



## Superintendent's Message

In the same way that students are graded on their progress in the classroom, the state grades each district using their own report card-- the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS). This system rates every school in the state of Texas by using 36 indicators tied to student achievement.

For the 2004-05 school year, Bastrop ISD was rated "Academically Acceptable," with no campuses receiving an "Unacceptable" rating. We have 5 campuses that were "Recognized," and the rest of our campuses were rated "Acceptable."

While we continue to strive to improve in each academic area, it is important to note that Bastrop students are receiving test scores comparable to those in our neighboring districts. Likewise, the number of students taking college entrance exams and Advanced Placement courses for college credit also compares favorably.

Our students are truly making academic strides in the classroom. I know that each one of you are working extremely hard to develop the success of the "whole" child. Through participation in food drives, charitable organizations, community beautification projects and, most recently, the hurricane relief efforts, students are learning the significance of giving back to the community.

I am proud of our Bastrop students. They are meeting their academic challenges, and they are developing into caring members of the community. As I visit the schools across the district, I am very encouraged that as a district we have an extremely bright future.

As we wind down another year, I would like to wish our students, parents, teachers, staff and community a very happy and healthy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

Roderick Emanuel  
Superintendent of Schools

*"BISD – Family Friendly Schools and a Culture of High Achievement"*

## Holiday Hours for Bastrop ISD

The Bastrop Independent School District Administrative offices will be closed for the Winter Break from Monday, December 19, 2005 through Friday, December 30, 2005. BISD students will be out from Friday, December 16, 2005 through Monday, January 2, 2006.

The District Administration offices will resume normal hours beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 2, 2006. Bastrop ISD classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

### Bastrop ISD Board of Trustees

## DECEMBER MEETING

December 13, 2005  
6:30 p.m.

906 Farm Street  
Bastrop, TX 78602

## Deputy Superintendent Becky Bunte Sets Retirement Date Sandra Callahan Named CFO

Rebecca "Becky" Bunte, Deputy Superintendent for Bastrop ISD has announced that she will retire on December 16, 2005 with 30 years of service in Bastrop County Schools.



"Bastrop ISD has been my life for over 13 years. I have always said that I hoped to retire when things were going great, so I guess this is the time. We just had a successful bond issue, we are financially sound and we had more Academically Recognized campuses than ever. Leaving such wonderful administration, board and fellow BISD friends will not be easy. It still does not seem real that I am retiring. After over 30 years of the pressures of school business, it is going to be a big adjustment for me," stated Becky Bunte.

Mrs. Bunte graduated from Smithville High School and attended St. Edward's University where she obtained her Accounting degree.

Mrs. Bunte, a Bastrop County native, began her career with Smithville ISD in 1975 as a tax clerk two weeks after she graduated from Smithville High School. By 1979, she was responsible for all accounting functions in Smithville ISD. As Business Manager in Smithville, she also had the responsibilities of maintenance, food service, transportation, technology and federal programs. In 1992, Bastrop ISD gave her the opportunity to work 13 miles down the road as the Director of Budget and Finance. In 1999, she became the Assistant Superintendent of Budget and Finance and was later given the title of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the district. In 2002, she was named Deputy Superintendent.

Becky is married to Mark Bunte, who also plans on retiring in December from Bastrop ISD. Becky Bunte stated, "Mark and I plan to travel, fish and hunt as much as possible. I have never been able to spend extended time with my family and really want to make up for some lost time. I have worked hard, and now plan on playing just as hard. Life is short and I want to make sure I have the time to enjoy it."

Becky and Mark have one daughter, Melinda Anderson, who is a Speech Pathologist at Lost Pines Elementary.

With the announcement of Becky Bunte's retirement, questions arose regarding the responsibilities and duties that would now be unclaimed.

During the October 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, Sandra Callahan answered that question being announced as the new Chief Financial Officer. Callahan will assume the financial aspects of Bunte's position.

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Mrs. Callahan is a native Bastropian. She graduated from Bastrop High School and attended the University of Texas at Austin where she received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting.

Mrs. Callahan has dedicated her entire career to Bastrop ISD. She began working for the district in 1984 in the tax office and later worked in payroll for many years. In 1999 after receiving her accounting degree she became the Manager of Information Systems and most recently worked as the Director of Budget and MIS.

Sandra is married to Cass Callahan and they have two children – Blake who is a Junior at Bastrop High School and Ruby who is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Mina Elementary School.



### At the Board Table

The Bastrop Independent School Board met November 15th. At the meeting, trustees amended the dress code policy, approved the purchase of laptop computers for the Bastrop High School, approved the order to issue Bastrop ISD Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2005-A and approved the order to issue Bastrop ISD Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2005-B.

#### Open Forum

- Dr. Vera Preston-Jaeger addressed the Board concerning the dress code.
- Leslie Barnhart addressed the Board due to her son's teachers not notifying her when her son is missing assignments after she has asked. She also addressed the dress code policy.
- Carey Mortensen addressed the Board on the policy of male's hair length.
- Osce Traweek addressed the Board on the dress code policy.
- Katie Nielsen addressed the Board on the dress code policy, the lack of a sex education program at BHS, the limited arts program and the lack of preventative measures in place for the truancy issue.
- Vickie Nielsen addressed the Board on the dress code policy, she would like district to consider uniforms.
- Shane Miller addressed the Board on the dress code policy.
- Tyler Barron addressed the Board on the dress code policy.
- Kyle Shelton addressed the Board on the dress code policy.
- Kathy Metcalf addressed the Board on the dress code policy.

#### Superintendent's Report

- Financial Report—interest rates continue to climb, tax statements out late this year, the district requested an audit of its total taxable values and the district should see over \$700,000 in additional state aid, Report from West, Davis & Company on 2004-05 Audit— district is financially sound, best audit that he's seen
- Personal Report—information was provided to the Board, there was no discussion
- Update on BHS Renovations and Additions Program— approved initial schematic design for the BHS renovations and additions program

## Mark Your Calendar December



- 3 UIL Tournament @ CCMS  
UIL Tournament @ Taylor - CCIS
- 5-10 RRE PTA Reindeer Lane Christmas Store Open
- 5-9 CCMS Book Fair
- 5 BHS Winter Band Concert 6:30 pm
- 6 CCMS Band Concert 7:00 Cafeteria  
Choir/Dance/Theatre Concert @ BMS 6:30  
BIS Winter Concert 6:30 Cafeteria
- 7 RRE 2nd Grade field trip to Nutcracker
- 8 BHS Percussion & Jazz Ensemble Concert 6:30  
BBE PTA General Meeting 5:30
- 9 FFA Sweetheart Dance @ BHS 7 pm
- 10 RRE PTA Breakfast w/Santa  
RRE Coats for Kids Distribution
- 13 Board of Trustees Meeting  
BMS Band Winter Concert 6:30 pm Cafeteria  
Mina Winter Musical  
CCIS Choir/Band Concert 7:00 pm Cafeteria
- 15 End 3rd Six Weeks (Gr 7-12)  
End 2nd Nine Weeks (Gr PK-6)
- 16 Student Holiday
- 19-30 Staff & Student Holiday

## January

- 2 Student Holiday
- 3 Begin 4th Six Weeks (Gr 7-12)  
Begin 3rd Nine Weeks (Gr PK-6)
- 9 BHS Football banquet @ BHS Commons
- 12 Solo & Ensemble Contest @ BHS 4:00 pm
- 16 Staff & Student Holiday - MLK Day
- 17 Board of Trustees Meeting

#### Board Business

During the November 15th Board Meeting, trustees also:

- Approved the Resolution Voting on Candidates for the Bastrop Central Appraisal District Board of Directors
- Approved the Demographic Study Contract and Budget Amendment
- Approved the adoption of AN ORDER authorizing the issuance of "BASTROP INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT UNLIMITED TAX SCHOOL BUILDING BONDS, SERIES 2005-A"; specifying the terms and features of said bonds; levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax for the payment of said bonds; and resolving other matters incident and related to the issuance, sale, payment and delivery of said bonds, including the approval and execution of a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement and a Bond Purchase Agreement and the approval and distribution of an Official Statement pertaining thereto
- Approved the adoption of AN ORDER authorizing the issuance of 'BASTROP INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT UNLIMITED TAX REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2005-B'; specifying the terms and features of said bonds; levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax for the payment of said bonds; providing for the refunding of certain outstanding bonds of the District; and resolving other matters incident and related to the issuance, sale, payment and delivery of said Bonds, Including the approval and execution of a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement, a Bond Purchase Agreement and a Special Escrow Agreement and the approval and distribution of an Official Statement
- Approved the purchase of Laptop Computers for Bastrop High School

# BASTROP



# BEARS

## TEA Changes BISD Accountability Ratings

The Texas Education Agency has accepted Bastrop ISD's appeal for the 2004-2005 Accountability Ratings and has thus named Cedar Creek Elementary and Lost Pines Elementary as *Recognized Campuses*. The appeal has also brought Bastrop Middle School and Bastrop High School from *Academically Unacceptable* to *Academically Acceptable*.

The appeal was granted due to a special situation. BISD requested reconsideration for the State-Developed Alternative Assessment II (SDAA II) on the basis that setting admission, review and dismissal expectations were difficult in the first year of the SDAA II assessment, and, therefore do not fairly reflect the academic performance of these campuses. During the 2004-2005 school year, the SDAA II, a TAKS-aligned exam given to thousands of special education students in grades 3-10, was used for the first time. The SDAA II is more comprehensive than its predecessor, the SDAA. It was also the first time this type of exam was given in grades 9 and 10. Because of federal requirements, educators were forced to immediately set passing standards or expectations on the test for every student who took it. Previously, the first year was used as a baseline measure and growth measures or passing standards were not set for individual students until the second year.

The *2005 Accountability Manual* states that other information available to the agency about special education students may be used in evaluating SDAA II appeals. BISD's Performance-Based Monitoring (PBM) indicators pertaining to special education were examined in conjunction with the supporting documentation provided by the district. The district's performance on the PBMAS indicators related to special education was considered, and with that it was determined that the data did not preclude elevating BISD's rating and the appeal was granted.

This announcement brings BISD to five *Recognized Campuses* and seven *Acceptable Campuses*. Overall, the district has received an acceptable rating.

### District Officials Look to Parents to Increase ADA

As of the 2004-2005 PEIMS reporting period, the student enrollment for the academic year stands at 7,784. This figure represents an estimated 2.9 percent increase from the 2003-2004 enrollment of 7,565. With each passing day Bastrop ISD continues to have record setting student enrollment numbers.

However, it is important to note that as a district our average daily attendance (ADA) was only 94.8 percent in 2004-05. If the district were to increase our 2005-06 ADA by one percent, it would yield an increase of \$342,424 additional dollars. As a district, we are asking for parent support to help insure that their child(ren) are getting to school everyday.

For more information about the districts ADA, please contact Chief Financial Officer, Sandra Callahan at 321-2292.

Check out the Bastrop ISD Website at :

**WWW.BASTROP.ISD.TENET.EDU**

## Student Achievement

- **Commended Students in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program** - - Garry Blasig, Bastrop High School Principal announced that Kelsey Zimmerman has been named Commended Student in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to this scholastically talented senior.
- Bastrop High School senior, Katherine Sweaney has been announced as a **Scholar** in the **2005-06 National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP)**.
- The **Bear Football** team made its way to the playoffs. The Bears met Leander in the first round of action and fought a tough battle, but fell 38-6.



- Christine Hansen, Bastrop Intermediate School and Bastrop Middle School Gifted and Talented Teacher, will be honored in the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. This entitles her biography to be included in the upcoming edition. A former student nominated Hansen last spring.
- Cedar Creek Elementary art teacher Virginia Johnson will be honored in the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* also.
- Due to the accepted appeal by the TEA, Bastrop ISD now has five *Recognized Campuses* and seven *Acceptable Campuses*. Overall, the district has received an acceptable rating.

### Job Openings

To apply for a teaching position, apply on-line at [www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu). All other applicants may contact BISD Human Resources for an application. All applications are located at the Human Resources Office, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, TX.

BISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

POSITION	SITE	SALARY
PE Teacher	CCE	\$33,010 to \$53,324
Resource Teacher	BMS	\$33,010 to \$53,324
Science/ Social Studies Teacher	CCIS	\$33,010 to \$53,324
PE Teacher/Girl's Athletics	CCMS	\$33,010 to \$53,324
Counselor	BHS	\$40,123 to \$60,153
English Teacher	BHS	\$33,010 to \$53,324
Special Ed. Assistant	BHS	\$8.34 - 12.51 per hr
Staff Accountant (in-district only)	Central	\$40,053 to \$65,738
Bilingual Specialist	Central	\$40,123 to \$60,153
Computer Systems— Technician	Central	\$14.81 to \$22.21 per hr
Printshop Clerk	Central	\$10.02 to 14.97 per hr
Substitute Custodian	Maintenance	\$6.62 per hr
Site Assistant— (temporary worker)	21st Century	\$8.01 - \$12.00 per hr



# Family Friendly Schools

## And a Culture of High Achievement

### Character Education

Building Good Citizens for Texas is an educational goal of the Bastrop Independent School District in preparing students to become productive members of a democratic society.

December's Character Education trait is:

**Perseverance** - acknowledging the importance of persistence while encountering negative influences, forms of opposition or discouragement.



January's Character Education trait is:

**Loyalty** - establish personal and career relationships and select causes based on positive ethical principals that can remain true.



**John Thrift**  
President

**Valerie Bullock**  
Vice President

**Sophia Williams**  
Secretary

**Carol Schumacher**  
Trustee



**René Barrientos**  
Trustee

**Glenn Peterson**  
Trustee

**Bill Vear**  
Trustee

### January is School Board Recognition Month

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month and Bastrop Independent School District is joining other districts across the state to gratefully acknowledge local trustees' unflinching commitment to our communities and schools.

"Serving on a school board is no easy task. It's a huge responsibility, one that has an effect on virtually every aspect of our schools. In January, we would like to encourage our community to help honor the contributions and dedication of our local school board members. These elected citizens, who work without pay, make decisions that influence and direct the education of our youth," said BISD Superintendent Roderick Emanuel.

Across the state of Texas, there are 1,039 district and county school boards. These boards enable each community to have local control of our public schools, meaning that decisions are made by local leaders who have a better understanding of that communities culture, values and challenges.

Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. That job entails an endless string of meetings and school functions, reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other information to read and study and a host of difficult decisions to make. The time spent in board meetings is just a fraction of the time each board member dedicates to our schools.

Please take a moment to thank our local school board members. The men and women serving Bastrop ISD are John Thrift - President, Valerie Bullock - Vice-President, Sophia Williams - Secretary, Carol Schumacher - Trustee, René Barrientos - Trustee, Glenn Peterson - Trustee and Bill Vear - Trustee.

**Look for the  
Spring 2006  
Community Education  
Catalog in your  
Newspaper.**

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**Classes Start in January!**

### In Our Prayers

- Jerri Wilhelm
- The Hernandez Family
- The Emanuel Family

*Have a Safe and  
Happy Holiday Season.*



### BISD Staff Update

Published monthly during the school year (except during the winter and spring holidays) by the Bastrop Independent School District's Community Services Office. It can also be read online at [www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu) under Community Services, News, Staff Update. Comments and information may be sent to Donald Williams, Director of Community Services at 321-2292, fax to 321-1371 or email [dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](mailto:dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu).