



BOARD *Report*

White Settlement ISD Board of Trustees Meeting • August 29, 2006

Trustees held a public meeting and then adopted the 2006-07 budget and proposed tax rate.

Revenue is \$37,154,071, and estimated expenditures are \$36,794,900.

The budget reflects the opening of two new schools this fall, the Brewer Freshman Center that will serve approximately 450 freshmen and a Fine Arts Academy that provides two pre-kindergarten and two kindergarten classes. This will help alleviate overcrowding at the elementary schools.

Utility and fuel costs impacted the district's budget as well as an increase of about 200 students.

The budget includes: a \$3,500 increase for teacher salaries (\$2,500 mandated by the state and \$1,000 locally); a December salary adjustment for employees; and an increase in the district's contribution to employee health insurance premiums from \$240 to \$300.

The 2006-07 tax rate is \$1.37 for maintenance and operations and .398 for interest and sinking, with a total rate of \$1.768.

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Trustees approved:

- minutes from the regular July 25 meeting and the special session on Aug. 8.
- amendments to the 2005-06 budget.

- bids and proposals for: building maintenance, repair, operation supplies and equipment; automotive parts, tires and equipment; and printing services.

- changes to Local Policy EIA, EI and EIF. For several years, Brewer High School used an accelerated block schedule which allowed students to earn as many as 32 credits. Students now have a seven-period day which allows for the accumulation of as many as 28 credits.

- the offering of Introduction to Veterinary Science at Brewer High School. The entry-level course provides training in the unlicensed veterinary assistant field and is a future pathway leading to veterinary assistant certification.

- a resolution ratifying a contract with Trillion, the district's WAN provider.

- rescheduling the regular November board meeting from Tuesday, Nov. 21 to Nov. 14.

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Superintendent Susan Simpson said enrollment was 5,367 students as of Aug. 29. The campus principals provided updates regarding the new school year.

- Assistant Principal Coby Kirkpatrick said Brewer High School implemented a new attendance improvement initiative, in which administrators made personal contact with the parents of students who had a significant number of absences last year.

The initiative enables school officials to make a connection with both the parents and students, and

it has been very successful. If a student is absent, parents must now call Kirkpatrick as well as the attendance secretary.

The mandatory tutorial program will now use INOVA data to target specific objectives that students didn't master on the TAKS test. Previously, students with a 73 or lower participated in the program.

The campus expanded the career and technology curriculum which now includes: a pre-engineering program called Project Lead the Way; Culinary Arts; Banking and Financial Systems; Criminal Justice; Veterinary Science; Introduction to Health Science; Medical Terminology; and Banking and Financial Systems.

- Associate Principal Mike Wallace said the Brewer Freshman Center is providing students with a taste of high school life, which will result in a smooth transition to the 10th through 12th grade campus next year.

- Principal Craig Spears said 36 students attend Mesa High School, and three already graduated. He projects that 20 older adults will attend the program from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

- Principal Christie Beaty said Brewer Middle School has 782 students. She said the staff looks forward to moving to the high school location in two years.

The campus has four teams of four teachers, and the honors classes are full. The school now offers four high school credit

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courses to eighth graders, with 20 to 30 students currently enrolled in each class.

Due to the large number of students participating in band this year, students were divided into four groups.

She said all seventh graders attend an athletic hour, which helps build rapport with the students and will hopefully draw them into an after-school program. The eighth graders attend athletics first thing in the morning.

She said the teachers are excited and enthusiastic, and the school's motto for the year is "whatever it takes." The school is also providing tutorials based on INOVA data.

- Principal David Bitters said Tannahill Intermediate has 785 students, with the club programs kicking off this week. The faculty anticipates that about 85 percent of the student body will participate. The school's bus population grew this year, with more than 550 students using transportation.

- Principal Frank Molinar said Liberty Elementary's dual language program is now in its fourth year, and the teachers are noticing great results in the students' reading ability at that grade level.

He said 22 people attended the school's first PTA meeting, and Caring for Cubs will begin after the Labor Day holiday.

- Principal Paula Hope said North Elementary is at capacity with 795 students. She said serving lunch to the school's pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students at the same time has been a challenge, but Leadership Team students help the younger kids.

- Principal Ronda Wright said Blue Haze Elementary has 515 kids. The school added a kindergarten class, and construction is going well.

The school implemented a Character Crew leadership team of 12 to 15 fourth graders who assisted during Back to School Night and during lunch. The campus' Grandparents' Days will be next week, and National Anthem Day is Sept. 14.

- Principal Ron Shelton said West Elementary has 500 students, and the WSISD Fine Arts Academy has 60.

The school invited parents of its pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students to a Happy Beginnings program on the first day of school. This provided them with information about being involved in their child's education and helped the parents and children get acclimated to the new schools.

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Nugget Gold-Cunningham, assistant superintendent of academic accountability provided the 2006 accountability report.

"We have a very diverse population and are measured on 24 of 25 areas," she said.

Cunningham said, "We are trying to give everyone the tools to be successful."

The following will be provided to ensure that all WSISD students excel on the TAKS:

- improved implementation of Agile Mind. This computer-based math program provides instructional support for middle and high school students by using technology to teach hands-on concepts and make math relative to today's world.

- teacher training for the new graphing calculators.

- instructional classroom support and planning guidance from master math and science teachers.

- changes to the Brewer High School mandatory tutorial program, which will be more proactive by using INOVA data to predict whether a student will be able to pass the TAKS and invite students to tutorials based on their skills so they can work on areas that need strengthening.

The campus will also provide early intervention mentoring programs by using the INOVA data to identify students who are at-risk of not passing the TAKS.

- a December science camp for all fifth and sixth grade Tannahill Intermediate students.

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Tony Innmon, construction program manager with The Staubach Company, said the district currently has six design projects underway:

- the Liberty Elementary addition and renovation.

- a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade Fine Arts Academy.

- the renovation of Brewer High School into Brewer Middle School.

- the renovation of the Administration Building offices.

He said they are preparing to pave the parking area at the new stadium, which will allow for more parking at the Fine Arts Center this spring.

AGENDA
Report

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, Sept. 19
7:00 p.m.**

**Administration Building
401 S. Cherry Lane**

www.wsisd.com