

## July 25th School Board Meeting Highlights

Alvord ISD Family:

I have some highlights for you from the July 25th school board meeting.

**STAAR Test Results** – The board heard a report on preliminary STAAR testing results. The district outperformed the state in 19 of the 20 tested subject areas. Our passing rate was at least 10 percentage points better than the state on 12 tests, and 20 percentage points better than the state on 5 tests. Our 7th grade math scores lead the district with a passing percentage rate that was 30 percentage points better than the state. We are very proud of these results, our teachers and students worked very hard as they do every year.

**Safety and Security Update** – the board heard a report on our progress towards meeting all of the new state safety requirements. The board also reviewed the district safety and security audit. More information about Alvord ISD safety procedures can be found at <https://content.myconnectsuite.com/api/documents/9522e18666b144b28febe952612b1a48.pdf>

**Intermediate Building Renovation Project** – the board heard an update on the old middle school / old high school renovation project. Project Manager Dustin Smalley told the board he is “cautiously optimistic” the project will be finished by next summer.

**Agreement with Wise County** – we are working on plans with the county to complete some paving projects in the future. The first project we will work on is an extended loop at the middle school. Due to our increase in enrollment and students being picked up by parents after school some parents have had to park on 1655 to get in line for parent pickup after school, which creates safety concerns. This project will help alleviate that problem. We are very appreciative of our friends at Wise County and their willingness to help with these projects.

**Budget Workshop** – We took a preliminary look at the 22-23 budget. Due to the increase in taxable values our tax rates will be compressed, we are still working on those calculations. Significant changes to the budget include a \$302,303 payment for the loan to finance the renovation of the old middle school / old high school/, \$197,000 for the purchase of two new school buses, and an increase of \$65,000 to pay for the increase in fuel prices. All employees received a 3% of midpoint pay increase at an estimated cost of \$169,717.

**Scoreboard Donations** – the scoreboard in the High School gym is being replaced. The board accepted donations for scoreboard ads for \$1,000 from Jim Looney Welding, Double X Construction, Double X Veterinary Services, and Danny Hodges Real Estate. First Financial Bank donated \$7,500 for a scoreboard ad.

**Breakfast and Lunch Prices** – meal prices will remain unchanged. Breakfast for students is \$1.50 at all campuses. Lunch for students is \$2.85 at elementary and \$3.15 at middle school and high school.

The board approved the student code of conduct and reviewed all handbooks and campus improvement plans. The board also approved the Extra-Curricular status for 4-J and the Adjunct Faculty request from the Wise County Extension Office.

**Elementary Principal Contract** – the board approved the contract for our new Elementary Principal Jamie Mitchell.

**Revisions to Superintendents Contract** – the board has approved a 3% pay increase for the superintendent.

**New Level 3 Guardians** – the new Level 3 Guardians were approved by the board to carry concealed weapons on district property. These volunteers hold a Texas Concealed Handgun License (CHL) or the new Texas License to Carry a Handgun (LTC), were determined to be in satisfactory psychological and emotional health by a licensed psychologist, and were recommended by a District approved firearms expert. These individuals completed an initial 3-day training that included crisis and non-violent dispute resolution, emergency wound care, firearms safe storage and handling, firearms care and maintenance, and range training. Our guardians continue to receive rigorous training throughout each school year and are dedicated to protecting our students and staff, and visitors.

**New Employees:** The following new 2022-2023 employees have been hired since the May school board meeting highlights were sent out:

Twyla Terry - Special Ed Teacher at the Middle School. She was teaching at Bowie ISD.

Tommy Tomlinson - Part Time Coach. He previously taught and coached at Petrolia ISD and Bowie ISD.

Catherine Kelly – High School Counselor. She was the Counselor at Decatur High School and previously taught and coached at Alvord HS.

Christi Grimes – Kindergarten teacher. She was teaching at Decatur ISD.

Casey Jennings - Ag Teacher. First year teacher. He is a graduate of Tarleton State University.

Candace Mercer - HS Business English teacher. She previously taught at Bowie High School.

**Parent Square** – the district will now be using Parent Square to communicate instead of School Messenger and Remind. Board Meeting highlights will be sent to school employees and parents via Parent Square, if you are a school employee or parent you do not need to do anything to sign up to continue to receive information like Board Meeting highlights.

We created [an Alvord ISD Community News](#) group on Parent Square for community members who are not parents or school employees who want to receive communication like Board

Meeting Highlights from the district. If you are a community member but not a parent or school employee and would like to continue to receive board meeting highlights you can sign up for Parent Square at <https://www.alvordisd.net/parentsquare>

Click “Goups” in the sidebar to join the Alvord ISD Community News Group.

If you are a parent or a school employee and you join the Alvord ISD Community News Group, you will receive the board highlights twice. You can unsubscribe from this group if you have already joined and don’t need to.

Remember Registration Fair is August 2-4 and the first day of school is August 18th. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Dr. Randy Brown  
Alvord ISD Superintendent