



Superintendent's Message

The last two weeks have been eventful to say the least. BISD has truly lived up to the concept of "Family Friendly, Schools" with the overwhelming outpouring of love and compassion for the SURVIVORS of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. I want to say thank you to the entire Bastrop ISD staff and student body for your generosity and for the fine way in which you have received our new students from the Gulf Coast. I know that it has created some adjustments on everybody's part. You have responded and continue to respond without complaining or demanding immediate relief. However, I do want to assure you that we want to be responsive to your needs as quickly as possible. In addition, there are discussions and decisions being made at the federal and state level to provide for long-term assistance and support.

Thank you for your help and support as we move forward to make BISD one of the best school districts in the state. Best wishes for a happy and healthy school year!

Roderick Emanuel
Superintendent of Schools

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

BISD School Board Meeting Rescheduled

The BISD school board has rescheduled their October 18, 2005 meeting to Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the BISD board room located at 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas.

The Board of Trustees invites the community to come and be a part of the planning process for the future of our students. For more information about the BISD Board Meeting contact Donald Williams, Director of Community Services at 321-2292.

BISD Earns State's Highest Fiscal Accountability Rating

Bastrop Independent School District officials announced that the district received a rating of "Superior Achievement" under Texas' Schools FIRST financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achievement rating is the state's highest, demonstrating the quality of Bastrop ISD's financial management and reporting system.

This is the third 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 76th 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.

BISD Board of Trustees Tighten District Purse Strings

The Bastrop Independent School District Board of Trustees has tightened the District purse strings, approving a budget for the coming year that is more than a quarter of a million dollars less than 2004 – 2005. The Budget Hearing and Adoption were held June 21st in the Bastrop Administration Building.

To finance the budget, BISD administrators have proposed a tax rate of \$1.7280, a drop of 1.4 cents from the previous budget year.

The 04-05 budget totaled a little more than \$46.7 million, with the approved 05-06 budget totaling about \$46.4 million.

The classrooms will get the bulk of the funding this school year, and see an actual increase. Funding for instruction will climb almost 2 percent, to about \$27 million. Three new teaching positions were added to the budget to accommodate the growth in enrollment.

The increase in funding is due mainly to raises for the District's teachers. Educators will get a salary increase of \$1,200. First-year teachers with no experience will now start at \$33,010. The district's other professional staff will receive a smaller increase. They will earn 2 percent more, based on the midpoint of their salary range. All the ranges were also adjusted up 1 percent.

"Bastrop ISD hopes to attract additional teachers and retain the quality teachers that are already here. Although salary is usually not what motivates teachers on a daily basis, we hope it encourages them to continue pushing for the successes they can achieve one student at a time," said Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent of Schools.

The District's auxiliary workers will also take home a bit more, with a 3 percent of the midpoint raise and an increase of 1.5 percent in all the pay range boxes.

There are some sacrifices in the budget. Extra- and co-curricular funding was cut 10 percent, which includes athletics. Two counselor positions were cut from the budget, as were 6.5 positions for curriculum facilitators.

Job Openings

To apply for a teaching position, apply on-line at www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu. All other applicants, 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
Kindergarten Teacher	Cedar Creek Elementary	\$33,000 to \$53,000
Dean of Instruction	Bastrop High School	\$51,469 to \$76,000
Payroll Specialist	Central Office	\$12.00 to \$18.00 hr.

Bastrop ISD Board of Trustees

OCTOBER MEETING

RESCHEDULED

October 25, 2005 906 Farm Street
6:30 p.m. Bastrop, TX 78602



Mark Your Calendar October

5	LPE Fall Picture Day
7	Bear Football vs. Bowie / Parents Night Band, Honey Bears, Cheerleaders
10	Columbus Day - Staff & Student Holiday
11	LPE - Kinder to host Treasured Tuesday 5-7pm BBE - Volunteer Firefighters visit school
12	RRE - RIF Book Distribution
13	CCE's Family Night BBE - LCRA to give every 3rd grader a tree
13	RRE - RIF Read-a-Shirt Day
14	End of 1st Nine Weeks (Gr PK-6) Bear Football @ Westlake
17	National Boss Day Begin 2nd Nine Week (Gr PK-6)
19	LPE - Fire Trucks at Campus
20	CCIS - report cards go home BBE's Fall Night 5-6:30pm RRE - Choir Fest 3rd & 4th @ CCMS CCE picture retakes
21	Bear Football vs. Austin High
21	LPE Fall Festival 5-7pm
24-28	Red Ribbon Week
25	LPE - Science night for Treasured Tuesday 5-7pm Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30pm CCMS Picture retakes
28	BHS Homecoming
30	Daylight Savings Time Ends
31	Halloween

BISD Continues to Partner With ACC

Bastrop Independent School District and Austin Community College will partner for the second year in a collaborative effort called *College Connection*. *College Connection* was created and implemented by ACC to increase awareness of higher education among high school seniors, to assist those students with applying to college and to increase college enrollment. Given the remarkable participation and results of the initial year, BISD and ACC look forward to another successful year.

ACC has seen a 37 percent jump in enrollment from area school districts this year thanks in part to the start of *College Connection*. Twelve Austin high schools, Bastrop, Del Valle, Leander and San Marcos all participated in the program during the 2004-05 school year, with significant enrollment increasing in the majority of the schools.

According to the Texas PK-16 Public Education Information Resource (TPEIR), only 40 percent of May 2000 BISD graduates enrolled in Texas public universities and colleges. *College Connection* looks to increase college attendance by providing seniors one-on-one assistance.

Throughout the 2004-05 school year, at the BHS campus, ACC representatives assisted seniors while they filled out college applications, directed them through the financial aid process and had advisory teams to help students determine what career paths they wanted to pursue. Students were also invited to participate in a "College Day" at the different ACC campuses.

During the initial year, 413 of the 416 BHS students that were eligible to participate in *College Connection* received acceptance letters to ACC during their graduation ceremony, along with their high school diploma. Of those students, 67 individuals have actively registered for the fall 2005 semester, which is substantially higher than the fall 2004 former BHS graduate enrollment of 35 students.

With the clear increase in college attendance at ACC from BISD graduates, *College Connections* is preparing for another promising year. New districts are also being added which include Manor, Pflugerville and Hays. This will increase the programs size to 29 high schools with more than 10,000 students participating. ACC's Board of Trustees put an additional \$100,000 for the program in this year's budget.



AT THE BOARD TABLE

The Bastrop Independent School Board met September 20th. At the meeting, trustees canvassed the bond election, approved the new tax rate and set a timeline for the recently approved bond election.

Open Forum

- Ms. Carey Mortenson addressed the Board on the dress code policy, specifically the hair and earring policy for males. She respectfully asked the Board to review the policy.
- O.C. Traweek also addressed the Board about the dress code policy and requested that it be reviewed and updated.

Superintendent's Report

- Bastrop Education Fund held a fundraiser recently and raised \$3,000. Main focus this year is BHS and BMS with a goal of \$25,000 for each. BEF plans to open an office at 906 Main Street and staff with part-time employee.
- Approved new tax rate of \$1.728, decrease from last years \$1.742. This includes \$1.50 for maintenance and operations and \$0.228 for debt service.
- Proposed Timeline for Approved Bond Election is in the planning stage. Construction is tentatively set to take approximately 13 months once construction begins, with goals of moving in summer of 2007. The proposed timeline for the issuance of bonds would be the 25th at the Board meeting, with the recommendation to sell all bonds at one time. Construction costs are going through the roof due to hurricanes. Board members have the exclusive jurisdiction to adopt the rules and procedures for the construction process and choose the delivery method that provides the district "best value." Six construction delivery methods are: competitive bidding, competitive sealed proposals; design-build contract, construction manager agent, construction manager at risk and job order contracting.

Board Business

During the September 20th meeting, trustees also:

- Approved the tax refunds for Bastrop ISD
- Approved the bids for athletic equipment
- Approved the advanced course exemptions for No Pass, No Play
- Approved the Qualified PDAS Appraisers
- Approved additional professional position
- Approved the Resolution on Designated Fund Balance

In Our Prayers

- Deborah Mayer (death of sister)
- Donald Williams (fathers illness)
- Tina Roberts (death of father)
- Karen Stevens (birth of daughter)

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 under News & Current Events. Comments and information may be sent to Donald Williams, Director of Community Services at dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu, 321-2292 (office) or 321-1371 (fax).

