



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**TISD BOARD ADDRESSES ATTENDANCE WAIVER,  
POLICY UPDATES & BUDGET READING FOR 2012-13**

**Texarkana, TX** – During their Tuesday, April 17, 2012 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees addressed a low attendance day waiver, policy updates and were presented the First Reading of the 2012-13 budget.

Board members approved the submission of a low attendance day waiver to Texas Education Agency for the bad weather day experience on February 13, 2012. The Texas Education Agency allows schools to apply for a waiver for low attendance due to health, weather or safety when the attendance is lower than the state threshold of ten percentage points less than the district's prior year average attendance. Approved days are not counted in the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) calculation for the district.

Additionally, several policies were updated based upon the recent Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Policy Update 93 that was distributed in March and which contain the most current reflection of the law. One policy of interest is FFI (Local) which addresses student welfare freedom from bullying. "Changes to this policy essentially adds and adapts to what we already have in place but now addresses expression through electronic means," shared Autumn Thomas, Deputy Superintendent. "The policy will be effective immediately but as we move forward for the 2012-13 school year, we will have more extensive training for our staff on the subject matter." Policy information will be placed in the student and employee handbooks as well as the district improvement plan.

In other business, Board members approved the refinancing of a fixed-rate 15-year loan to take advantage of a considerably lower rate of 2.75% which will allow the District to save \$800,000 over the total life of the loan.

Lastly, the Board was presented the First Reading of the 2012-2013 budget by Chief Financial Officer Deidra Reeves.

"Our budgeting process for the upcoming year essentially starts in February by working directly with our campus principals and departments on

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what their anticipated needs will be for the upcoming year,” she commented. “Currently, our appraised values from the county are unknown so those have been factored into this First Reading as they were last year.”

The presented projection features a \$303,450 deficit on a \$54 million budget and includes teacher step increases. No change will be made to TISD’s total tax rate which has remained the same since 2008. The 2012-13 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.

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