

September 27th Board Meeting Highlights

Alvord ISD Family: I have several highlights for you from the September 27, 2021 school board meeting.

COVID-19 Update – We currently have 1 student with an active COVID-19 case, no staff members currently have COVID. We hope that trend continues. Due to COVID and other illnesses our attendance for the first weeks of school is much lower than typical for us. Our first six weeks' attendance percentage was 92.5%, typically our attendance rate is at least 96%. Most importantly we need students to be in school when they can be so they can learn from our teachers. If our current attendance trend continues we stand to lose approximately \$200,000 in revenue for the year.

Old Middle School / High School Renovation – The board heard an update on cost projections to renovate the old middle school / old high school into an intermediate campus. The new campus would likely house 5th and 6th grades to help accommodate growth at our elementary and middle school campuses. The total cost could range from \$1.8 million to \$2.7 million. The work will soon go out for bid, the board will consider approving a Guaranteed Maximum Price at the December board meeting. This project, if approved by the board, will be paid for out of the district fund balance. The cost of the project will likely exceed the amount of money we feel comfortable spending out of our fund balance now, meaning the project could be phased and completed as we can afford to pay for it. The earliest the new Intermediate Campus could open would be the fall of 2023 but could be later depending on our financial situation. A preliminary projection also shows the costs for adding one teacher to grades K-5 to reduce class sizes and to staff and operate a new intermediate campus would be approximately \$650,000 per year. If our student enrollment in the district increased by approximately another 44 students, the additional students along with the increase in enrollment we have seen this year would generate the additional revenue needed. The district has engaged Student District Strategies (SDS) to conduct a demographic study which will project future student enrollment.

Architect Fees – The board approved a budget amendment to pay for \$42,970.89 in architect fees for work completed on the proposed renovation of the old middle school / old high school.

Scholarship Donation – The Ranches at Rolling Hills Development donated \$2,000 for senior scholarships. The board approved the donation and voted to give two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. The process for applying for the scholarships will be announced later this year.

Staff Development Minutes Waiver – The board approved a staff development waiver which will allow us to count two days of instructional staff development (October 11 and January 17) as instructional minutes. We can use these minutes if we have to cancel

school this year, the most common reason we would need to cancel school would be bad weather.

FDA (LOCAL) Policy – the board approved removing language from FDA (LOCAL) Board Policy which required students to pass their previous STAAR test to be approved as a student transfer. In some cases, administrators might want to elect to accept a student as a transfer even if they had failed their most recent state assessment as we keep assessment results in perspective, however, the language in the policy prevented administrators from making that decision. The new policy will not prevent a student transfer from being denied due to test scores, academic performance, discipline or attendance. We will continue to have high expectations when considering student transfers. Our current enrollment will limit the number of student transfers we can consider due to availability of instructional space and staff.

Personnel Update –

Elementary Principal Bridget Williams has announced she will be retiring at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Jessica Flake has resigned from her administrative assistant position at Alvord Elementary, Shana Worthington will be filling the position.

Andrea Brown was approved by the board for the School Nurse (RN) position. She is currently the school nurse at Bridgeport High School and will primarily work at our Middle School and High School campuses.

Shawn Carroll has accepted a position as a Bus Driver and Transportation Assistant. She is currently employed by Eagle Mountain – Saginaw ISD and is a former Alvord ISD Employee.

We are currently looking for custodians, a maintenance employee, and a middle school science teacher.

Randy Brown

Alvord ISD Superintendent