

Character Education

Cedar Creek High School senior Luke Kadura spoke with the Board about respect, the character trait for August. He explained how respect is a domino effect. If one person shows respect to another, that person will show respect to others in turn. “Respect is one of the best gifts you can give someone, not because it betters you but because it betters them.” Well said. Thank you, Luke!



District Staff Presentations

Superintendent Barry Edwards opened the meeting with a [Back to School](#) update regarding the District’s COVID-19 response plan, 20-21 student enrollment numbers, and current staffing levels.

Dr. Laila Olivarez, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, gave a presentation about the district’s [Online Learning Launch](#). In the month of August, teachers and staff made 18,392 phone calls and sent 166,820 text messages to our families making sure they were prepared for online learning. Michele Mathis, a fourth-grade science and math teacher at Red Rock Elementary, was invited to speak about the first day of school and online learning. She told the Board of Trustees that teachers and students are excited to be back!

“We want to continue to teach our kids, whether it’s virtually or in person. We’re up for the challenge. It’s going to be a new journey for all of us, but we’re ready to hit it head-on!”

Student Services Coordinator Karen Trevino presented an annual report of the District’s 21st Century ACE grant program. ACE has received tremendous feedback from families, especially during virtual learning. Both parents and students strongly agreed that the program’s enrichment activities and tutoring assistance have had a positive impact. Find Trevino’s presentation [here](#). The ACE program is beginning its third year in Bastrop ISD.

Board Action

In addition to the consent agenda, the Board took the following action:

- Approved a proposed tax rate to be published for a public hearing to be held next month. Chief Financial Officer Sandra Callahan proposed a total tax rate at \$1.321, which is a five-cent decrease from the current rate of \$1.371. The total tax rate is made up of the debt service tax rate of \$0.401 and the maintenance and operations tax rate, which is \$0.97. The proposed reduction will occur to the M&O rate, going from \$0.97 to \$0.92. The public hearing to approve the reduced tax rate of \$1.321 will be held September 15, 2020.
- Approved revisions to TASB Policy DIA (LOCAL) and FFH (LOCAL), which deals with sexual harassment and how the district responds to allegations of sexual harassment.
- Approved revisions to the [BISD Student Code of Conduct](#) as presented by Laura Baker, Director of Student Services.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is September 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm.