

## Alvord ISD Community News

Alvord ISD Family – I have some highlights for you from the December 2nd school board meeting.

**Public Comments:** John McKelvain, Josh Simmons, Chris Fuentes, Toby George, and Lucas Smith spoke to the board about the football and/or athletic programs.

**Enrollment:** current student enrollment is at 852. We reported 859 students enrolled at the September board meeting and 844 students enrolled at the October board meeting. Our Average Daily Attendance (ADA) is currently 796 which is 20 more students than we planned for when projecting revenue based on ADA for the year.

**Facilities:** The board and admin team discussed the possibilities of expanding the ag barn capacity for students showing animals. The ag barn is being well utilized and doesn't have much available space for more animals. Ideas discussed include using the in town ag barn which has not been used for a few years, expanding the capacity of the out of town ag barn, or utilizing property the district owns near the baseball and softball fields. The board asked for more information to be brought back for further discussion.

**Fund Balance Analysis:** Our audited fund balances will not be final until the January board meeting, but we have projections from our auditor which should be close. He is projecting a fund balance in the General Fund of \$4,524,842 which is a decrease of \$65,152. This is very good news, due to mostly planned and a few unplanned expenditures last year we were projecting a much lower fund balance.

- The board approved \$933,656 in budget amendments in the during the 2023-2024 budget year. These expenditures included \$308,237 for the HS Ag Shop expansion project, \$328,080 for the Intermediate School Gym HVAC project, \$249,289 for maintenance tax note loan payments which include payments for work on the Intermediate School renovation project, and \$47,850 to cover increases in health insurance premium costs.
- In April 2024 we were projecting a fund balance of \$3,620,830
- The Texas Education Agency recommends school districts keep at least 3 months of operating expenditures in fund balance, we currently have 4.7 months of operating expenditures in fund balance.
- This healthy fund balance is the result of the conservative financial practices and the hard work of our school board and staff.

**FIRST Hearing and Report** – We are pleased to announce we again received a Superior rating and a perfect score of 100 on the FIRST report. The language below taken from the FIRST website explains the purpose of the FIRST system:

The state's school financial accountability rating system, known as the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST), ensures that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and that they

improve those practices. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.

The electronic version of the 2023-2024 Alvord ISD FIRST report can be seen at <https://tealprod.tea.state.tx.us/First/forms/District.aspx?year=2022&district=249901>

For more information about FIRST you can go to the website at

[https://tea.texas.gov/Finance\\_and\\_Grants/Financial\\_Accountability/Financial\\_Integrity\\_Rating\\_System\\_of\\_Texas\\_FIRST](https://tea.texas.gov/Finance_and_Grants/Financial_Accountability/Financial_Integrity_Rating_System_of_Texas_FIRST)

**Annual Board Meeting Calendar** – at the October Team of 8 board training we discussed developing an annual calendar of board meeting presentations to the board. We have developed a calendar which includes updates from Gifted and Talented (GT) in January, Band in February, One Act Play (OAP) in March, Ag / FFA in April, and Career and Tech (CTE) Programs in May.

**2025-2026 Calendar Options** – we discussed a calendar option developed by the District Educational Improvement Committee (DEIC) that included 4-day weeks in the spring semester, added 15 minutes to the school day, and started school a week earlier than we did this year. The board asked for more data about the impact of 4-day weeks including impact on academic performance, student attendance, student and teacher morale, teacher recruitment and retention, and the financial impact. This data will be presented for discussion at the next board meeting.

**Retention Incentive** – the board approved a \$500 retention incentive stipend for each full-time employee and a \$250 retention incentive stipend for each part-time employee. When we adopted the budget for this year we were not able to include the retention incentive as this is a very tight budget year. projected fund balance is looking much better than we expected, which put us in a position to consider the retention incentive at the meeting.

**Elementary Music Teacher** - Riley Tran was approved to serve as the elementary music teacher for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Tran has been subbing in the position.

Randy Brown  
Alvord ISD Superintendent