

Alvord ISD Family:

I have some highlights for you from the August 22, 2022 school board meeting.

Enrollment: our enrollment is up from 795 on the first day of school to 813 now. We are allowing 8 more Pre-K students to enroll through the Pre-K lottery which will bring our enrollment up to 821. Our demographic study projected a maximum of 810 students this year, so the growth we are seeing for this school year is greater than projected.

Heavy Compression Equipment Litigation Update – we recently learned from Wise County Chief Appraiser Mickey Hand that we could potentially have to pay an additional \$83,881 in refunds due to late appeals on the Heavy Compression Equipment ongoing litigation. So far Alvord ISD has paid \$439,489 in refunds, we have received \$149,773 back from the state.

Facilities Update – the board heard a report on the renovation of the new intermediate campus, the project is on schedule as planned.

Budget Workshop – The proposed budget was presented to the board. The proposed total tax rate has been compressed from \$1.15 last year to \$1.06 for the 22-23 school year due to the increase in property values. The total revenue is projected to increase by \$989,924 due to the increase in student enrollment and the increase in property values. We needed this revenue increase very much to help us pay for additional staff due to enrollment and to help us address our many facility needs throughout the district. Our goal is to budget conservatively each year which allows us to put money in our fund balance at the end of the year. We are using our fund balance to pay for the \$3.5-million-dollar renovation of the new intermediate campus. Highlights of the proposed budget includes a 3% of mid-point pay increase for all employees, new positions including a new Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and Second Grade teacher due to the increase in enrollment, an increase in the fuel budget, and two new school buses.

Employee Referral Program - To help attract candidates for vacant positions the proposed budget includes a \$250 employee referral incentive. The teacher and staffing shortage has become a nationwide problem. We strive to make Alvord ISD a great place to work, our employees can be a great asset in recruiting candidates. Employees who refer a candidate who is hired will receive \$250. More information on this program will be coming soon.

Alvord ISD Police Department – the proposed budget includes funds to hire a new Director of School Safety and Security / Future Police Chief. This person will lead the effort to create an Alvord ISD Police Department and then serve as the Alvord ISD Police Department Chief of Police and School Resource Officer. This vacancy will be posted soon.

Staff Development Minutes Waiver – the board approved this waiver will allow us to receive instructional minutes' credit for 2 days of staff development this year (October 10 and January 16). If we have to cancel school this would give us additional minutes we can bank and use so we don't have to make up days. The current calendar provides

2.6 days of instruction in addition to the minimum minute's requirement. This waiver will give us 2 additional days, meaning all together we will have 4.6 days we won't have to make up if we had to cancel school for any reason.

Staff Development Plan – School districts are now required to have our staff development plans approved by the board. Our staff development plan must be guided by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) clearinghouse, which is a collection of best practices and industry recommendations for professional development. The board approved the staff development plan.

Trustees Nepotism Acknowledgement Letter – this is something our auditors require of all school districts each year. The board certified that we are in compliance with the nepotism laws of the state.

Changes to Policy EIC (LOCAL): our Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) policy consultant recommended we revise this policy because it hadn't been updated in several years. This policy addresses class rank including Valedictorian / Salutatorian eligibility. This policy revision aligns our practice with policy. This process has confirmed our methods of calculating class rank and determining valedictorian and salutatorian honors are legally valid and in line with the majority of school districts in Texas.

Wise County Mutual Aid Agreement: – the board approved this agreement which would benefit us if we had to evacuate our students out of the school district. This isn't likely but could happen for example if a train derailment caused a chemical spill and it wasn't safe to remain in Alvord. In this case we could evacuate to a neighboring school district or to the Weatherford College Wise County branch location. The Mutual Aid Agreement would protect the receiving entity from liability issues; it would also allow us to receive federal reimbursements if available. Alvord ISD could also serve as a host site for neighboring school districts if needed.

Dr. Randy Brown
Alvord ISD Superintendent

Alvord ISD Family:

I have some highlights for you from the August 29, 2022 called school board meeting.

The board approved the General Operating budget of \$10,378,049, Food Service budget of \$539,549, and the Debt Service budget of \$745,950.

The total tax rate of \$1.0689 which includes \$.9429 for maintenance and operations and \$.126 for the payment of principal and interest on debts was approved by the board.

Budget amendments to close out the 2021-2022 budget were approved. These amendments included \$18,326 for new cafeteria tables for the elementary school, \$50,000 for an increase in transportation costs, and \$6,000 to purchase new carpet for 4 elementary classrooms, 6 high school classrooms, and the middle school band hall.

The board approved a change order and budget amendment to add cinder block walls to the new intermediate school at a cost of \$78,029. This brings the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the renovation project from \$2,991,509 to \$3,069,538. The district will spend an estimated additional \$500,000 outside of the contract, bringing the total projected cost of the renovation work to about \$3.6 million.

Randy Brown
Alvord ISD Superintendent