

Alvord ISD Family:

I have some highlights for you from the March 23 school board meeting:

### **Facility Assessment Preliminary Report**

Jim Wiede from Performance Services presented a preliminary report from the district's recent facility assessment. This report provides valuable insight into the condition of our facilities and will help guide future planning and improvements.

### **Bus Driver Pay Increase**

The Board approved an increase in bus driver pay from \$24/hour to \$27/hour. This adjustment supports our efforts to recruit and retain high-quality drivers for our students.

### **Bus Seat Belt Report**

In response to recent legislation, the district reviewed the estimated cost of retrofitting buses with seat belts, which ranges from \$383,727 to \$432,727. Based on current budget considerations, which does not include any additional funding from the state for this issue, the Board determined the district will not move forward with retrofitting buses at this time.

### **2026–2027 District Calendar**

The Board approved a four-day instructional week calendar that includes a structured Friday school component.

Friday school will provide opportunities for:

- Academic intervention and support
- Attendance recovery
- Credit recovery and ISS
- Optional parent requested or teacher-recommended support

The district believes this model will:

- Improve work-life balance for families and staff
- Strengthen recruitment and retention of employees
- Improve student academic performance
- Increase student attendance
- Reduce student discipline referrals

These outcomes will be closely monitored as the district evaluates future 4 day and 5 day calendar options.

Additionally, the Board directed the administration to explore a calendar option with Mondays off in the fall and Fridays off in the spring. The administration and District Improvement and Education Committee (DEIC) will continue discussions and will send out a survey soon to gather input.

## **Renaming of Bulldog Stadium**

The Board approved renaming Bulldog Stadium to ***Melton Neighbors Bulldog Stadium***.

Mr. Melton Neighbors is a lifelong Alvord resident and Alvord ISD graduate. He previously served on the Alvord ISD Board of Trustees for 18 years, including 9 years as Board President. He has been a dedicated supporter of Alvord ISD schools, programs, students, and staff, and is widely known as an avid supporter of all Bulldog teams.

## **Professional Contracts**

The Board approved contract recommendations for teachers, counselors, and school nurses as presented by the administration.

## **Director of Safety & Security / Chief of Police**

Mr. Joseph Garcia was approved as the new Director of Safety and Security and Chief of the Alvord ISD Police Department. Click the link below to see the announcement: <https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/75872311>

We appreciate your continued support of Alvord ISD. Go Bulldogs!

Randy Brown

Alvord ISD Superintendent