

CORSICANA ISD

Board Meeting Report

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011

Superintendent introduces initial 'C Award' winners for Corsicana ISD

The initial recipients of Corsicana ISD's "C Award" were honored at the October Board of Trustees meeting.

"C Award" winners are district staff members who exhibit character, commitment, compassion and courage in their everyday work for Corsicana ISD. "C Award" winners are nominated by Corsicana ISD colleagues for going above and beyond their job descriptions to serve the students, parents and community in exemplary ways using the aforementioned "C" qualities.

CISD board members read the nominations aloud on Monday at the monthly trustees meeting and then presented each winner a special "C" pin.

The winners of October's "C Award" were:

Karmen Betts, Fannin Elementary (nominated by Stephanie Bland) — "Ms. Betts truly loves her job, the staff and the students. She has a sixth sense for knowing if you are having a bad day, and without asking any questions, she jumps at the chance to brighten your day with a hug, compliment, warm smile and a willingness and complete desire to uplift all who are fortunate enough to work with her on campus. If our principal told her that she would have to come in to work at 4 a.m. to mop the floors and make everyone's breakfast in addition to her usual duties, Ms. Betts would say, "Definitely! (with her biggest smile) I'll get started on that as soon as possible!" She is kind, considerate, compassionate, loving, warm, passionate about the success of our students, dependable and by far the most amazing role model and positive example for all who surround her. In my opinion, she wins this award every morning."

Teresa Blackmon, Collins Middle School — "I do not know of anyone who is more committed to student success or who works harder than this outstanding teacher. She is at school early, and she stays late to help students. If one idea for the science department doesn't work, she will "tweak" it to help our students. The quizzes she makes are rigorous, requiring high levels of thought from our students. She is creative with power points and adds the notes to go with them. If anyone in the (science) department or any of our students needs help, she is there with a smile. When any of us in the science department worry about getting all the TEKs done in the time frame, she reassures us that our



Receiving the first 'C Award' were (left to right) Sue Tolbert, Christopher Copeland, Teresa Blackmon, Karla Stanford, Misha Parker and Karmen Betts.



Karmen Betts receives her pin from CISD Board Member Leah Blackard.

students and we can do it. She leads by example."

Christopher Copeland, Drane Intermediate — "Even though physical education is his area of specialization, he agreed to accept his current role in Special Education for this school year. He actively participates and assists in every classroom we send him to. If we have issues with any special needs student, Chris will support the student and shadow him or her throughout the day. I think he may have missed his calling and probably belongs in the role of an inclusion teacher, but maybe that's the coach in him shining through. We know that the students and teachers of Drane depend on him each day."

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Misha Parker, Sam Houston Elementary — “Misha has done such a fantastic job with her students at Sam Houston and also has dedicated many hours outside of the school day to further the music education of all the students in CISD. Misha volunteered many long hours last year for our musical and has again committed to helping with this year’s production. I also have watched her in action stay two hours late on a recent Friday helping another of our elementary music/art teachers by sharing lesson ideas and techniques for teaching music. She does all of this on top of having three children of her own and one on the way. She is completely dedicated to making sure our CISD students receive the best instruction and does not hesitate to either make herself a better teacher or help others be the best they can be.”

Carla Stanford, Department of Curriculum and Instruction — “When I came to Corsicana last year it was my first year teaching high school and Algebra I, I was a little nervous and very intimidated. Ms. Stanford helped to reassure me by displaying her confidence in my abilities when assigning me different responsibilities, including being the Algebra I team leader. She is always willing to help me out with any question or concern I might have. If she does not know the answer, she finds it and gets back with me in a very timely manner. She also treats me as a peer, and lets me and other teachers know that she values our work and respects our professionalism. Because of her, we know that our day-to-day work with students is appreciated and valued.”

Sue Tolbert, Carroll Elementary — “There are so many great qualities about Sue Tolbert that it will be hard to narrow them down. The first is obvious and that is her commitment, she has been in education for over 25 years. Sue has seen so many changes in education and she continues to strive to make Carroll Elementary a school that provides a quality education. Mrs. Tolbert never seeks recognition but she deserves so much credit for the performance of the students at Carroll Elementary. She tirelessly continues to fine-tune lessons, trainings, tutorials, mentors, schedules, programs and many other things to make Carroll an Exemplary campus. Mrs. Tolbert has strong character and is a great role model for all teachers and students with whom she comes into contact. She treats every person with respect and always has a cheerful positive attitude. Mrs. Tolbert shows her compassion when she goes the extra mile to steer the difficult student in the right direction. She always tells them that she loves them and wants the best for them. Again, her high expectations shine through.”

Board hears results of comprehensive facility study on 14 district buildings

The Corsicana ISD Board of Trustees heard a synopsis of the facility study conducted by VLK Architects. The study of the district was intended to identify all areas in need of repair or replacement. It was the most comprehensive study of the district’s facilities in the last 45 years.



Carroll Elementary’s Sue Tolbert receives her pin from CISD Board Member Terry Seth (right) and Debbie Powers, who nominated Tolbert.



Curriculum and Instruction’s Carla Stanford receives her pin from CISD Board Member John Saberton.



Teresa Blackmon of Collins Middle School is pinned by CISD board member Kerri Donica.

VLK representatives looked at four areas — architectural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing — when evaluating the 14 Corsicana ISD buildings.

These areas included significant cost items, such as flooring, HVAC systems, parking lots, plumbing systems, roofing, ceilings and fire sprinkler systems. These systems are designed with a life expectancy of approximately 20 years, and they are outside the work of a school district maintenance department, which focuses on daily repair needs, such as repairing or replacing motors and belts, minor plumbing, replacing filters, and keeping systems greased and in good running condition.

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The study is a starting point for analyzing and prioritizing facility needs in the district. Corsicana ISD is working with VLK to break those items into “Critical”, “Recommended” and “Optional” categories. District administrators are also meeting to analyze the recommendations thoroughly and create an inventory of items that will be addressed by current maintenance staff.

In other board meeting news . . . The board held a public hearing to hear the district’s Financial Integrity Rating System report. Corsicana ISD received Above Standard Achievement recognition, the second-highest possible rating from the state . . . The board approved a bid by Subway to provide Submarine Sandwiches for CISD campuses. Subway will provide sandwiches for \$3.25 to students at Corsicana High School on Fridays beginning this fall. The types of sandwiches include turkey, ham, cold cut, spicy Italian and roast beef . . . The board approved nominating Dr. James Price and Charles Irvine to serve on the Navarro Central Appraisal District Board of Directors in 2012-13 . . . Sharon Barton, who oversees the district’s Read 180 and System 44 programs in the district, provided an end-of-the-year report on both programs. The systems are utilized on eight campuses and 17 teachers. Barton said there were significant test score gains with secondary students who were using Read 180. Students at Navarro and Carroll also made significant strides academically after using both programs . . . The board accepted a donation of \$318.55 from Russell Stover Candies. The donation was 10 percent of sales from the grand opening of Russell Stover Candies newly remodelled retail store . . . The board accepted a donation of \$30,000 from the Navarro Elementary PTO for the purchase of playground equipment. Navarro PTO board members Gina Pond and Donna Ferguson were at the meeting to make a formal presentation of the funds, which were raised over a 10-year period . . . The board accepted a donation of \$553.42 from the Corsicana Tennis Booster Club at Corsicana High School to be used for a hotel room at the Longview Tennis Tournament . . . The board accepted a \$560 donation from the Corsicana Booster Club for shirts for the Corsicana HS Golf Team . . . The board approved the Calico Dance Team to attend the Marching Auxiliaries Dance Competition in New Orleans on March 7-11 . . . The board approved a June 5-8 trip for Collins Middle School students to Washington, D.C. Parents and fund-raisers will pay for the trip, which has become an annual event for Collins MS students. During the trip, students will visit the U.S. Capitol, The Washington Monument, Mount Vernon, the Vietnam Veterans and World War II memorials and the Jefferson, Lincoln and FDR memorials. Students will also visit Arlington National Cemetery



Sam Houston’s Misha Parker was presented her pin by CISD School Board Member Ed Monk and Tracey Abel, who nominated Parker.



Christopher Copeland receives his C Award pin from CISD Board Member Barbara Kelly.



Gina Pond and Donna Ferguson present a check from the Navarro PTO for \$30,000 to Navarro Elementary Principal Debbie Cottar. The funds will be used to purchase much-needed playoff equipment.