



PRESS RELEASE

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**TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES TALK FINANCIAL RESOURCES,
STRATEGIC PLANNING, APPRAISAL DISTRICT
AND VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT DURING REGULAR MEETING**

Texarkana, TX – During their Tuesday, September 17, 2013 regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees held a public hearing on the Texas Education Agency Schools FIRST report, elected to move forward on a year-long strategic planning process, nominated representatives to the Bowie Central Appraisal District Board and were updated on business and volunteer involvement for the previous school year.

A public hearing was held to announce findings from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Schools FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas). Nanette Power, Executive Director of Quality Assurance, reported that TISD has received the rating of Superior Achievement for quality performance in the management of school districts' financial resources.

“For the eleventh straight year, TISD has achieved the highest possible rating. Of the 20 indicators, TISD scored a perfect 70 out of a possible 70 points,” she shared. “TISD continues to make efficient use of their resources and maintain a balanced budget. This rating is reflective of those efforts.”

In other business, Trustees approved TISD moving forward on a strategic planning process with Cambridge Strategic Services. The year-long process will allow TISD to concentrate its efforts and resources on determining school district short-term and long-term goals.

“This process is strongly dependent upon community and parental involvement in an effort to see what our goals and initiatives should be for the next five, ten years plus,” commented Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools. “We will look at what challenges our district faces, what aspirations do we want to achieve, what limitations are there and how we can enhance our resources to transform TISD for the future.”

Cambridge is the leading provider of strategic planning for educational organization and is a sole source provider of the only model that effectively leads educational organizations toward their strategic intent.

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Trustees appointed Wanda Boyette and Paul Miller as District Directors to the Bowie Central Appraisal District Board for a two-year term. Based upon the number of votes allotted by the Appraisal Board, TISD typically will fill two seats of the five-member board. The Bowie Central Appraisal District is responsible for setting the assessed value of all property in Bowie County and collecting the taxes levied by the taxing entities.

Lastly, Jo Ann Rice, Assistant Superintendent for Student & Community Development, reported that during the 2012-13 school year a total of 204 area business partnered with TISD through the Partners In Education (PIE) Program. Collectively, PIE members donated volunteer services, monetary and in-kind contributions totaling \$878,055. Within the TISD Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) Program, 753 persons volunteered during the year contributing an estimated 39,598 hours of volunteer efforts on TISD campuses.

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