



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES FORMALLY APPROVES SUPERINTENDENT,
NAMES THS PRINCIPAL, APPROVES BUDGET FOR 2011-12
AND ANNOUNCES FOOD SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH TAMU-T**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, June 28, 2011 regular meeting, Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees formally approved the naming of Paul Norton as Superintendent.

“This is a responsibility that I don’t take lightly,” commented Paul Norton, newly named Superintendent of Schools. “I am looking forward to serving the Texarkana community and TISD in this new role. I welcome the new challenge and will work tirelessly with our Tiger Family of staff, parents and students in order to further build upon our remarkable school district and to continue to provide the highest level possible for a 21st century education.”

Norton began his career in education in 1996 with Pleasant Grove ISD. He came to TISD in 2001 as Associate Principal of Texas High School and was named Principal of THS in 2003 where he has served since that time. In 2005, he was named the Region VIII High School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Texas Tech University, as well as a Master of Science in Education from Texas A&M University – Texarkana along with Principal and Superintendent Certifications. Norton has been a member of Texas Association of Secondary School Principals since 1999 serving on their Board of Directors from 2005 to present and taking on the volunteer task of Assistant Coordinator and Coordinator for Region VIII. He has also been a member of National Association of Secondary School Principals since 2005.

An active member of the community, Norton has served as an American Red Cross volunteer, member of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce Membership Recruitment Committee, Texas A&M University – Texarkana Tuition Review

-MORE-

Committee, American Heart Association Heart Ball Silent Auction Co-Chairman, Texarkana College Tight Lies Rising Star Open Pro-Am Team Recruitment Committee Chairman and American Cancer Society Golf Tournament Co-Chairman and Team Recruitment Chairman. Additionally, Norton is a member of the Wilbur Smith Rotary Club and the Texas A&M University – Texarkana Alumni Association having served as Secretary, President-Elect and President.

Following the approval of Norton to Superintendent, the Board of Trustees approved Brad Bailey for the position of Texas High School Principal.

Bailey served as Principal for Paul Pewitt Elementary from 2005 – 2007. He joined TISD in 2007 as Assistant Principal of Texas High School and was named Associate Principal of THS in 2009. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from University of Arkansas – Monticello and holds a Master of Science in Education from Texas A&M University – Texarkana along with Principal and Superintendent Certifications.

In other business, Board members approved the budget and proposed tax rate for 2011-12.

“This year’s \$53.7 million budget reflects \$3.1 million in district and campus level reductions due to state funding shortfalls,” said Deidra Reeves, Chief Financial Officer. “As you know, we began preparing for the constraints of this year’s funding in January. Our entire staff worked together in finding reduction availabilities that could meet the necessary reductions for the 2011-12 school year.”

Budget information is based on the latest assumptions from the experts and from the State of Texas education revenue reduction of \$4.1 billion. “If any major changes should occur in final decisions from the legislature, we will have to come back and amend the budget when Special Session is completed and funding is finalized,” Reeves continued.

No change was made to TISD’s total tax rate which has remained the same since 2008. The 2011-12 proposed tax rate is represented by \$1.17 for Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and \$.169 for Interest & Sinking Funds (I&S) which is used to repay bonded indebtedness and other debts.

Lastly, the Board approved an agreement between TISD and Texas A&M University to operate and manage the food service and catering for TAMU-T.

“Following TAMU-T’s request for proposals to operate their food service needs, TISD eagerly applied and was selected as the finalist,” stated Ken Reese, Chief Operating Officer. “This newly developed aspect of the TISD-TAMU-T

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partnership allows us to continue efforts in our PK-16 collaboration. TISD will work hand-in-hand with TAMU-T in their daily food service operations in order to provide quality, nutritional meals for students.”

TISD currently manages food services operations for seven area school districts – DeKalb ISD, Bloomburg ISD, Redwater ISD, Linden-Kildare CISD, New Boston ISD, Red Lick ISD and Malta ISD. With the TAMU-T contract, TISD will take management responsibility for their dormitory meal plans, student grill and special event catering needs.

“We have an unbelievable team in our food service department, led by Beth Carson. Under her direction, TISD has become the leader in successful food service management featuring the most cost effective measures,” shared Reese.

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