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Region 7 Education Service Center

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REGION 7 ESC ANNOUNCES 2010 REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD OF THE YEAR

KILGORE--The Lindale ISD school board has been named the regional winner for the 2010 School Board of the Year (SBOTY) Awards. Lindale ISD will represent Region 7 as its nominee for the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Texas School Board of the Year competition which will be announced in September.

The Lindale board consists of members who have very diverse backgrounds in the military, business leadership, and community involvement. Those serving on the 2009-2010 Regional SBOTY are as follows: Brig. General James K. "Red" Brown, President, Tim Clemmons, Vice President, Mike Combs, Secretary, Jay Misenheimer, Edward "Buddy" Munn, Joe Rodriguez, Matt Watts, and Barham Fulmer. Mr. Fulmer was appointed to a one year term on the board in 2008 and elected to be the board's vice president.

The Lindale ISD Board was nominated by their superintendent, Mr. Stan Surratt, for their collaboration, synergy, ethical standards, financial integrity, and their commitment to students and staff. The Lindale board of trustees has shown continued dedication as a policy-making body. In the past two years LISD trustees have established or revised more than 150 policies. These policies are not intended to allow the board to micromanage district affairs; rather they hold the entire district, including administrators and teachers to higher standards. As a result, preliminary results show that all five of the Lindale ISD campuses that administer the TAKS test will receive an Exemplary rating and the district will receive an Exemplary rating for the 2009-2010 school year by the Texas Education Agency. According to Superintendent Surratt, "The LISD board has led the district to greatness, a level that is unmatched by most districts across the state...These board members have provided vision and leadership in so many crucial areas for the school district."

The LISD board has led the way with aggressive pay raises for teachers and staff to fairly award LISD employees and to become more competitive with surrounding districts. Recently the fund balance grew by more than \$5 million dollars, equivalent to about 20% of the annual budget, to give the district great financial strength. This is a great improvement from the negative \$754,204 fund balance in 2006. Standard and Poor Rating Service raised the District Financial rating from BBB to A+. This great financial status also allowed the district to pay cash for a classroom addition in the amount of 1.6 million this spring.

Created in 1971, the School Board Awards Program recognizes those school boards that demonstrate outstanding dedication and rendered ethical service to the children of Texas. Nominations are based on the following criteria: functions as a policy-making body, adherence to adopted board policies, support for educational performance in accordance with state-established standards, support for educational improvement projects, commitment to a code of ethics, provision of financial support for the school system, participation in workshops and other performance improvement programs, placement of the welfare of children served by the school system above personal or political motives, public relations efforts, including community awareness, and maintenance of harmonious and supportive relationships among board members.

Lindale, along with 19 other regional winners, will be reviewed by the School Board Awards Committee in August where five Honor Boards will be announced. The five Honor Boards and the Outstanding Board will be recognized at a special awards presentation during the First General Session of the TASA/TASB Convention September 24, 2010.

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