



PRESS RELEASE

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TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE TECHKNO DIRECTORS AND REDISTRICTING MAP

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, December 6, 2011 regular session, Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees appointed directors to the future TechKno program and finalized redistricting plans.

TechKno will become a collaborative non-profit joint venture between TISD, Region VIII Education Service Center and Kids at Hope. Seven board members will serve as the guiding directors of the program whose purpose will be to explore the opportunities to market the KnoMi social networking software to school districts throughout the country. Four of the directors will represent TISD. They are: Paul Norton, Superintendent; Autumn Thomas, Deputy Superintendent; Ken Reese; Chief Operating Officer; and Jo Ann Rice, Assistant Superintendent for Student & Community Development.

KnoMi was created in 2009 by TISD in support of their district belief statement that a personalized education maximizes the potential in every student. The program centers on students owning their education by utilizing an individualized plan. Additionally, the KnoMi curriculum teaches students how to set goals through a teaching strategy called SMART for Specific Measurable Attainable Realistic and Timely. Through goal setting, students can create long term goals and learn how to clearly define what must be done today to realize those goals. Other features include subscription sites for school clubs, athletic events, universities and local non-profit organizations, as well as social networking components to keep student engaged.

“We believe in the KnoMi program and have been excited by the interest level of other school districts in wanting to create the same program for their district, purchase the software or have TISD manage the program for them,” said Ken Reese, Chief Operating Officer. “The partnership with Region VII Education Service Center and Kids at Hope will allow us to move forward in marketing KnoMi within the state and the U.S. It is our hope that we will be strengthened by collectively working together vs. individually,” he continued.

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In other business, TISD finalized their redistricting map by adopting the approved plan that was voted on during their last meeting on November 15.

Based upon the 2010 Census population and demographic data for TISD, the trustee districts were 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. The newly adopted map, which will bring them into the 10% compliance balance, features a total maximum deviation of 9.1% and essentially adjusts blocks in Districts 1 and 3.

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