

PRESS RELEASE – July 18, 2017

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Region 5 Education Service Center

Region 5 Education Service Center is pleased to announce Hardin-Jefferson ISD School Board as the Region 5 School Board of the Year for 2017. Hardin-Jefferson ISD School Board Members include Michelle Yentzen, President; Mark Aldrich, Vice-President; Andrew Brooks, Secretary; and trustees Gary Hidalgo, James Padgett, Alex Stelly, Jr., and Brent Walters.

TASA (Texas Association of School Administrators) created this awards program in 1971 to recognize school boards for making a positive impact on the schoolchildren of Texas. School Boards nominated to represent their regions are in the running to be named one of five Texas Honor Boards, one of which is chosen as Texas' Outstanding School Board.

Hardin County Judge Wayne McDaniel describes the HJISD Board in this way, "...They are a professional group who successfully work well together with the Superintendent, Administrators, Staff, Teachers and Students as a cohesive team. The Board's primary goal is promoting the success of its students by providing the best education possible..."

Just to name a few of the many wonderful programs HJISD offers under the leadership of its Board, the following specialized programs offer a variety of learning experiences for students:

- Intensive reading program for K-12 dyslexia students to emphasize the importance for all students to become proficient readers;
- Establishment of a Board goal to "continue to increase the application of technology throughout the district, assuring that technology is being used in a manner that translates to student achievement":
 - iPad initiative for grades 6-12;
 - Innovative 3D technology provided students the tools needed to design and print a prosthetic arm for seven-year-old Izzy Miller. As a result, Izzy was able to ride a bike and pick up things with two hands;
 - Rocket engineering course; and
 - Robotics, environmental, and civil engineering.

Michelle Yentzen, HJISD President, says this: "The rigor in education is essential to prepare our children for the future. Whether it be college, military or work force, we feel the educational preparation we can give provides all of our students with a strong base to build upon."

HJISD Superintendent Shannon Holmes wrote this in his letter of nomination, which was followed by an impressive backing of supporting evidence, "I cannot help but feel proud to serve side-by-side with a Board that never ceases to advocate for every student in our district. The HJISD Board works as a team to make sure our students receive the highest quality education possible."

Congratulations, HJISD School Board, and thank you for your service!