

# BOARD UPDATE

Galena Park Independent School District • Volume 25, Number 4 • November 13, 2006

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

GPISD Trustee **William “Bill” Cobbs** received a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding contributions and endeavors to the community from Sylvia Garcia, Precinct Two, Harris County Commissioner. **Jeff Miller**, president of the Board of Trustees, presented a certificate to Cobbs on behalf of the Board and **Dr. Mark Henry**, superintendent of schools.

## RECOGNITION

• North Shore Senior High School students **Marcus Collins**, **Braylon Gurnell** and **Krystal Hill** have all been named National Achievement Scholars in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

• **Alicia Garza**, from North Shore Senior High School, has been honored in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

• **Bethany Lawrence**, from North Shore Senior High School, was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. • Galena Park High School student **Ronell Walker**, was selected as one of 15 finalists from the greater Houston area in the Capital One High School Mascot Challenge.

## ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

• **Wanna Giacona**, director of Bilingual/ESL Education and **Veronica Martinez**, dual language coordinator, presented information regarding two-way immersion programs offered in Galena Park ISD.

## REPORTS

• **Owen Sonik**, attorney with Purdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP, presented a report on the district’s delinquent tax collection status.

• **Elizabeth Lalor**, director of research, district compliance and special projects, presented a report on Meeting Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements for 2005-2006. This report is required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### GENERAL CONSENT AGENDA

• **Approved** the district’s Textbook Adoption Committee as presented.

• **Approved** the goals for increasing and retaining highly qualified teachers for the 2006-2007 school year as presented.

• **Approved** the boundary changes for the new elementary school #116 as presented. The new campus will receive students from North Shore Elementary and Cloverleaf Elementary. The district’s goal is to keep elementary schools at an enrollment below 800 students and the following elementary schools will have boundaries changed to accomplish that goal: Cimarron, Green Valley, Cloverleaf, North Shore, Purple Sage, Tice and Havard. Information will go out to parents and students that will be affected by the change in January 2007. Students that will be 5th graders in the 2007-2008 school year will have the option of staying at their present school or moving to the boundary change school.

### FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA

• **Authorized** the Superintendent to provide a written notice of non-objection on the three properties as requested by the Port of Houston Authority as presented

#### • **Bid No. 26-05 – Gasoline and Diesel Fuel**

**Awarded** the contract for gasoline and diesel fuel for the Transportation and Grounds departments to Petroleum Traders for a period of two years with one year annual renewal option as presented.

#### • **Bid No. 26-001 – Concrete Work**

**Awarded** the contract for concrete work to ICD Services for an estimated annual cost of \$65,000 for a period of one year with two years renewal option as presented.

#### • **RFP #26-002 – Armed Courier Service**

**Awarded** the contract for an Armed Courier Service for the Student Nutrition Department and Tax Office to Carrizal & Associates, Inc. for a total cost of approximately \$34,475.00 for a period of one year with two years renewal option as presented.

• **Approved** the proposed budget amendments for the month of October 2006, as presented.

# Trustee Spotlight

Bill Cobbs has spent his entire life giving of himself to improve the lives of others. When he retired from Continental Airlines, Cobbs knew that, in addition to his service as minister at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, he needed to stay involved in the community.

It was that desire to stay involved that led him to visit with current Trustee and Chamber of Commerce President Wayne Oquin almost six years ago. As the meeting ended, Cobbs knew that running for a position on the Galena Park ISD Board of Trustees would afford him the best opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people.

“I’m all about doing what is best for our students,” he said. “I will do whatever I can to ensure continued success for district students. The district was already doing a great job of educating children when I came on board and I think that we can keep the momentum going and achieve even greater things in the future. I think that Galena Park ISD should be a model district for others across the nation to follow.”

Cobbs was first elected to the Board of Trustees in May 2002 and said that he has enjoyed each and every aspect of serving as a trustee since then.

“I couldn’t have made a better choice. Seeing all the smiling faces of our students makes it all worthwhile. I’m so fortunate to be part of such a wonderful district like this. I feel like I have 21,000 grandchildren.”

Cobbs is a big believer that students should begin to make college plans early and he supports the district’s Destination Graduation initiative which challenges even very young students to begin thinking about high school graduation.

“It is paramount that young people begin thinking about college at an early age—elementary school is not soon enough, especially for minority children who will become the first in their family to attend college.”

Cobbs said that he is extremely proud of the dedicated professionals that challenge young minds in Galena Park ISD and that it takes a special person to reach young people and reach their minds.

“We have a very unique district that is filled with caring people at all levels. Our teachers, campus administrators, support personnel and district administrators will do whatever it takes to allow our students to continue to excel.”

In addition to his role as Trustee, Cobbs remains very active at his church and serves on several ministries, including hospital visitation, prison ministry, foot-washing and the Moving Forward program which, through the Department of Labor, places former inmates back into the work force.



**William “Bill” Cobbs  
Secretary**