



# PRESS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

Tina Veal-Gooch  
Director of Public Relations  
903.794.3651 ext. 1013

**TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES HEAR EXTRACURRICULAR & ATHLETIC REPORT  
FOR THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR; APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF  
TEXARKANA, TEXAS ON GEORGE DOBSON BASEBALL FIELD**

**Texarkana, TX** – During their Tuesday, July 17, 2012 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees heard reports on extracurricular and athletic involvement for the 2011-12 school year.

Eighty-nine percent of the Texas Middle School student body participated in extracurricular activities ranging from athletics to performance programs to clubs and organizations. The breakdown by grade was 96% participation in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 94% participation in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 80% participation in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Texas Middle School athletic offerings include swim, tennis, soccer and golf with performance programs of band, guitar, choir and piano being offered. They round out their extracurricular programming with 20 clubs and organizations available for students to participate in along with UIL Academic programming.

For Texas High School, 67% of all students participated in at least one activity with the participation percentage for grades 9 thru 12 at the same level. THS offers 23 athletic programs to students along with five performance courses, six activity courses and 30 clubs and organizations for students to be involved in, including UIL Academics which feature opportunities in 17 academic areas.

Athletic achievements for the 2011-12 year showed 705 students participating in one or more athletic programs with 15 student athletes receiving scholarships to play at the collegiate level in tennis, basketball, volleyball, swim, track and football. Program achievements included:

Swim and Tennis Mixed Doubles – District Champions, Regional Champions  
& State Qualifiers

Powerlifting – Regional Qualifier & State Qualifier

Team Tennis – District Champions & Regional Qualifiers

Boys Golf – Regional Qualifier

Boys Track, Football, Girls Golf, Girls Soccer, Girls Track

& Softball – District Champions

Baseball, Boys Soccer, Girls Basketball & Volleyball – Bi-District Qualifiers

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“Extracurricular activities play an important role in educational experiences,” commented Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools. “They allow students the opportunity to excel in something other than academics which can make a huge difference in self-esteem and teaches real-world skills that may possibly lead to lifelong interests and/or careers.” “Studies have shown that students who are involved in extracurricular activities have a strong sense of purpose and self-esteem and understand the importance of making a difference in their community and contributing to society.”

In other business, Board members approved for the district to move forward with a five-year agreement with the City of Texarkana, Texas on maintenance and use of the George Dobson Baseball Field at Spring Lake Park.

“With the recent elimination of Texarkana College Bulldog Baseball, TISD has requested first rights on use of the field with the understanding that we will assume maintenance of the field, as well,” stated Ken Reese, Chief Operations Officer. “We have the respective equipment and manpower to handle this task and in doing so can offer lower maintenance costs to the City.”

The tentative agreement is that the City will pay to TISD \$9,000 per year as a maintenance fee with TISD maintaining the George Dobson Baseball Field Complex including mowing the grass, maintaining the baseball field, handling all scheduling for the field, general cleanup of the parking lot, fence and perimeters and bleachers. In return, TISD receives first right of use of the field.

Without approval from the City, TISD cannot make any changes to the structure of the facility, material changes to the facility or erect additional buildings on the grounds.

The City will continue to handle all actual repairs for the field including lights, walls and bleachers.

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