

Alvord ISD Family –

I have some highlights for you from the July 24, 2023 board meeting:

**Investment Update** – the district has worked to maximize our investment potential with First Financial Trust. We currently have \$3.6 million of our fund balance invested in CD's with First Financial, we are projected to earn \$182,728 in annual income on those investments.

**Facilities Update**– the High School Ag Shop expansion project has been delayed as we have worked with the city on getting the permit and code compliance squared away. The project will extend into the upcoming school year. The Intermediate School teachers are moving into the renovated building and getting ready for the upcoming school year. We will have an open house for the community to see the Intermediate School building on August 11th.

**Budget Workshop** – The district certified taxable values for Wise and Montague counties increased from \$599 million in 2022 to \$727 million in 2023. Due to recently passed legislation and the increase in taxable values our M&O tax rate should decrease significantly. We just received our certified values so we don't have the 2023-2024 tax rates and projected revenue calculated yet.

Legislation has been passed and now signed by the governor that will lower the M&O tax rate at least 10.7 cents (ours may decrease more due to local compression) and increase the homestead exemption from \$40,000 to \$100,000. This legislation will require approval by the voters in the November general election.

\$4 billion in additional funding has been set aside for increased funding for education. We expect another special legislative session in October to consider vouchers and teacher pay.

**August Called Board Meeting** – the board scheduled a meeting on August 30 at 6 p.m. to set the tax rates and approve the 2023-2024 budget.

**Staff Development Minutes Waiver** – the board approved this waiver which will allow us to receive instructional minutes' credit for 2 days of staff development this year (October 9th and January 15th). 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 2023-2024 staff development plan was approved by the board.

**Teacher Appraisal Calendar** – the board approved the teacher appraisal calendar which includes the list of certified teacher appraisers.

**Breakfast and Lunch Prices** – The board approved a \$0.25 increase in the price for breakfast, from \$1.50 to \$1.75 to get us closer to covering the food cost and a 10 cent increase in lunch prices at the middle school, again to help us cover the food costs. Breakfast will be free for all students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals.

The 2023-2024 Lunch Prices are below:

PK-5 (Elementary and Intermediate) stay the same at \$2.85

6-8 (Middle School) increase 10 cents to \$2.95

9-12 (High School) stay the same at \$3.15

**Student Code of Conduct** – the board approved the 2023-2024 Student Code of Conduct. Vaping or possession of any e-cigarette items is now by law a mandatory DAEP (District Alternative Education Program) offense. The district is working to get this information out to parents and students.

**Review Handbooks** – the board reviewed the employee and all student handbooks for the upcoming school year.

**Wise County Extension Office Adjunct Faculty Request** – this is an annual resolution brought to the board. The board approved this request which allows the absence of students who are participating in off-campus 4-H activities with an adjunct faculty member to be treated the same as school approved extra-curricular activity absences.

**Safety and Security Update** – Alvord ISD Director of Safety and Security and Police Chief Tony Vo reviewed the Safety Audit and discussed new safety requirements with the board. The board also approved the new Level 3 Guardians.

**Revisions to Superintendents Contract** – the board approved a 3% of midpoint salary increase for all Alvord ISD employees at the June regular board meeting. The superintendent's salary must be considered separately from all of the other employees, the board approved a 3% salary increase for the superintendent.

**Personnel** – the board approved the Superintendents recommendation to hire Jillian Richardson to teach social studies at Alvord Middle School. Mrs. Richardson previously taught at Coppell and Springtown ISD's.

The following employees have been hired since new hires were last reported in the June board meeting highlights:

**Instructional Staff:**

Robert Carpenter will be an assistant band director. He is coming to us from Navarro ISD.

Rachel Hall will teach elementary music and will be an assistant band director. She previously taught in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Kyle Mabry will be an assistant boys coach and the head baseball coach. Coach Mabry is coming to us from Keller ISD.

Support Staff:

Shelby Crisp will be an instructional aide at the elementary school.

Jeanette Stanton will be an instruction aide at the middle school.

Brittini Anderson and Roya McKelvain will join our food service staff.