



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES DISCUSS EARLY NOTICE INCENTIVES,
TUITION RATES AND ONLINE BOARD MEMBER TRAINING
DURING FEBRUARY MEETING**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, February 15, 2011, regular session, Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees discussed the district's recently announced Early Notice Incentive for contracted/certified employees that is being offered.

“An increasing number of school districts offer incentives to encourage employees to inform them of impending retirements and resignations earlier,” commented Skye Duckett, Director of Human Resources. “The benefits of knowing “early exit” or “early resignation” information are two-fold. First, it allows the district to determine what financial savings can be generated through attrition. Secondly, it helps a school district to know early on what their teaching position needs will be so that they can be more competitive in terms of recruiting and hiring the most qualified teachers.”

According to James Henry Russell, Superintendent of Schools, “the implementation of this new incentive will allow TISD to better forecast our needs for the 2011-12 budget and begin making the best determinations for our district in preparation for the expected budget shortfall that the State of Texas has projected. Our primary effort in all personnel reductions will be through the area of attrition. The Tiger Family’s willingness to tighten their belt and take on additional responsibilities will help us to achieve our goal.”

The Early Notice Incentive of \$500 is available to the first forty contracted/certified employees who submit their resignation or retirement letter by February 28.

In other business, Trustees approved the 2011-12 tuition rate for ineligible students to remain the same as it currently is for the 2010-11 school year. TISD establishes a tuition fee each year for students seeking enrollment that are

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ineligible for state funding. The annual rate is set according to the estimated Adjusted Basic Allotment the district expects to receive from the state. TISD's tuition rate for ineligible students for the 2011-12 school year will be \$4,968.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees was updated on available online continuing education opportunities through Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). Each member is responsible for receiving at least ten hours of continuing education in fulfillment of assessed needs. Board members may fulfill up to five of the required ten hours through online instruction, provided that the training is designed and offered by a registered provider, incorporates interactive activities that assess learning and provide feedback to the learner, and offers an opportunity for interaction with the instructor.

"The service that TASB offers board members is an efficient way to receive continued hours," stated, Wanda Boyette, Board President. "However, it does not replace the invaluable experience that each one of us receives when attending state conferences where we have the opportunity to collaborate with other school board members in specialized trainings."

Lastly, the TISD Board approved school calendar changes for the remainder of the year. With the loss of four instructional days due to inclement weather, TISD will make the following changes to the original calendar.

*As Bad Weather Make-Up days, Monday, February 21 and Friday, May 20 will now become Student and Staff Instructional days.

*To replace the loss of the Staff Instructional day slated for February 21, staff will now report to work on Friday, May 27 as their Staff Instructional Planning day.

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