluations are completed in compliance with Board Policy. This fall, we launched a new evaluation platform, KickUp, which simplifies the tracking of evaluations. Our campuses are already familiar with this system, as it is also used for the ongoing T-TESS evaluations that begin at the start of the year. All district employees are evaluated annually, and this system streamlines the process, helping us easily monitor and track compliance.

Information Technology: Randy Sharp

Operations

- **Improving Campus Safety:** During our last maintenance window, we tested badge bypass rules designed for lockdown situations. This ensures that our BPD staff can still access critical areas during an emergency while maintaining the overall security of the campus. The test was successful, so we will be looking to implement this feature in the coming months.
- **Ensuring Reliable Power:** At the service center, we re-balanced the power backup system to ensure all critical technology continues to function smoothly during power outages.
- **Classroom Technology Upgrades:** We set up 12 new interactive TVs to enhance learning experiences for students, and we replaced five mounted TVs to keep classroom technology updated and fully functional.
- **Renovation Preparations:** To prepare for renovations at Cedar Creek Intermediate (CCI) and Bastrop Intermediate School (BIS), we began removing devices such as access points and phones. This work ensures the technology will be ready for reinstallation once renovations are complete.
- **HelpDesk Stats:** The December report highlights the IT department's continued focus on resolving support requests and maintaining service standards. The number of assigned and resolved tickets decreased slightly from November to December, reflecting seasonal fluctuations in activity. Most resolutions were completed within SLA, indicating strong efficiency despite the holiday period. In December, 1,173 tickets were assigned across all teams and 1,179 tickets were resolved, slightly exceeding the number assigned. [click here to see the report for December](#)

Applications

- **VISIX Digital Displays:** We completed a full inventory and addressed issues with all VISIX digital display players across the district, ensuring 100% functionality. This includes adding two TVs each for the new campuses, COE & CRE, as well as updating TV lines at BHS. These updates ensure smooth and reliable communication through digital signage at all campuses.
- **Operating System Updates:** We updated the imaging system used for district devices to include the latest operating system, ensuring devices are up-to-date and secure.
- **Interactive TV Enhancements:** New interactive TV applications were added to the Software Center, providing teachers and staff with more tools to enhance classroom learning and engagement.
- **Mobile Device Apps:** Through AirWatch, we deployed new apps to mobile Apple devices, giving staff access to updated resources and tools to support their work.
- **Knowledge Base Improvements:** Critical processes were documented and updated in our knowledge base, providing staff with a reliable reference for troubleshooting and system usage.
- **Application Access Resolution:** We resolved an issue with our automation affecting Para+ users who were unable to access certain applications, restoring functionality and minimizing disruptions.

Infrastructure

- Network Infrastructure
 - **Improving Security and Efficiency:** We updated the Avigilon camera systems at Bastrop High School to prevent server overload and ensure smooth performance. Additionally, we revised alarm codes for all campuses, enhancing access control and security measures.
 - **Portable Classroom Support:** At Lost Pines Elementary (LPE), we configured the network for a new portable classroom, including installing a new fiber line to ensure stable connectivity.
 - **Guest Wireless Improvements:** Throughout the month, we refined the wireless policy and updated access points to better support guest wireless users.
- Server Infrastructure
 - **Enhanced Monitoring and Preparedness:** We implemented SolarWinds monitoring and alert systems to track network health and identify issues proactively. Testing of DNS caching servers began to improve network speed and reliability.
 - **Upgrades for Better Performance:** We made improvements to our Virtual Desktop environment, preparing the system for failover support, and we upgraded the district's storage area network (SAN) to enable advanced features and improved security.
 - **Camera Data Archiving:** Old SAN storage was prepared to archive Avigilon camera data, providing additional space for long-term storage.
- Cyber Security
 - Mimecast's email security systems monitored nearly 675,505 inbound messages in the month of December, blocking over 27,075 instances of malware. Protections were also in place to guard against unsafe links and attachments, as well as impersonation attempts, with 559 impersonation threats intercepted. Outbound emails were similarly monitored to maintain security. Overall, Mimecast's measures actively prevented various threats, ensuring robust email protection throughout the month. [Click here to see report for December](#)
 - Bitdefender's threat prevention systems blocked around 600 threats with an overall risk score of 16%. Threats were mainly lateral movement (225), web malware (202), credential access (38), phishing (49), and viruses (69). A total of 133 incidents were reported, with 87.46% successfully blocked. [click here to see report for November](#)
 - BISD monitored a total of 1.913 billion internet actions across guest, staff, and student networks. Of these, over 58.91 million were blocked, including 5.8 million attempts related to specific apps and

95.64 million for websites. [click here to see the report for November](#)

- Unified Communications
 - **Phone System Enhancements:** The ITS department started the transition to a new VOIP system, including Webex integration for improved communication capabilities. A new VOIP router was configured to support the upcoming district-wide phone system migration.
 - **Future-Ready Upgrades:** We added VOIP gateways to SolarWinds for better oversight and completed configurations for new campus routers. These routers are now ready for remote setup and use. Additionally, we inventoried all routers across the district to prepare for the Webex upgrade.
 - **System Updates and Repairs:** We restored P/A functionality at Cedar Creek Middle School (CCMS) after a crash and updated the E911 contacts and carrier DID list for Red Sky and Red River systems.

Student Services: Dr. Janel Morris

Attendance Improvement

- MES, CCI, and CRCA were our November “Make Every Day Count” attendance competition winners for achieving the highest ADA in their grade band for the month.
- COE, BIS, and CRCA were our December attendance competition winners for achieving the most improvement from November 2024 to December 2024.
- January attendance competition awards will go to the campuses with the most improvement as we compare January 2025 attendance to the January 2024 attendance (year over year).

Health Services

- Bastrop ISD was awarded membership to the Bright Spot program, which addresses youth poverty by providing school districts with feminine hygiene products. Bastrop ISD will receive approximately 12,000 feminine hygiene products annually.
- Campus administrators and SROs will receive Drug Impairment Training for Education Professionals (DITEP) in the summer of 2025 as a student safety measure. This professional development helps participants recognize signs that a student is under the influence and may require medical assistance, such as NARCAN administration, to mitigate serious harmful effects of a drug overdose.

Student & Family Support Services

- The BISD Family Resource Center partnered with local community service organizations including WIC, Headstart, and the Children's Advocacy Center to host Winter Blast 2024. Taher Food Services provided 2,000 breakfast tacos to attendees, and more than 1,500 family members (students, parents, siblings, etc.) received coats, scarfs, socks, hats, and food supplies!