



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD APPROVES FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT
WITH TEXARKANA COLLEGE; SETS STUDENT MEAL PRICES FOR 2011-12**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, July 19, 2011, regular meeting, Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees approved a Food Service Management agreement with Texarkana College, as well as meal prices for the 2011-12 school year.

The Food Service Management agreement with Texarkana College (TC) is for one year starting August 1, 2011 and continues through June 30, 2012. The agreement will automatically renew for subsequent school years unless renegotiated or terminated by either party prior to the start of the new school year. Texarkana College is expected to vote on the agreement during their July 26, 2011 Board of Trustees meeting.

With the approved contract, TISD will provide, direct and conduct food preparation for TC in the Bulldog Bistro and cater all events for the college. TISD currently serves as food service manager for many area school districts - DeKalb ISD, Bloomburg ISD, Redwater ISD, Linden-Kildare CISD, New Boston ISD, Red Lick ISD and Malta ISD. Additionally, they were recently awarded the management contract for food services at Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

“We are pleased to develop this management partnership with Texarkana College,” stated Paul Norton, Superintendent. “I believe that our food service department has proven to be an effective and efficient operating manager for area school districts and have no doubt that we can do the same for TC. The more often that area institutions can collaborate, the better it is overall for students, the community and taxpayers.”

“No one knows food service like TISD,” commented James Henry Russell, President of Texarkana College. “They are second to none in quality and efficiency. For Texarkana College, we are looking for every efficiency that we can possibly find. I cannot think of a better cooperative opportunity than this for our two institutions. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this with the TC Board of Trustees on July 26 as they consider it for possible action.”

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In other business, TISD approved meal price increases for the 2011-12 school year. Meal pricing will be: Breakfast \$1.50 (up \$.15), Elementary Lunch \$2.00 (up \$.25) and Middle/High School Lunch \$2.10 (up \$.25).

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), “the Consumer Price Index for all food is projected to increase 3 to 4 percent. Although food price inflation was relatively weak for most of 2009 and 2010, cost pressures on wholesale and retail food prices due to higher food commodity and energy prices, along with strengthening global food demand, have pushed inflation projections for 2011 upward.”

“We know that increases, such as this, are difficult in today’s economic climate,” commented Ken Reese, Chief Operating Officer. “School food authorities aim to be self-sufficient through revenue received from paid school meals and state and federal government reimbursements versus the district’s school budget,” he added.

“Our school meal pricing structure has not changed since 2008. This approved increase will assist us in covering the additional food costs that are occurring and continue to allow us to maintain quality, affordable meals for students.”

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