



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 26, 2012

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**BUDGET, TAX RATE AND COMPENSATION PLAN CONSIDERED
DURING TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, June 26, 2012 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the budget and compensation plan for 2012-13. A hearing was held on the proposed tax rate.

“Going into our budget for the upcoming year, we factored in three things: funding from the State of Texas would remain fixed at the biennium reductions of \$3.1 million based on state shortfalls; appraised values would remain flat; and our average daily attendance projections would remain on par with last year,” commented Deidra Reeves, Chief Financial Officer.

“As a collective group, our campuses and departments have done a great job in maintaining the budget from last year and in determining their projected staffing and non-payroll needs for the upcoming year,” Reeves continued.

This year’s \$54.7 million budget is essentially break-even while including teacher step increases in salary plus a 3% of mid-point range increase for all other professional, paraprofessional, instructional technology and auxiliary employees.

“We continually strive to make the most of our taxpayer dollars and have been successful in effectively managing our annual budget and general fund so that we can offer these increases to our staff and still maintain the same tax rate,” shared Autumn Thomas, Deputy Superintendent. “The job that is done daily by members of our Tiger Family is essential to the success of our students and our district.”

No change is being proposed to the TISD’s total tax rate which has remained the same since 2008 and 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. Final approval of the tax rate will be given during the August 2012 Board of Trustees meeting.

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The newly approved compensation plan includes teacher step increases, 3% of mid-point range increases for all other employees and adjustments to the minimum, midpoint and maximum paygrade levels.

“Our annual review of salaries and job categories enables us to not only attract the brightest and best to TISD but to also remain competitive with labor markets in order to recruit and retain highly qualified personnel,” stated Thomas.

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