



# PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES REVIEW 2011-12 BUDGET READING;**  
**APPROVE ELECTION FOR DISTRICT 4 POSITION**

**Texarkana, TX** – During their Tuesday, March 21, 2011, regular session, Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the First Reading of the 2011-2012 Budget.

“We typically begin the process of budget readings in March in order to approve final budgets in June,” commented Deidra Reeves, Chief Financial Officer. “This process gets us started in a direction, but as you know our final budget to be approved will be based upon what the legislative leaders ultimately decide. We have known and are anticipating budget shortfalls and are preparing accordingly. What we don’t know and may not know until June is the total amount of budget reductions that will need to be made.”

In preparation for varying reduction scenarios, TISD presented four possible budgets.

The first budget projection reviewed includes teacher step increases and features a \$199,244 deficit on a \$56.5 million budget and assumes that all current finance law remains as is before final decision of legislature.

The next three budget projections examined reflect senate proposals which forecast up to a \$4 billion shortfall in education over the next biennium.

“With what we are currently hearing on the Senate proposals, TISD anticipates potential reductions ranging from \$2.9 to \$3.9 million on a \$53 million budget,” continued Reeves. “We have prepared for the Board of Trustees three additional budget projections which reflect these potential levels of reduction depending upon what actions and final decisions we hear from the state.”

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Each level of reductions includes resignations, retirements and a range of other cost effective and efficient measures that can be enacted in order to meet the needed budget loss.

In additional business, Trustees approved the cancellation of elections for the District 2 and District 7 At-Large positions due to candidates being unopposed. An election will be held for the District 4 position with Cheryl Rogers and Jerry Chapman both seeking the seat that will be vacated by incumbent Donna Chatman.

“Our Board of Trustees is so blessed to have such a dynamic group of individuals working together for the betterment of education at TISD,” stated Wanda Boyette, Board President. “Dr. Grant and Scott Bruner, who are running unopposed, bring twenty-five years of board leadership and service to the table. Their talents are immeasurable and we are pleased that they will continue with us for the next three years.”

According to Boyette, “losing the talents of Donna Chatman in the District 4 position is difficult.” “We respect her decision to not run for reelection due to professional commitments and now see her role changing from governance to that of a better informed champion for public education in our community. Donna will continue to remain an invaluable asset to TISD.”

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