

## Board Notes:

January 15, 2013 Regular Meeting  
January 15, 2013 Bond Workshop  
January 17, 2013 Advocacy Workshop  
January 24, 2013 Bond Workshop

## January 15, 2013 Regular Meeting

### Recognitions

**School of the Month:** Speegleville Elementary students presented the Pledge of Allegiance. The students who represented Speegleville are featured in videos about learning with iPads housed on the District You Tube Channel:

[www.youtube.com/MidwayISDpr](http://www.youtube.com/MidwayISDpr)

**School Board Month:** January is School Board Recognition Month. The following board members were recognized: Pete Rusek has served on the Board since 1996; Cheryl Holy since 1998; Ivan Green since 2000, Tom Pagel and Bobby Deaton joined the Board in 2006; Robbie Jones in 2007, and Susan Vick in 2011 for a combined 67 years of commitment and service to Midway students and staff.

**All State Orchestra:** Midway High School student Hannah Burnett was recognized for qualifying through three levels of all-state auditions to perform at the annual TMEA Clinic and Convention. This is the highest honor an orchestra student can achieve in the state of Texas.

**PTA Reflections State Artists:** Each year, the Midway ISD PTA conducts the district Reflections Contest for fine arts. Congratulations to the 16 students who won in their divisions at the local level and their works will compete at the state level: Michael Becker, Hannah Gochis, Austen Kaul, Megan Little, Taylor Mason, Kaylie Meek, Elyse Meyer, Jolee Neal, Jason Null, Piya Patel, Maddie Schwarz, Tabatha Secrease, Hajin Sim, Carson Taylor, Gavin Whelan, and Patrick Williams.

**Midway Education Foundation Grant Winners:** The Board of Trustees recognized the following round 22 grant winners: Jennifer Brewer, Sharon Bennett, Sarah McCormick, Shenequa Williams, Dr. Her Cox, Raye Lynn Morris, Melinda Vorderkunz, Kelyn Gum, Elizabeth Walker, Doug Ledbetter, and Laura Veselka.

### Presentation/Discussion Items

**2013 MISD Board of Trustees Election** - This year's school board election will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013. Terms will expire for Place V, held by Robbie Jones, Place VI held by Ivan Green, and Place VII held by Cheryl Holy. The first day to file for a place on the ballot is Wednesday, January 30, 2013. The last day to file for a place on the ballot is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1, 2013.

**Quarterly Investment Report** - The quarterly investment report required by the Public Funds Investment Act was provided to the Board.

**Financial Report** - Mr. Karl Kacir, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, presented the financial report highlighting general fund revenues and



expenditures. Mr. Kacir also briefed the Board regarding ADA and enrollment schedules and discussed first quarter projections.

**Update on Proposed Accountability System** - Dr. Brent Merritt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented an overview of the new State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) accountability system, which has been submitted to the Commissioner of Education for review. Dr. Merritt reported the proposed accountability system has not been approved, and there is a chance substantial changes will be made during the legislative session.

**New MHS Course for 2013-2014: Independent Study in Journalism** - Dr. Brent Merritt explained this course was previously offered at Midway High School several years ago under the title of Journalism Internship and is a TEKS and PEIMS recognized course in other school districts around the State of Texas.

**Midway High School Math Course Sequence** - Mr. Jeff Gasaway, Principal Midway High School, proposed a course sequence change in mathematics from Geometry between Algebra 1 and 2 to Geometry after Algebra 1 and 2. The change in math course sequence will be implemented during the 2013-2014 school year.

**Review of MISD Safety Procedures** - Dr. Jeanie Johnson, Executive Director for Administrative Services, presented a safety and security update to the Board. Dr. Johnson highlighted Midway's current practices and procedures for safety and security measures. She also discussed new practices in preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery that MISD is investigating for the future.

**Proposed Revisions to GKA (LOCAL) Community Relations – Conduct on School Premises** - Local policy prohibits the use, possession, or display of any type of weapon at any time on district property. Dr. Johnson advised recent interpretation from attorneys representing Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green & Treviño indicate that state law supersedes local policy. Dr. Johnson reported if an employee with a concealed handgun license left a weapon in their car in a school parking lot, the employee would not be terminated. Dr. Johnson emphasized the district is not endorsing or encouraging employees to have weapons in their vehicle.

### **Consideration Items**

**Consent Agenda** was approved, including: Minutes of the December 18, 2012 Special Called Board Meeting; Minutes of the December 18, 2012 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting; Early Graduation Requests; and STAAR Policy – Resolution to Defer the 15 Percent Provision.

### **Consideration of Personnel**

Professional Hire: Sara Jones, Teacher, Hewitt Elementary

Paraprofessional Hire: Judy Coleman, Reading Assistant, Speegleville Elementary

Paraprofessional Transfer: Sara Jones from Dyslexia/Copy Aid Assistant at Speegleville Elementary to teacher, Hewitt Elementary

Paraprofessional Separation: Chelsea Davis, Special Education Assistant, Midway High School

**Update on Employee Investigation and Pending Employee Criminal Matter** - This item was discussed during closed session and no action taken during the open meeting.

**Review Compensation of Head Football Coach/High School Coordinator** - This item was discussed during closed session and no action taken during the open meeting.

**Consideration of Real Estate** - No discussion or action was taken on this agenda item.

### **Superintendent's Communication**

**School Finance Litigation Update** - Dr. George Kazanas updated the Board regarding the litigation. Closing arguments are expected to be presented soon and the trial will be coming to a close.

**MISD Job Fair Date** – The Midway ISD job fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2013 at Midway High School.

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## Special Called Board Workshop – January 15, 2013

**Planning Session to Discuss Future Facilities, Technology, and Maintenance Needs** - Dr. George Kazanas, Superintendent, reviewed the Scoring Metrics evaluation tool completed by board members and administrators. The scoring mechanism prioritized projects to be included in the bond based on alignment with district goals and identified critical needs. The Board also reviewed updated costs of the possible bond-funded projects.

**Board Consultation with District's Financial Advisor** - Mr. Victor Quiroga, Financial Advisor for Southwest Securities, presented an updated bond capacity analysis to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Quiroga discussed the low interest rate environment, and highlighted different bonding capacity scenarios using conservative property value growth rates and interest rates.

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## Special Called Board Workshop – January 17, 2013

**Advocacy Meeting with Area School Boards and Baylor University** - The Midway ISD Board of Trustees met with representatives from Waco, China Spring, Robinson, McGregor, LaVega, Connally, Bosqueville, Crawford and Lorena school districts during an informal lunch setting. Dr. John Engelhardt, Baylor University dean of the School of Education, served as host. School district representatives brainstormed ways to relay their needs to the state Legislature this session focusing mainly on funding and testing.

Informal discussions were held regarding the topic: *“What might be the greatest opportunity to advance public education during this Legislative Session?”*

Karla Leeper, Facilitator, led the conversation pertaining to *“Working Together to Advance Waco-Area Education.”*

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## Special Called Board Workshop – January 24, 2013

**Board Consultation with District's Financial Advisor** - Mr. Victor Quiroga, Financial Advisor for Southwest Securities, presented an updated bond capacity analysis to the Board of Trustees.

**Planning Session to Discuss Future Facilities, Technology, and Maintenance Needs** – Board members reviewed options on facility constructions and renovations.

**Resolution - Vouchers, Taxpayer Savings Grants, Tax Credits and other Mechanisms that Reduce Public Education Funding** – The Board unanimously passed a resolution against school vouchers. (See attached page)

**Discuss Formation of Citizen Advisory Committee** – Board members gave suggestions of MISD parents and taxpayers that could possibly serve on a Citizen Advisory Committee. The suggested persons will be contacted with information about meeting dates and responsibilities of the Committee before committing.

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*For full board minutes, please visit BoardBook. Please note that minutes are not posted until they are approved by the board at the subsequent meeting.*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Midway **INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION**

**VOUCHERS, TAXPAYER SAVINGS GRANTS, TAX CREDITS  
AND OTHER MECHANISMS THAT REDUCE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING**

STATE OF TEXAS                   §  
  §  
COUNTY OF McLennan       §

WHEREAS, Article 7, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution requires that the Texas Legislature “establish and make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of an efficient system of public free schools;”

WHEREAS, during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session, the Texas Legislature reduced public education funding by \$5.4 billion;

WHEREAS, public school districts are subject to stringent accountability standards;

WHEREAS, school choice already exists in the Texas public school system;

WHEREAS, vouchers, taxpayer savings grants, and tax credits eliminate public accountability and do not provide all parents and children with school choice;

WHEREAS, vouchers, taxpayer savings grants, and tax credits have not been proven effective in improving student achievement and closing the achievement gap;

WHEREAS, diverting public money away from public schools is an inefficient use of scarce resources; and

WHEREAS, vouchers, taxpayer savings grants, and tax credits will not guarantee a competitive, educated workforce to meet the demands of employers in Texas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Midway ISD Board of Trustees calls on the Texas Legislature to reject all attempts to divert public dollars away from public schools in the form of vouchers, taxpayer savings grants, tax credits, or any other mechanisms that have the effect of reducing funding to public schools.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 24th day of January, 2013.

By: Pete Rusek  
Name: Pete Rusek  
Title: President

By: Tom Pagel  
Name: Tom Pagel  
Title: Vice President

By: Robbie Jones  
Name: Robbie Jones  
Title: Secretary

By: Cheryl Holy  
Name: Cheryl Holy  
Title: Member

By: Ivan Green  
Name: Ivan Green  
Title: Member

By: Bobby Deaton  
Name: Bobby Deaton  
Title: Member

By: Susan Vick  
Name: Susan Vick  
Title: Member