

Board Buzz

Weekly Superintendent Update for the FBISD Board of Trustees

Thursday, July 8, 2021 - Volume 1; Edition 25

I hope that you had a wonderful July 4th weekend and that you have survived this week's deluge of rain! Our team members have been busy inspecting facilities, documenting any damages, and meeting to plan the next steps.

We are wrapping up the last of Summer School Academic activities this week but have continued to roll out athletic activities for our Hornet athletes! Strength and conditioning sessions started this week. Our Hornets have been very active, and participation has been high at each of the camps that have been offered this summer! The countdown for athletic events has begun!

Within the next week or two, you will receive a schedule of the beginning of year activities for our faculty and staff. We are finalizing schedules for professional development, convocation; sneak peeks for our Hornets, and start-of-school activities!

Enjoy your weekend! **Oorah!**

Be Safe! Be Strong! Bee a Hornet!

HORNET HIGHLIGHT - SHEA HERNANDEZ

Flour Bluff Primary Principal, Shea Hernandez, is assuming a new role at Flour Bluff High School. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, Ms. Hernandez will be an Assistant Principal at FBHS and assist the campus with drop-out recovery efforts through the district's newly created Hornet Learning Academy. This new initiative will focus on reaching students who have dropped out or are at-risk of dropping out of school and will provide opportunities for students to complete high school.

"Ms. Hernandez will transition to a new role that will lend her expertise to ensuring that students who found themselves struggling, especially during this past year, will return and complete their high school careers," said Velma Soliz-Garcia, Flour Bluff ISD Superintendent of Schools. "I'm confident she will be an asset to Flour Bluff High School and will be instrumental in helping the district re-connect with Hornets that are at-risk of dropping out."



Ms. Hernandez has 22 years of educational experience. She began her teaching career in San Antonio ISD, where she also was a Campus Instructional Coordinator and Assistant Principal. In 2010, she led the PreK through 2nd grades and Headstart programs in West Oso ISD. She has been leading Flour Bluff Primary since 2015.

“No Matter what age or grade level I’ve worked with, I have always fallen in love with the students,” said Shea Hernandez. “Kids have a curiosity for learning; it’s hard for their energy not to be contagious. I know this will be true of high school as well. I am curious and look forward to learning a new role right alongside them.”

Ms. Hernandez will begin her new role at Flour Bluff High School in July. The District expects to have a new principal named at Flour Bluff Primary later this summer.

NUTRITION KICKS-OFF HORNET MOBILE MEALS

We are excited to announce the kick-off to the “Hornet - Mobile Meals” program. As part of our summer seamless option, the Nutrition Department has mobilized to take meals out to our Flour Bluff community. The program allows us to serve anyone eighteen years of age or younger. We started with one location at Martha’s Vineyard and are exploring sites for a second location.



Check out the Channel 3 KIII TV news coverage about the program at: <https://youtu.be/cFMtZl3xrGE>.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF THE COASTAL BEND SUMMER PROGRAM & FALL REGISTRATION

BGCCB Summer Program

The Boys and Girls Club of the Coastal Bend started providing services to our community at the Flour Bluff High School on June 7. They have an enrollment of 135 Flour Bluff students. The group has had fun and engaging activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). The Boys and Girls Club has also utilized the gym, playground, and natatorium each week. Every Friday, the students have walked to the Hart Library to check out books and partake in the library’s activities. The last day for the students will be July 30.



Fall Registration

The anticipated time for the Boys & Girls Club Fall Registration will be the first week in August. More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

MEETING WITH RISING TIDE MINISTRIES

Superintendent Soliz-Garcia and Linda Medley met with Ms. Lisa Brooks Gerdes, Director of Rising Tide Ministry, to discuss a possible partnership in delivering services for our Hornet community.

Rising Tide Ministries has started a Safe at Home program that seeks out elderly homeowners that may need ADA upgrades to their homes. Rising Tide Ministry would like to see if our Construction Program could assist with the projects. Mrs. Medley will meet with our Construction Program Instructors to see if students could be assigned throughout the year to assist and fulfill the obligations required of the new PTECH Grant that leads to an Early College High School for CTE.



TEA OVERVIEW OF HOUSE BILL 4545

TEA provided a more in-depth look at implementation details for HB 4545 during a recent [webinar](#). Requirements under this bill will begin during the 2021-22 school year and require extensive planning on behalf of our district.

HB4545 Overview

A screenshot of a webinar presentation from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The title is 'Retention and Retesting Requirements Removed'. The slide is divided into two columns. The left column, under a 'Retention' icon, lists two bullet points: 'A student in 5 & 6 is no longer required to be retained at the same grade level based on STAAR.' and 'Grade placement committees have been eliminated.' The right column, under a 'Retesting' icon, lists two bullet points: 'No longer required to retake STAAR tests' and 'The optional STAAR end-of-course assessments for Algebra II and English III will no longer be offered.' A large play button icon is centered over the right column. At the bottom, a note states: 'Takeover at a website, these changes effectively remove Algebra II and English III for students from STAAR testing in grades 8-11.' A small video feed of a woman, Monica Ruiz-Miles, is visible in the top right corner of the slide.

ISLAND PROPERTY INQUIRY

Dale Rankin with the "Island Moon" inquired on the status of the property the District owns on the Island. Below is a response he was sent regarding the recent discussions around the use of the property...


There have been discussions regarding several projects including a vertically integrated Oceans Program that would entail the utilization of the 6.7 acres on the Island and our Wetlands. There are several committees that are involved in the future endeavors of the district. One committee is a curriculum committee that is specifically working on the curriculum design for a vertically aligned Oceans Program for grades PK-12 – this would expand our current Oceans programs at Intermediate and Junior High. Another committee that will be heavily involved is the Community Advisory Committee. These committees will meet again in August.

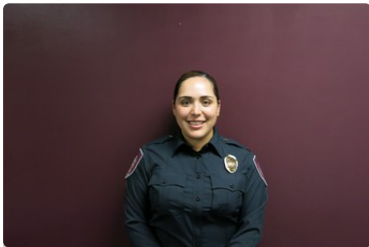
Our goal is to build partnerships with TAMUCC (Harte Institute), UTMSI, Texas State Aquarium, Padre Island National Seashore, Barney Davis TPWD Fish Hatchery, and Texas Sea Grant. In addition, we have discussed including Non-Governmental Organizations such as the Texas Sealife Center, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries, The Ark, and the Coastal Conservation Association.

Additionally, Mr. Rankin inquired on the members of the Oceans Integrated PK-12 Committee as well as the Community Advisory Council. He was sent the listing of the Oceans Committee members (see below) and will also be provided a listing of the Community Advisory Council next week.



Oceans Integrated Pk-12 Committee Member List.pdf

 [Download](#)
79.5 KB



POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The FBISD Police Department's second police truck had graphics installed this week.

Officer Alaena Tate was sworn in on July 6th and will be assigned to the Junior High campus.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Congress authorized the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) through the schools and libraries universal service support program, commonly known as the E-rate program. This is an additional funding opportunity from the annual E-rate program. E-rate's ECF program is designed to cover laptops, tablets, and broadband connectivity purchases for off-campus use by students who lack the necessary Internet access and/or devices. The maximum reimbursement per device is \$400.00, of which E-rate will cover at 100%. The application filing window opened on June 29 and will close on August 13. Flour Bluff ISD will be applying as follows:

Tablets and Laptops – A survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VSNLPP2>) was sent out to the community on July 1st. A push was made through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and School Messenger, asking the community to take this survey. The response we get from this survey will be the

Once a device and vendor are chosen, a recommendation will be given to the board of trustees to approve the procurement. E-rate will make the reimbursement through their SAM.gov account.

Broadband Internet – TEA has started a program portal to help school districts apply for broadband Internet for economically disadvantaged students who currently do not have Internet. TEA has done an incredible amount of background work gathering data we will need to apply for this funding. This data includes maps, population studies, and working with Internet Service Providers. They will serve as our consultants free of charge. More information is forthcoming as to exactly which student families will benefit from this program.

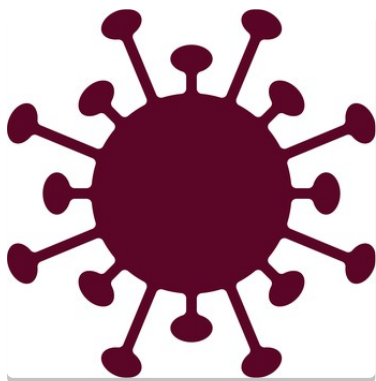
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[Click here](#) to keep up-to-date on progress of all House and Senate Bills and other legislative activity.

Governor Abbott has announced a Special Session agenda that includes 11 items. Several of the items are education-related and include:

- Family Violence Prevention
- Youth Sports
- Thirteenth Check for TRS Retirees
- Critical Race Theory
- Appropriations

The Special Session began today (July 8). I'll provide any updates via future Board Buzz editions.



COVID-19 UPDATE AND ONLINE TRACKER

The Online Tracker is updated each day as new cases are received and students/staff recover from COVID-19. To review the COVID-19 Online Tracker and Re-Opening Plan, click the link below...

<https://flourbluffschools.net/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>

Staff members and students continue to follow all protocols put in place for COVID-19 at the campus and district facilities because of this we continue to see minimal cases of COVID-19. At this time, we have no reported positive cases.

Summer School

There have not been any COVID-19 cases reported during summer school.



NUECES COUNTY IS LOOKING FOR FEEDBACK ON BOB HALL PIER REDESIGN

Nueces County is proud to invite you to participate in upcoming **Virtual Town Hall** meetings and online survey to provide your input on designs and amenities for the rebuild of the **Bob Hall Pier**. Specifically, Nueces County wants every interested resident to have her/his voice heard in the planning process for the rebuild of our historic pier.

To participate in the online survey -- simply click [Bob Hall Pier Survey](#) starting on July 7. The Virtual Town Hall Meetings will be held as follows:

- July 22 at 5 PM
- July 23 at 9 AM

The login URL for the Town Hall Meetings is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9987206754#success>

If you are unable to login, please mail your comments to: 901 Leopard, Room 303.11; Corpus Christi, Texas 78401. Or call/email:

- Judge Barbara Canales, 361-888-0263; Barbara.Canales@nuecesco.com
- Commissioner Brent Chesney, 361-888-0268; Brent.Chesney1@nuecesco.com

FBISD Calendar of Events

Regular Board Meeting

When

Thursday, July 29th, 6pm

Where

Flour Bluff Independent School District, TX, USA TX

More information

Administration Building Board Room



CONTACT INFO



Facebook



@FlourBluffISD

I have a new district issued cell phone. Please add this number to your contacts. It will be my cell phone number for all district related business.

361.438.0160



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