

Alvord ISD Family – I have some highlights for you from the March 29 school board meeting.

**Ag Mechanics Projects:** Alvord HS students Austin Souther and Colton Collins presented this year's Ag Mech project to the board. The Ag Mech team built a custom smoker that won several awards including first place at the Wise County Youth Fair. The school board approved a \$10,000 budget amendment to allow the team to begin ordering materials and working on next year's Ag Mech project. They will be building a 32-foot custom flatbed show trailer. This trailer will be sponsored by the school district, allowing the Ag Department and Maintenance Department to keep the trailer for future use after next year's Ag Mech project show season concludes.

**Facilities Update:** the board heard an update on the Old Middle School / Old High School renovation project. Demolition work on the project has begun. The entire building including the gym, parking lot, and Clothes Closet will soon be fenced off and unavailable to the public due to safety and liability concerns while this work is being completed.

The board approved a \$3.5-million-dollar Maintenance Tax Note to finance the project. This loan will be paid for from the fund balance and operating budget, it will not impact the tax rate. The loan is for 15 years but can be paid off early with no penalty or fees. The earliest the project will be completed is the summer of 2023 but could be later depending on the availability of materials and supplies. The additional classroom space will help us manage the increase in student enrollment we have already seen and expect in the future. Once completed the school will house two grade levels, most likely grades 4 and 5. This will allow us to reduce class sizes at the elementary by freeing up classrooms giving us the capacity to hire additional teachers.

**Employee Contracts:** the board approved contract extensions for the 2022-2023 school year for teachers, counselors, nurses, and Elementary Campus administrator Jamie Mitchell.

New hires for next year approved by the board are:

Michele Hardee – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Lana Simmons – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Courtney Nivens – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math