

BOARD UPDATE

Galena Park Independent School District • Volume 25, Number 2 • September 11, 2006

RECOGNITION

• The following new administrators were introduced: **Julissa Alcantar-Martinez**, principal at Cobb Sixth Grade; **Susanna Brooks**, assistant principal at Woodland Acres Elementary; **Dianne Edwards**, assistant principal at Tice Elementary; **Antonio Garcia**, assistant principal at Green Valley Elementary; **Rebecca Gardea**, assistant principal at Jacinto City Elementary; **David Gillings**, assistant principal at North Shore High School; **Vicki Horst**, assistant principal at Galena Park High School; **Maria Muñoz**, assistant principal at MacArthur Elementary; **Gerardo Ramirez**, assistant principal at Galena Park Middle School; **Nicole Sephus**, assistant principal at Havard Elementary; **Cynthia Stephens**, assistant principal at Green Valley Elementary; and **Frances Urbanovsky**, coordinator of student support services.

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

• **Aurora Hurtado**, director of student support services, provided an update on School Based Clinics which are possible through a collaborative effort between Galena Park ISD and the Harris County Hospital District.

REPORTS

• **Elizabeth Lalor**, director of research, district compliance and special projects, presented information regarding the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results. GPISD met AYP standards and 16 of the district's 20 campuses met the program's standards.

• **Vikas Chaphekar**, director of finance and budget, presented information on the Texas Education Agency's Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). Galena Park ISD achieved the rating of "Superior Achievement" - the state's highest rating - for the 2004-05 school year, the fourth consecutive school year that the district earned the highest rating.

• **Bourke Meagher**, assistant superintendent for human resource and communication services, presented information on four policy updates.

- TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 78 which impacts property taxes, student admission, and student health issues.

- Policy FJ (Local) Gifts and Solicitations. This local policy is being revised to allow district campuses to sell school supplies to students. The school supply store sells the merchandise to students at discount prices and proceeds benefit both the campus and the students.

- Policy EIE (Local) Academic Achievement Retention and Promotion. The district's local policy is being revised to delete the section relating to an alternate assessment instrument.

- Policy DEC (Local) Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences. The district's local policy is being revised to define temporary paid leave for employees serving on active military duty during wartime.

• **Richard Gates**, director of new facilities & planning, provided an update on bond construction projects.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSTRUCTION CONSENT AGENDA

• **Granted** the drainage easement for the New Forest Parkway Development as presented.

• **Approved** the renewal of the contract with Construction Strategies, Inc. for Program Management Services, as per the attached Addendum #10 dated 8/15/06, for services until August 31, 2007 as presented.

• Project No. 116-2005 – Change Order

Approved a change order for termite protection in the amount of \$46,778 as presented. This is a result of the district's determination that additional protection is needed on this project. The Contractor has indicated they will be ready for the termite protection by the end of September.

NEW BUSINESS

GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approved** the Galena Park ISD Teacher Appraisal list for the 2006-2007 school year as presented.
- **Approved** the list of high school Advanced Courses for the 2006-2007 school year as presented.

FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA

- **Adopted** the resolution for the Resale of Tax Sale Properties as presented.
- **Approved** Vikas Chaphekar as part time internal auditor for the Board of Trustees as presented.

Trustee Spotlight

Dawn Thompson-Fisher has been active in the community for as long as she can remember. She was born and raised in Galena Park and remained here throughout her entire educational career. This Galena Park High School graduate became involved in various activities before serving on the Galena Park City Council for eight years.

She has remained a Galena Park resident and has stayed active in the community throughout her 26-year career in the legal profession. Dawn is currently employed by the firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott, LLP.

Dawn and her husband of 23 years, Butch, have remained in Galena Park raising their own family. Her mother also currently lives in Galena Park while her in-laws live in Jacinto City.

“We love it here,” Thompson-Fisher said with a big smile. “Galena Park is a great place to raise a family. Even though we are on the fringe of Houston, which is a huge city, Galena Park still has the small-town feel that is always had. Everybody knows everybody, you know your neighbors and you can still feel that sense of community pride.”

As she enters her fourth year of serving on the Galena Park ISD Board of Education, Thompson-Fisher brings that love of community to her current role. Even before being elected to the Board she was an avid supporter of the district and served on various committees and advisory boards in addition to serving in the Galena Park Rotary and the Galena Park Chamber of Commerce.

“I love this community and enjoy giving some of myself back to such a wonderful community,” she added. “I’m extremely proud of the district’s accomplishments and I’m always thrilled to learn about our wonderful students and all of the dedicated professional we have working in the district.”

That sense of pride in the district is visibly evident every year as she hands diplomas to graduating seniors during commencement ceremonies.

“That still gives me chills,” she added. “That is, without a doubt, my favorite part of being a trustee.”



Dawn Thompson-Fisher
Vice President