



March 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes

***Introduction & Opening:***

The March meeting was held at the CISD Board room. Barry Brittain opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Member companies present were: Alamo Worksource, Coleman, CTTC, Comal ISD, Detex, Fedex, Hawkins, ITM, NB Chamber, and Star Manufacturing.

Guests present were: Monty Lazier from America's Flags and Judy Ingalls from the Coach Approach.

***Featured Program:***

Dr. Marc Walker, Comal ISD Superintendent, talked about CISD. CISD is experiencing 1000-1100 students per year in growth. It is one of the top 10 fastest growing districts in the state. CISD is the largest employer in the New Braunfels area. Between 2015 and 2017, two high schools will need to be added based on the growth. CISD is a "recognized" school district by the state. The district has attained the highest achievement levels in their history. CISD has received "superior" achievement for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in the row for financial performance and is in the best financial position ever. Also, CISD offers a 20% homestead exemption for Comal residents and the tax rate has gone down.

CISD has 200 buses which travel over 2 million miles each year to transport 7000 students daily. The 2005 bonds have been completed and CISD was able to build two extra schools out of the bond issue by controlling costs. The 2008 bonds are currently being implemented.

CISD is working on creating dual credit programs for the high schools which would allow students to obtain a high school diploma and an associate's degree in 4 years of school. CISD is evaluating and deciding on the trades and programs to include.

Some of the obstacles that the district faces are in financing and in curriculum planning. All of the school tax money received from residents gets sent to the state and they disperse the funds per historical averages. Currently, the district receives \$5460 per student from the state, which is based on a past average. This money is used for salaries, operations and supplies, which does not leave anything for improvements or extra programs. Extra funding comes from federal grants and bonds. The current state

requirements of the 4 x 4 do not leave much room in the students' schedules for optional classes and trades. The state will need to relax the 4 x 4 rules and allow some specialized classes to qualify so that the district can implement the dual credit programs. Also, the 4 x 4 rules are aimed at preparing students for college. However, only 20% of all high school students in the US actually go to college. The other 80% should be taking courses that will give the skills and trades needed to join the work force. Dr. Walker encouraged everyone to talk with the state representatives about changing the scholastic requirements to be more realistic and allow school districts flexibility in course offerings to better educate students for life after high school.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 11:45 a.m. at Honors Hall. The program is Greg Malatek from TXDOT.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul Webber

NBMA Secretary/Treasurer 2009