



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**PAUL MILLER SELECTED  
TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF AT-LARGE DISTRICT 6 POSITION  
FOR TISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES;  
DISTRICT RECEIVES SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT  
WITH STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SYSTEM**



**Texarkana, TX** – During their Tuesday, September 15, 2009 regular session for Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees, Paul Miller was unanimously appointed to fill the unexpired term of Greg Pulido who served in the At-Large position for District 6.

Mr. Pulido tendered his letter of resignation during the Monday, August 17, 2009 regular session of the TISD Board of Trustees. Following his resignation announcement, Letters of Interest were accepted from the community for the At-Large vacancy thru August 31. Mr. Miller's appointment will fill the position until an election is held in May 2010 to fill the remainder of the vacancy which runs through May 2012.

"Paul Miller has served not only this district, but the entire Texarkana community his entire life," commented James Henry Russell, Superintendent of Schools. "I cannot think of a better person, along with his wife Bonnie, that give more of themselves than these two and we are so honored to have the opportunity that Mr. Miller will now serve on the TISD Board of Trustees and help guide our district into the future."

"I am honored to have been selected to serve on the TISD Board of Trustees, stated Paul Miller. "The current Board has done a remarkable job in guiding the district to great heights over the last several years. I hope that I am able to play a part in the continuing success of the district and its students."

Mr. Miller is an alumnus of Texas High School graduating in 1976. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of Houston in 1980 and from the University of Texas in 1983 with a Doctor of Jurisprudence with Honors.

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Miller began his legal career with the firm of Hubbard, Patton, Peek, Haltom & Roberts in 1983 where he remained until 1991 at which time he became a partner in the law firm of Miller, James, Miller, Hornsby, LLP. His practice is primarily civil trial work in the defending of physicians, hospitals, product manufacturers and retail business against allegations of negligence.

He has been active with the Texarkana Independent School District during the past several years as President of the Texas High Athletic Booster Club since 2002 and in the establishment of the Texarkana Public Schools Foundation, serving as the first president for the organization.

Miller is married to Bonnie, also a Texas High School graduate and former teacher at Nash Elementary School. They have three children who have or are currently attending TISD schools – Julie, a 2004 graduate; Stephen, a 2006 graduate; and Laura who will graduate in 2011.

Mr. Miller will be sworn in during the October 20, 2009 regular session of the TISD Board of Directors.

In other business, officials announced that the district received a rating of “Superior Achievement” under Texas’ Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system for the seventh year in a row. The Superior Achievement rating is the state’s highest, demonstrating the quality of TISD’s financial management and reporting system. The announced rating was based on financial results from the 2007-08 fiscal year.

This is the seventh year of Schools FIRST (Financial Accountability Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 1999. The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of school districts’ financial resources, a goal made more significant due to the complexity of accounting associated with Texas’ school finance system.

“TISD’s effort in being cost-effective, cost-efficient and accountable for our taxpayers’ dollars is an important task that we strive daily to deliver,” said Deidra Reeves, Chief Financial Officer. “Receiving the Superior Achievement Rating for the seventh year in a row is evident of our excellence in managing and reporting taxpayer dollars and something that we take great pride in.”

The Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being “Superior Achievement,” followed by “Above-Standard Achievement,” “Standard Achievement” and Substandard Achievement.” Districts with serious data quality problems may receive the additional rating of “Suspended-Data Quality.” Districts that receive the “Substandard Achievement” or “Suspended – Data Quality” ratings under Schools FIRST must file a corrective action plan with the Texas Education Agency.

