

The Trojan

C U M B Y I N D E P E N D E N T S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Two Sides
- Voter Approval
- Property Taxes and State Funding
- Why does CISD need a Tax Ratification Election?
- Belt Tightening
- Community Input

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U N D E R S T A N D I N G T H E B U D G E T

Two Sides to Budget

Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and Interest & Sinking (I&S) make up the two sides of public school budgets. M&O revenue is to be used for the day to day operations of the school. Cumby's M&O tax rate is set at the minimum \$1.04. I&S revenue is used to pay for construction bonds. Cumby's I&S tax rate is \$.115. Total tax rate to citizens is \$1.155.

M&O tax rate can be raised to a maximum of \$1.17 with voter consent. The district can set the I&S rate to the amount needed to pay its bond payment each year up to \$.50.

Property Taxes and State Funding

State funding and local funding has an inverse relationship. Meaning, if local property taxes go up the state funds public schools less. If local property taxes go down the state funds public schools more. The only way CISD will increase local and state funding is by raising taxes (TRE) with voter consent from \$1.04 to \$1.17. Even with a TRE the district cannot make up the difference lost to legislative

cuts..

Why have a TRE?

Due to legislative cuts, CISD



was cut \$207,000 this school year and will be cut \$349,000 next school year. Teacher salaries rise each year resulting in less money for day to day operational spending. Utilities have risen along with fuel and day-to-day operation cost resulting in less money for the day to day operational spending. We are reaching utilizing our fund balance to make up the difference. If our fund balance is depleted, CISD will be forced to close its doors and/or consolidate with a neighboring district. Cumby residents will then have to pay higher taxes because the new consolidated district will have to take on Cumby ISD's students, added staff, and bonded indebtedness. It must be noted that neighboring Hopkins county school districts

already have tax rates higher than CISD. Therefore, your school taxes will rise due to consolidation.

Belt Tightening

CISD is making cuts to deal with the lack of funding. The district has cut \$225,851 due to attrition and retirement. Coaching stipends have decreased \$7,500. The total cuts from last years budget: \$380,949

Cuts of this magnitude are not educationally beneficial.

Community Input

The community needs to voice its opinion. CISD need to know what the community wants. The options are: 1) Continue to cut personnel and programs 2) Continue to utilize fund balance until TEA take over and closure forces consolidation or 3) Hold a Tax Ratification Election which will allow CISD to survive until the state decides to fund all schools equitably. CISD will hold a community meeting in December to discuss what needs to be done. Please be there to voice your opinion and have your questions answered.

SENIOR INSIGHTS

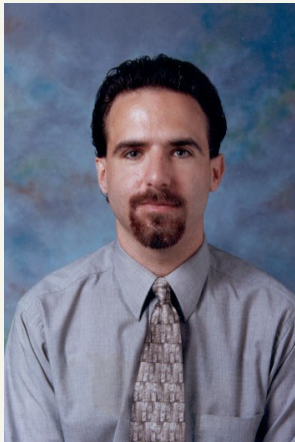
Diego Garcia plans to join the Army for four years after graduation. After the service, he plans to go to college and study mechanics. He is also interested in architecture as a career.

Chasity Nottingham has participated in Varsity Cheerleading for 3 years, serving as Co-Captain of the squad this year. She also plays volleyball and basketball. Chasity is in the top 5% of her class academically. She is outgoing, fun, and goes out of her way to help others. She always has a smile on her face, and will put a smile on your face if you are having a bad day.

John Evans is planning to go to Texas A & M-Commerce after graduation. He has played football, baseball, and basketball. He also enjoys volunteering at the food pantry and putting in hours at his church. His favorite memory is playing Gateway and "busting ours to kick theirs!"

Paige Killam is the daughter of Gerald Killam and Darla Morris. She has been class treasurer and has participated in One Act Play. In her spare time she enjoys annoying Mrs. Woodruff. Her favorite memory is being in the homecoming parade with her friends, representing the senior class.

MEET YOUR FACULTY



Ryan Petty has been a high school history and social studies teacher at Cumby for ten years, and this last summer was probably one of the biggest in his life. In July, his son, J.T., was born in Greenville. In August, Mr. Petty finished his master's degree in history at TAMU-C and now teaches dual-credit college history to members of the junior class.

In September, Mr. Petty's historical fiction book, *The Life He Never Knew*, was published. The novel follows a group of Confederate soldiers as they make their way to Tennessee to take part in the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, including Thomas who questions his own motivation for fighting in the struggle. It took Ryan about three years from beginning

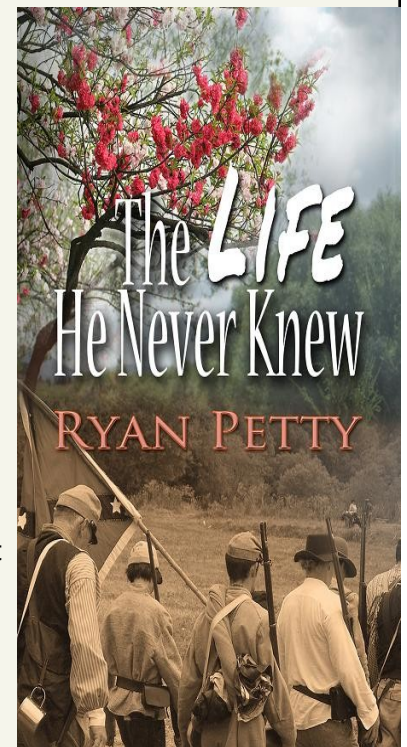
to end to complete his book. For more information about his book, visit www.ryan-petty.com. Yes, it was a very important summer for Mr. Petty, one that he will never forget.

OBSTACLES COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS FACE TODAY

As an educator with 30 years in the business I ask high school seniors a lot of questions, more specifically about their futures and are you going to college. Most answer, yes and will even tell you what college or post secondary technical school they are planning to attend. But what they can't give you is the answer to the next

question. Who or how are you going to pay for it. It has been the high school's administration's goal since our arrival in the fall of 2010 to create greater insight and awareness for college bound students regarding the costs as well as options to help pay for

college and technical schools. If you have questions concerning the costs of college and options available please contact us at 903.994.2260.



NEWS FROM THE ELEMENTARY...

We have had an awesome first and second six weeks. Our students are learning so much and understanding what it means to be responsible and trustworthy citizens. They have also been learning Math and Science vocabulary each week as a group in Morning Meeting. Ask your student about all of the great things they are learning!

October 24th–28th was Red Ribbon Week. Our students participated in many activities and attended a presentation by Officer Cummings, D.A.R.E. officer from Hopkins County. Friday, October 28th, we ended the week with a walk around Cumby as a

way to express our stand against drugs. Faculty, Staff, and students wore red.

Saturday, October 29th was the Fall Festival. Activities began at 5:00 and ended at 8:00 pm.

In November, the Mobile Dentist will be here on the 2nd. We are also going to have our Veteran’s Day program in the New Gym on Friday, November 11th at 9:00 am. Starting at 10:00 am on the 11th, we will have our annual Thanksgiving lunch. PK–1st grades will eat from 10:00–10:45, 2nd–4th grades from 10:45–11:30, and 5th & 6th grades from 11:30–12:15. The

first grade program, “Turkeys Go On Strike” is Thursday, November 17th at 6:00 pm in the cafeteria. We will have early release at 1:00 pm on the 22nd and no school from the 23rd–25th.

We hope to see each of you at our events. Without your support our school would not be a success!!!

PLEASE READ MONTHLY CALENDARS THAT ARE SENT HOME WITH STUDENTS. (All activities and events are listed.)

FACULTY AND STAFF FACTS DID YOU KNOW...

Mrs. Helfferich, aka Ms. Murry, is one of four children. She is from Blooming Grove, and she has two brothers and one sister. Mrs. Helfferich’s mother and daughters are also in education. One of her daughters teaches in Korea and the other coaches and teaches in Yantis. Mrs. Helfferich loves Cumby ISD and has been part of this team for 16 years.

Mrs. Bonny Ross is from Pecan Gap, Texas. She has been a teacher for 20 years with 10 of those being at Cumby and 14 being in Pre-Kindergarten. Mrs. Ross has 5 children and 9 grandchildren. In her spare time, she says she does lots of flower gardening growing Texas wildflowers, and she really enjoys it.

Mrs. Nottingham has worked at Cumby for the past 5 years. She has 3 children and her oldest is graduating this year. She is very involved with her children and spends all her spare time going to their games and events.



“It takes Teamwork to make the Dream work!”
“Dreams are where we are going, work is how we get there.”

STUDENTS SPEAK...

How about those Rangers???

- BEAST, Awesome, “Go Rangers”
- They are going to SMACK the Cardinals and win the World Series in game 6...
- Don’t really care, don’t like baseball.

- Don’t like Rangers, Cardinals are going to win.

What does Halloween mean to you?

- FUN, Sugar rush, Free candy, Full moon
- Trick-or-Treat, Costumes,

Parties, Scaring people, Looking ugly, Games

