

Board Buzz

Weekly Superintendent Update for the FBISD Board of Trustees

Friday, March 26, 2021 - Volume 1; Edition 10

Greetings! Spring is in the air!

We are quickly approaching the last nine weeks of school! Can you believe it?! Our Senior Class is excited and nervous at the same time. We are doing our best to have as many "traditional" activities for them as we have in the past. It is great to see our students flourish and succeed at all they do! One goal of ours is to connect with our students as much as possible and the recent meetings with our Superintendent's Student Ambassador Leadership Council proved the importance of student voice. In the coming weeks we will take advantage of every minute of the days we have left this academic year to conduct the Superintendent Listening & Learning Tours with all schools and departments in the district. My goal is to conduct those in the next three weeks to be able to bring that feedback to the next Community Action Committee meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 22. We will share the Listening & Learning Tours schedule with you next week to allow Board members an opportunity to drop in if you are available. Once again, I'd like to thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we move forward in setting our mission, vision, and goals for the future of our district!



MY WEEK "BUZZING" AROUND THE DISTRICT

Visiting the Mrs. Doyle's Oceans Class (Intermediate) at the Wetlands!





ZOOM ON THE HILL WITH SENATOR EDDIE LUCIO

Dr. Jesus Chavez, Executive Director of South Texas Association of Schools, scheduled a zoom meeting for Superintendents from South Texas to discuss legislative issues with Senator Eddie Lucio. Senator Lucio was instrumental in the movement of educators on the priority list for COVID-19 vaccines. On March 17, the U.S. Department of Education announced that State Educational Agencies and school districts in Texas are set to receive a total of \$12.41 billion from the \$121.97 billion in federal aid allocated to education in the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

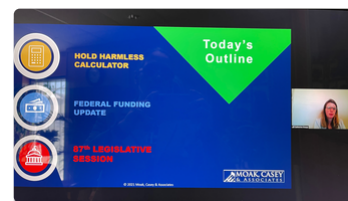


Superintendents touched on the following talking points:

1. All expressed a unanimous front for local discretion of any additional federal funds that are intended for school districts.
2. We mentioned the need for resources to address the COVID Academic slide, but most importantly the need to utilize funds for social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students.
3. All expressed that funds should not be formulated as a one size fits all approach.
4. The biggest take away expressed by the panel was the need for the funds to be supplemental to our budgets and not supplanting the budget. If you recall, that was the case for the first round of funds.
5. We expressed that our goal as Superintendents has always been - "Save where we can to spend where we must!"

STATS (SOUTH TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS) MID-SESSION UPDATE

STATS invited Ms. Catherine Knepp with Moak, Casey & Associates presented a legislative update on public education funding, key school finance bills, and federal funding.



Topics of discussion: Hold Harmless Calculator, Federal funding update, and 87th Legislative session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S JH AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

This week Board President, Shirley Thornton and Superintendent, Soliz-Garcia met with the JH Ambassador Leadership Council and conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis.



STRATEGIC PLANNING - NEXT STEPS

Dates have been set for our next sessions with Dr. Greg Gibson and Dr. Buck Gilcrease. The second session for the Team of 8 is set for Wednesday, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. The Community Action Committee (CAC) will be meeting Thursday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. The Superintendent's Listening & Learning Tour will continue into the month of April. Board members (3 per session) are welcomed to attend. Please contact Monica if you would like to participate.



The following have been scheduled:

April 1 - 2:00-3:00 p.m.: Nutrition/Food Service Department
 April 5 - 3:30-4:30 p.m.: Primary Listening & Learning Session
 April 7 - 8:00-8:45 a.m.: High School Listening & Learning Session
 April 7 - 4:10-5:10 p.m.: High School Listening & Learning Session
 April 15: HS Student Leadership Ambassador Council
 April 21: JH Student Leadership Ambassador Council
 TBD: Teacher Advisory Council
 TBD: Staff Advisory Council
 TBD: ECC Listening & Learning Session
 TBD: Elementary Listening & Learning Session
 TBD: Intermediate Listening & Learning Session
 TBD: Junior High Listening & Learning Session
 TBD: High School Listening & Learning Session
 TBD: SDGC Listening & Learning Session
 TBD: Maintenance/Transportation
 TBD: Public Information Office/Technology Department

We held the first Benefits Committee meeting this week. Louise Day presented on the history of our plans and Gallagher and Associates had a presentation on the state of our plans and what factors drive the funding and benefit decisions. We had a lively discussion on concerns over the costs associated with our plans versus TRS and other districts. At the request of the committee members, Gallagher will be preparing a plan comparison analysis with these other plans for the next meeting on April 12th. In addition, Louise provide a financial report since inception on our insurance fund. We will begin discussing what modifications can be made to our benefits for the September 1st renewal in order to achieve a more cost effective solution for our employees.



P TECH GRANT

We have been working with Lisa Seiser a grant consultant from Region One to complete a P-TECH Grant to enhance the Construction Skills Trades pathway at the high school. Ms. Seiser has received all the information needed and has submitted the grant to TEA. If the district receives the grant the amount would be for \$150,000.



Excerpt from Grant Summary:

"Therefore, with grant funds, the district plans to offer a Construction Skills Trades pathway. This program involves training, education and hands-on opportunities in the building trades, such as electricians, carpenters, and plumbers, along with an opportunity to earn an Associates in Applied Science. Few high schools in the Corpus Christi area are partnering with IHEs (such as Del Mar College) to offer a Construction Skills Trade pathway of study, making it extremely inviting for Flour Bluff ISD to pursue these trades in the Coastal Bend region. Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast wage information shows plumbers earn a mean wage of about \$27 per hour, while carpenters make about \$21 per hour. This would be a new, special program that will include opportunities such as completing the actual process of building a "tiny home" intended to prepare Flour Bluff High School graduates to work in the much needed construction trades for various companies or provide the ability for graduates to start their own construction companies upon graduation or after their higher education degree program. This Construction Skills Trades pathway provides several career options as well as continuing education and additional occupations through an Associate's in Applied Science Degree in Building Maintenance or Construction Technology."



UPDATE ON VIRTUAL ACADEMY

FBISD learned that TEA will no longer fund remote learning after this school year. Legislation is being discussed at this time by our representatives and we are awaiting information from Austin. On March 23, James Crenshaw and Dr. Allison Schaum met with a representative from TXVN. The discussion included what would it take for FBISD to create a virtual academy. TXVN offers online courses at \$400.00 a course per semester or FBISD could send curriculum to TXVN. In turn they would vet the curriculum and house it on their platform. They also found out the state will only fund half of the ADA per student who decides they want to be a virtual learner. Dr. Schaum learned TEA wants any district who wants to offer

virtual learning to fill out an application. She will download the application to share with the curriculum department.

DISTRICT CALENDAR COMMITTEE UPDATE

On March 24th, the calendar committee reconvened to review eight resubmissions of Calendar B. The end goal of this meeting was to narrow down the calendar options from eight to two. Each committee member received a copy of all eight calendars to review independently, or in small groups. At the conclusion of the examination process, voting members were then asked to turn in their top two calendar picks. In the presence of the entire committee, two ad hoc members tallied the collected calendars to determine the two calendars with the most votes. The two calendars were then submitted for recommendation to the Superintendent. With the Superintendent's approval, we will meet with the DEIC next week to inform them of the two calendar options to survey staff, students, parents, and community. A recommendation to approve the 2021-2022 academic calendar will be presented to the school board at the April special board meeting.



HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Teacher Job Fairs

- Registered for the Education Career Expo April 14. This will be a virtual recruiting event with Texas A&M – Corpus Christie and Texas A&M – Kingsville.
- Working on dates and locations of other teacher job fairs to participate in for recruiting. Most of the job fairs will be virtual events

TASB Staffing Study

- Continue to collect and submit needed data

Emergency Paid Sick Leave for COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Many employees are applying for this as they complete their vaccinations
- We have received 24 requests so far

Substitutes

- Continuing to complete substitute orientation and hire-in additional substitutes weekly
- Distributing bags as subs come in with personal protective items – FB face mask, hand sanitizer, etc.

Contract Renewals

- April 29, 2021 Board Meeting – All teacher contracts

Current Posted Positions:

Professional

- Special Education Functional Academic Teacher – High School
- Special Education Teacher for Social Intervention/ SDGC – SDGC/ High School
- Special Education Teachers
- Police Officers
- Chief of Police
- High School ELA
- High School ELA & Asst. Softball Coach
- High School Principal
- Director of Finance

Auxiliary

- PE Aide – Intermediate



- Educational Aide – University Prep
- Special Education Aides
- Reading and Math Tutors
- Child Nutrition Positions
- Pest Control Specialist
- Day Custodian
- Night Custodian
- Grounds Maintenance Worker
- Bus Drivers
- Bus Aides
- Substitute Teachers

FBISD COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

Flour Bluff ISD, working in conjunction with the Corpus Christi Fire Department conducted a vaccine clinic in the district. Approximately 90 staff members registered to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The staff are scheduled to receive their second dose on April 23rd and will be held in-district.

A big thank you to Benavides ISD who provided the COVID-19 vaccinations and to the Corpus Christi Fire Department who administered the vaccines.



COVID-19 UPDATE

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 3 face to face students and 2 remote students who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

COVID-19 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://flourbluffschoools.net/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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



FBISD Calendar of Events

GoodFriday
FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021
DISTRICT WIDE HOLIDAY

Special Board Meeting - Team of Eight/Team Trust

When

Wednesday, April 21 st, 6pm

Where

FBISD Board Room

Special Board Meeting - Community Action Committee/Board of Trustee: Setting Belief Statements

When

Thursday, April 22nd, 6pm

Where

FBISD High School Cafeteria

Regular Meeting of the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees

When

Thursday, April 29th, 6pm

Where

FBISD 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



vsolizgarcia@flourbluffschoo...



(361)694-9205 (361)438-0160



flourbluffschoo...