

ActionLine...Your Board Meeting Update

February 18, 2009

School board okays 2009-10 calendar

During the February 17 school board meeting, Trustees approved next school year's calendar. Highlights of the calendar include teachers reporting, August 13; staff development for teachers, August 13-21; first day of school, August 24; Thanksgiving holiday, November 23 - 27; mid-winter break, December 21 - January 1; and last day of instruction, June 4. The complete calendar will be available on the school district's website, www.aldine.k12.tx.us.

Aldine's Prussia honored as Texas Director of the Year



The Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (TCASE) has named **Lynn Prussia** "Director of the Year." Prussia serves as Aldine ISD's executive director of special education. TCASE announced the award at its Mid-Winter Conference in Fort Worth on February 10. **Priscilla Ridgway**, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, introduced Prussia at the February 17 school board meeting.

TCASE awards the title annually to a special education director who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in providing services to disabled students and whose work reflects the highest professional and ethical standards. Nominees must have served as a director for at least three years and must be an active member of TCASE. Regional TCASE Board Members select a committee to review nominations within each region and each region submits one nominee for statewide consideration.

Staff Assignments

Trustees approved three staff assignments during the Feb. 17 board meeting.

Kimberly Pruitt was named assistant principal at Stovall Middle School after serving as a skills specialist at Carter Academy. Pruitt received her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University – Texarkana in 1995 and her master's degree in education administration from Grand Canyon University in 2008. She is certified as a principal. Pruitt began her teaching career in Texarkana ISD in spring of 1997 as a second grade teacher, and moved to Aldine ISD as a third grade teacher at Sammons Elementary in the fall of 1997. She transferred to Carter Academy in 1998 as a third grade teacher and was the math specialist at the same campus from 2003-2005. In 2005, she became the dean of instruction for third grade and moved into her current position as skills specialist in 2008.

Pruitt has 12 years of experience in the field of education with 11 of those years in Aldine ISD.

Javier Gonzalez, English teacher and department chair at Aldine Senior, was named assistant principal at Aldine Middle. Gonzalez received his bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University in 2000. He meets district requirements for this position. He began his teaching career in Aldine ISD as an English Language Institute teacher at Aldine Senior in 2001. In 2007 he became the chair of the English department at the same campuses where he continues to teach English. Gonzalez has seven years of experience in the field of education with all of those years in Aldine.

Lionell Crawford, campus athletic coordinator/head football coach at North Forest High School, was named campus athletic coordinator/head football coach at Aldine Senior. Crawford received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1999. He meets district requirements for this position. He began his teaching career in Aldine ISD as a career and technical education teacher and coach at Aldine Senior in 2000. In 2006 he was named to his current position of campus athletic coordinator/head coach at North Forest High School in North Forest ISD. Crawford has nine years of experience in the field of education with seven of those years in Aldine. Crawford is also a graduate of Aldine High School.

Additionally, the district introduced to the school board and audience an employee approved for a staff assignment at the special call meeting on February 2, 2009.

Carolina Giraldo, bilingual skills specialist at Stephens Elementary was named program director of bilingual/ESL education at the Resource Center. Giraldo received her bachelor's degree from Universidad Pedagogica Nacional, Bogota, Columbia, and her master's degree from Texas A&M University – College Station in 2002. She meets district requirements for this position. Giraldo began her teaching career as an elementary teacher in Bogota, Columbia in 1991. In 1998, she moved into a position as an English as a Foreign Language teacher at the high school level. Her career in Aldine began in 2005 at Carter Academy where she taught bilingual education. In 2007, she moved into her present position of bilingual skills specialist at Stephens Elementary School. Giraldo has 12 years of experience in the field of education with three of those years in Aldine ISD.

Employees honored

During the Feb. 17 board meeting, the district recognized a number of employees selected by their departments for special honors.



Dani Sheffield, executive director of child nutrition services, announced that department's Team of the Month. Staff from Magrill Elementary earned the title for the month of January. Cafeteria manager **Wanda Clark** and specialists **Fayrouz Chalhoub**, **Susanne Garrett**, **Evelin Hernandez** and **Ruth Vargas** attended the board meeting as part of the recognition. Magrill's principal is **Robin Williams**.



Emitte Roque, executive director of buildings and properties, recognized campuses and staff who qualified for that department's Yard of the Month and Building of the Month Awards. Stehlik Intermediate earned the Yard of the Month title, thanks to **Maria Gonzalez**, head custodian, and **Lenell Lewis**, yardman. Stehlik's principal is **Janet Ray**.

Worsham Elementary won the honor of Building of the Month. **Rosalinda Ochoa** is head custodian. Joining her were custodians **Rosa M. Aguilar**, **Maria Medrano**, **Jorge Pineda** and **Orelia Villarreal**. Worsham's principal is **Denise Meister**.



Mardee Barnett, executive director of technology services, paid tribute to the technology services department and **Dale Jahnke**, network architect, for finding the best and safest way to make the Presidential Inauguration available to Aldine's students and staff without disrupting network services. Barnett stated that **John Crumbley**, director of technology support services, recognized the historic significance of the Inauguration shortly after the election in November, and began exploring ways to make it

available, live, to as many students and staff in Aldine as possible. He assigned Jahnke to the project.

Barnett said that Jahnke noted the many kinds of media in classrooms such as televisions, computers, projectors and cable TV service, and evaluated the bandwidth at each campus. He also tested and determined the minimum computer specifications for which computers would be able to view streaming video. Jahnke then determined the exact number of computers the network could accommodate without crashing, which would have interrupted all services, including the Inauguration, and normal business and instructional network usage. **Dr. Wanda Bamberg**, superintendent of schools, and **Dr. Archie Blanson**, deputy superintendent, worked with principals on a plan to allow students to watch the historic event in groups as part of classroom instruction. While thousands of computers accessed the Inauguration live, Crumbley and Jahnke archived the ceremonies on a server that teachers can access to allow students to watch the Inauguration at a future date, and preserved the video on DVDs. Barnett stated that everything went off without a hitch and that the district now has processes in place to make future Inaugurations available.



Aldine ISD Police Chief **Brian Allen** honored five officers who work the very busy power shift, 10 a.m – 6 p.m. Their duties include lunch periods and dismissals for elementary schools, middle schools and high schools. Officers assist with traffic control in school zones, locate missing children if needed and protect students, staff and community stakeholders on district property and at district events. Power shift officers are

Jose Cruz, Noel Deleon, Tony Nichols, Keith Warren, and Orville Wright.

Grants announced

Judy Hoya, program director of resource development, announced several grants during the Feb. 17 board meeting.

The Houston Chronicle has provided \$25,000 in free access to the eEdition for all Carter Academy students during the current school year. Students are able to enjoy all the features of the regular printed newspaper in an electronic format. Sherry Cousins, Chronicle in Education manager, and Becky Jones, Chronicle in Education specialist, joined Hoya in presenting the award to **Robert Graham**, Carter Academy's principal, and **Mary Neeley Stevens**, music teacher from Carter Academy.



Young Audiences of Houston awarded \$1,594 to Carter Academy as part of a collaborative effort with MetLife Dance for Life to provide dance instruction, performances and staff development for Carter's students and staff. Mary Mettenbrink of Young Audiences of Houston attended the board meeting to take part in the presentation.



Fifteen campuses received a Texas Fitness Now Grant to assist in the fight against childhood obesity and Type II diabetes. **Dr. Sharon Sterchy**, program director of physical education/wellness, assisted the campuses that were selected to participate. Texas Comptroller Susan Combs and the Texas Education Agency, with the support of the Texas Association of School Boards, continued funding for this grant. Eligible campuses must ensure that students in grade 6, 7 and/or 8 participate in physical activity for 30 minutes daily or 225 minutes per two-week period for the entire school year and must have a physical education curriculum that meets the standards of the National Association of Sports and Physical Education. Campuses must also conduct a fitness assessment.



Hoya acknowledged the following campuses and staff for receiving a Texas Fitness Now Grant in the listed amounts:

Caraway Intermediate, **Cheryl Matthews**, principal and **Julian Garcia**, PE Dept., \$13,451;

Eckert Intermediate, **Todd Armelin**, principal and **Joe Delgado**, PE Dept., \$14,573;

Escamilla Intermediate, **Milo Ortiz**, principal and **Patricia Lange**, PE Dept., \$17,445;

Hill Intermediate, **Josh Shomberg**, PE Dept., \$18,832;

Parker Intermediate, **Ray Johnson**, PE Dept., \$19,360;

Reed Academy, **Eric Hayes**, PE Dept., \$17,346;

Stehlik Intermediate, **Janet Ray**, principal and **Rachelle Roberson**, PE Dept., \$14,375;

Wilson Intermediate, **Andrew Frieson**, PE Dept., \$17,412;

Aldine Middle School, **Marcus Pruitt**, principal and **Tad Stricker**, PE Dept., \$29,726;

Grantham Academy, **Ben Ibarra**, principal, and **Wayne Ralph**, PE Dept., \$32,070;

Hambrick Middle School, **Cindy Rogers**, principal, \$33,556;

Hoffman Middle School, **Rhonda Johnson**, principal, and **Willie Ray**, PE Dept., \$30,717;

Plummer Middle School, **Isaac Carrier**, principal, and **Herbert McDaniel**, PE Dept., \$31,608;

Shotwell Middle School, **Brent Gnatzig**, PE Dept., \$35,867; and

Stovall Middle School, **Cole Taylor**, principal, \$35,603.

Hoya stated that the amount of the award is \$361,941 and the total of all grants announced at the February 17 board meeting was \$388,535.

Program presented

Dr. Lona Alexander, a program director in the Title 1 department, highlighted the federally funded program during the February 17 board meeting. Dr. Alexander explained that Title I Part A, enables schools to provide additional opportunities for children to meet the state's performance standards. Title I funds are supplemental which means they enhance but cannot replace current services. Funds are used to support effective research-based educational strategies that close the achievement gap between high and low performing students. The Title I department, she said, exists to provide guidance for Title I Part A requirements and assist Aldine schools with Title I Part A compliance issues. All of the schools in Aldine ISD receive Title I funds under the school-wide model.