



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE 2011-12 TAX RATE;
ANNOUNCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANT FOR THREE CAMPUSES**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, August 16, 2011 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees approved the adoption of a \$1.339 tax rate for 2011-12. The total 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.

“TISD is proud that we have been able to keep our tax rate the same for the last four years. As a country, state and city, we are in a most difficult economic time and it is our hope that maintaining this rate will offer some tax relief back to the taxpayers,” stated Wanda Boyette, President of the TISD Board of Trustees. “Our ability to carry forward the same tax rate is a direct result of our continued growth in student enrollment despite the loss of \$3 million in state funding and appraised values remaining flat.”

“I am glad that our Board of Trustees has chosen to keep the same conservative tax rate that we have had since 2008,” commented Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools. “This rate, together with our projected increase in student enrollment, will allow TISD to sustain our efforts in providing first-rate facilities and countless academic offerings for our students that our parents have come to expect.”

In other business, TISD was awarded a \$28,000 Energy Efficiency grant from the State Energy Conservation Office. Grant funds will be coupled with a \$7,300 rebate from the AEP SWEPCO SMART Source Solar PV Program and will be used for the installation of a solar PV system at Morriss Elementary School and for lighting retrofits in the Nash Elementary and Westlawn Elementary gymnasiums.

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“The solar PV system at Morriss Elementary is a perfect tie-in with our efforts in STEM education at that campus,” shared Georgette Duke, Director of Risk Management & Child Care Services. “Students will have the opportunity to see the system’s construction and to observe how much power it is producing through the installed monitoring system.”

“For our Nash and Westlawn campuses, we will replace twenty-six 400-watt fixtures with eight four-lamp high output fixtures that will ultimately result in an \$880 annual savings between the two schools,” continued Duke.

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