



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 15, 2011

**CONTACT:**

Tina Veal-Gooch  
Director of Public Relations  
903.794.3651 ext. 1013

**TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUT PLANS IN PLACE FOR REDISTRICTING  
AND HEAR REPORT ON 2010-11 FINANCIAL AUDIT**

**Texarkana, TX** – During their Tuesday, November 15, 2011 regular session, Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees received information on their Initial Assessment Report for redistricting and heard the results of the District’s fiscal year 2011 annual financial audit.

The Initial Assessment Report for redistricting was given by the firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta from Austin, Texas. Their review of the recently released 2010 Census population and demographic data for TISD show the trustee districts sufficiently out of population balance with a total maximum deviation of 14.18% which falls out of compliance with the “one person-one vote” requirement of the U.S. Constitution. Given that, redistricting is recommended in order to bring them into balance for use in the 2012 election cycle.

As part of their action items, TISD Board of Trustees adopted redistricting guidelines and approved traditional redistricting criteria which comply with the Voting Rights Act and all other relevant laws and which will serve as the framework in guiding the district to evaluate and measure their proposed plan.

The Board was presented two redistricting plans for consideration both which bring total maximum deviation to under 10%. Plan A features a total maximum deviation of 9.1% and will essentially adjust blocks in Districts 1 and 3. Plan B features a total maximum deviation of 6.45% and will adjust Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5.

TISD Board of Trustees set the public hearing on realigning trustee districts for Tuesday, November 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the TISD Administrative Offices, 4241 Summerhill Road. During this time, information on the redistricting plans will be presented and any questions answered for the general public. Plans are also available on the district’s website at [www.txkisd.net](http://www.txkisd.net) and questions can be emailed to [tisdpr@txkisd.net](mailto:tisdpr@txkisd.net).

**-MORE-**

In additional business, board members heard the results of the District's fiscal year 2010-11 annual financial audit, presented by Mason Andres, CPA of Thomas & Thomas, LLP.

For the fiscal year, the District ended with a fund balance of \$13 million, an increase of \$275,124 over the previous year. The fund balance at the end of 2010-11 was 27% of expenditures.

Auditors gave a clean opinion with no findings on the District's accounting procedures and determined that the District continues to maintain sound financial practices.

"I am very proud of the level that we have achieved in our fund balance and in maintaining a strong financial record," said Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools. "Given the current position on state funding for local districts, it is important that we maintain a fund balance that is strong and healthy to assist us in the lean times. It also is one of the lead indicators that financial credit rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's and Moody's review each time they issue a rating on the district."

**###**