



Texarkana
Independent School District

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**DISTRICT-WIDE PAINTING, CAMPUS KITCHEN RENOVATION,
MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE AND COMMUNITY BASED ASSESSMENT SURVEY
KEY TOPICS FOR MARCH TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Texarkana, TX – The Tuesday, March 21, 2017 regular session of the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees addressed district-wide painting improvements, kitchen remodel for Westlawn Elementary, Program of Studies & Course Description Guide for Texas Middle School and a Community Based Assessment Survey for parents, staff, students and community.

Trustees approved district-wide painting improvements for summer 2017 in the amount of \$649,921 for all eight elementary campuses on the interior and exterior level. The competitive sealed proposal was awarded to Charlie Williams Painting and is being funded with remaining monies from the November 2014 bond election. During the past several years, TISD has implemented a preventative maintenance cycle to better meet the aesthetic needs of each facility.

Also approved was \$554,880 to Phillips & Sons Refrigeration for all kitchen equipment needed for the complete kitchen renovation at Westlawn Elementary School. The renovation will be a summer 2017 project with an estimated budget of \$1 million. Although, there have been several updates to the kitchen over the years, the last full kitchen renovation for the campus was in 1960. Funding will be through the Child Nutrition program budget.

In other business, the Texas Middle School Program of Studies & Course Description Guide for 2017-18 was presented. Changes include the completion of a local required readiness assessment for entrance to Pre-AP accelerated math courses and Pre-AP 6th and 7th grade social studies courses.

New courses for the upcoming school year include TMS Voices (a combination of Performance Choir and Glee), Cheer Intermediate 7, Beginning String Orchestra 7, Technical Theatre Fundamentals 8 and Drill Team Prep 8. Additionally, there will be new courses for Synergistic Technology 6 and 7 and Introduction to Robotics Programming & Design for 6 and 7 in order to complete the technology requirements for the STEM Career Academy.

Texas Middle School now offers 145 courses for students with 31 Pre-AP courses available.

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The final report of the evening was on the K12 *Insight* Community Based Assessment Survey which is being done to ensure that TISD's decisions are aligned with community priorities.

The survey is open to all parents, employees, students and community members. Survey questions address teaching and learning, student opportunities, school culture and climate, facilities and operations.

"To ensure we're setting the right priorities for our schools, we want to engage every community member in an honest conversation about how we can best prepare our students for the future," said Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools.

Here are the details:

*Online survey open from Tuesday, March 21, through Tuesday, April 4;

*Compatible with any computer, tablet or smartphone;

*Parents and community members can take the survey at www.k12insight.com/TISD/communitysurvey;

*Paper surveys available upon request at each campus;

*Surveys available in English and Spanish.

TISD has partnered with independent research and communications firm K12 *Insight* to administer the survey and compile the results. K12 *Insight* will be sending email invitations to all who have a current address on file with the district. Email address will not be used for any other purpose.

All responses are strictly confidential. No one at the district level will know who participated or be able to connect respondents to their answers. K12 *Insight's* final reports will share only the overall findings, not individual comments or responses. Data collected will be used by district leadership as they make decisions for the district, engage in strategic planning and share information with the community as an effort to close the loop with different stakeholders.

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