

Alvord ISD Family:

I have some highlights from the January and February 2022 school board meetings. The regular February meeting was moved from February 28 to March 1 due to a scheduling conflict.

Board Appreciation Month – each January is designated by the Texas Association of School Boards as Board Appreciation Month. This gives us the opportunity to thank our school board members for their service to our kids and schools. The board members were each recognized and honored by the schools. Our school board members are Jimmy Looney, Lance Thweatt, Russell Rice, Daniel Ruddick, Mark Gose, David Warren, and Shane Rasmussen. This is a dedicated group of volunteers who truly serve to help our students and staff succeed. If you get a chance, please thank them for everything they do for Alvord ISD!

Financial Audit – the board approved a “clean” 2020-2021 financial audit which means the audit contained no findings or concerns. The Texas Education Agency recommends school districts keep at least 3 months of operating expenditures in our fund balance, we now have 5.9 months of operating expenditures in our fund balance.

School Board Election –Mark Gose, Rusty Rice, and Daniel Ruddick all ran unopposed for the May 7 school board election. As a result, the board canceled the election.

Focus on Success and Next Up Programs - these programs were approved by the board. They are both designed to teach abstinence based human sexuality instruction. The School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) reviewed the curriculum and recommended them for approval by the board.

This curriculum will be sent to parents who will be given the opportunity to review the curriculum at least 14 days before the program is offered. Parents must sign an opt-in form for students to be allowed to attend the program. A program for parents will also be offered the night before the program is presented to students.

I have a brief overview of each program below:

Focus on Success: Students are encouraged to consider their dreams and goals and are given tools to help them stay focused to achieve them. Each program covers a variety of topics such as pregnancy, STD's, sexting, legal consequences, peer pressures, and media. Content varies by grade level for relevance: 6th grade, 7th-8th grade, 9th-12th grade.

Next Up: Puberty Education for 5th Grade Students. This program is not scheduled and will not be offered this school year.

Old Middle School / Old High School Renovation Project – the board approved a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2.9 million for the project. \$500,000 of additional work and purchases outside of the project was also approved by the board. A tentative timeline calls for work to begin in May of this year. The tentative completion date is the summer of 2023. Potential delays in materials and supplies are a national and world-wide problem and could extend the completion of the project past the summer of 2023. When opened this school will likely house 4th & 5th or 5th & 6th grade students, that decision has not been made yet. This will give us the classroom space needed to hire additional teachers at the elementary campus and reduce class sizes.

This project will be paid for utilizing Maintenance & Operations revenue, which means the tax rate will not be increased to pay for this project.

2022-2023 District Calendar – the board approved the 2022-2023 calendar. This calendar will be sent out soon.

District of Innovation (DOI) Plan Renewal – our DOI plan was renewed and amended. The approved amendment will allow us to revoke the transfer of a student during the school year for severe behavior or attendance problems. Nothing else in the current DOI plan is changing.

Wage Payments During Emergency School Closings – we recently had to close school on two different occasions due to bad weather. The board approved a resolution which allows us to pay employees who were forced to miss work due to the bad weather closure.

Sick Leave Pool Policy – the board approved this policy which will allow employees to donate unused leave to an employee who is sick and unable to work. We currently have a sick leave bank, which is different from the sick leave pool. More information will be sent to employees soon.

Randy Brown

Alvord ISD Superintendent