

From the office of **JAMES COLBERT, JR. – SUPERINTENDENT**

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## OF NOTE

As you know, the week began with the Memorial Day holiday. On Tuesday, we resumed normal business hours and I started the week with a meeting of my Executive Leadership Team. Among several items on that agenda, one of our primary focuses was the 2016-2017 budget. We are placing the final touches on this very tedious and methodical process, and we look forward to presenting it to you for your approval.

Later in the week, I met with a representative from Archway Academy—a sober high school in Houston supporting the educational needs of teens in recovery. It was a productive meeting and I look forward to continuing discussions with the leadership of that forward-moving entity.

I also met with the Alief ISD superintendent this week and that meeting was also productive as we toured property within Alief ISD that I believe would make an ideal location for the construction of the new Academic and Behavior-West campus. I will be extending an invitation to interested HCDE Board Members to make a brief visit to Alief to see the property that I believe has great potential for our purpose. Additional information regarding this brief visit is forthcoming.

As always, I am continuing to cultivate my meetings and ongoing discussions with the Harris County superintendents, with another meeting scheduled for next week. These meetings have proven very beneficial.

I am very pleased to announce the launch of the brand new HCDE website. Throughout the new and engaging site, you will have an opportunity to see many faces of the students we serve in our various programs. I am excited about the possibilities of this marketing tool. It is both intuitive and easy to navigate. I expect our cyber-traffic to increase greatly as a result of this overhaul. Please tour the new site at [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org)!

Please be reminded of the following Board Meetings and Budget Workshops. A Special Board Meeting will be held next Tuesday, June 7, 2016, and two Budget Workshops are also scheduled later this month. The first will take place on Wednesday, June 15, and the other will take place on Tuesday, June 21, immediately before the regularly scheduled June Board Meeting. Also, please note that next Thursday, I will be out of the office fulfilling my commitment with my American Leadership Forum class.

As mentioned in the last issue of **The Connector**, HCDE will begin its Summer Flex schedule next week. It goes into effect Monday, June 6, and will end on Friday, June 5. During this time, the Department will be open Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. In some instances, where applicable, some programs and services will be available Monday through Friday, operating on the Department's regular schedule, so as to not interrupt services to client school districts and other entities. As you are aware, the Department saves tremendous resources through this mechanism of energy and facility conservation which is a common practice during the summer months for numerous entities, especially school districts.

This week, many of our school districts brought this academic year to a close. As of yesterday, the school year ended for most districts in Harris County. It has been rewarding to assist our client districts as they help students achieve. We look forward to regrouping this summer, recalibrating our programs and services, and restarting the next academic year.

In the area of teaching and learning, this week we honed in on Text Structure in Content Area Reading for High School Teachers, and the School Finance Council also convened. HCDE continues to be a leader, not only in the areas of advancing teaching and learning, but also in the education business community.

In closing, also be reminded that the regularly scheduled June Board Meeting will take place Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. I trust that you and your families are high and dry during this most recent wave of storms across our city. As always, thanks for your service to HCDE. I hope you have a relaxing weekend, and I hope you enjoy this issue of **The Connector**.

# Opportunity

## PROGRAM CONNECTIONS



### Head Start Celebrates End-of-Year at Superhero Themed Event

Head Start celebrated the end of a busy, productive year on May 26 with a Superhero themed celebration. The event featured team-building exercises and creative presentations from each center that supported the Head Start mission and vision. Area I Head Start served 1,489 students throughout the 2015-2016 school year.



### Advancing Teaching and Learning by Training the Trainer

Trainings hosted at HCDE this week

**JUNE 2, 2016**

Text Structure in Content Area Reading for High School Teachers

School Finance Council



# Awareness

## EMPLOYEE CONNECTIONS



### Human Resources Hosts Yogurt Bar for Health and Fitness Month

On May 25 and 26, Human Resources hosted a yogurt parfait bar for employees at the Irvington building and the North Post Oak location. This healthy snack break was among the many activities held month-long for National Employee Health and Fitness Month. Other Health and Fitness Month activities included blood screenings and a "stress-less" wellness challenge.







# Opportunity

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

## Four Seniors Recognized at 2016 AB School West Graduation



Four seniors were recognized amongst cheers from parents and staff on June 1 as they crossed the room to gain their diplomas at the 2016 AB School West Graduation Ceremony. Graduates include Luis Castillo, Joshua Goldsberry, Gentle Solomon, and Joseph Thomas.

Also recognized during the ceremony were students graduating from middle school: Andrew Earles,

Aaliyah Jackson, Kenneth Langley, Jaylond McCoy, Christopher Mottley, Ryan Rawlins and KyJuan Utley. Elementary graduates include Jadeiss Aquino, Jemeni Davis, Jose Jaimes, Christian Lewis, and Caden Taylor.

"The faculty and staff of AB School West would like to thank our parents and guardians for the opportunity to educate and nurture our Class of 2016 graduates," said Dr. Victor Keys, principal. "This is only the beginning for our students."

Dr. Dee Mattox-Hall gave the commencement speech which focused on the "compass of life." Other presenters included assistant principals Malcolm Greer and Keith Oliphant.



*Above: AB School West perfect attendance students rewarded with new bicycles*





# Systemic Achievement

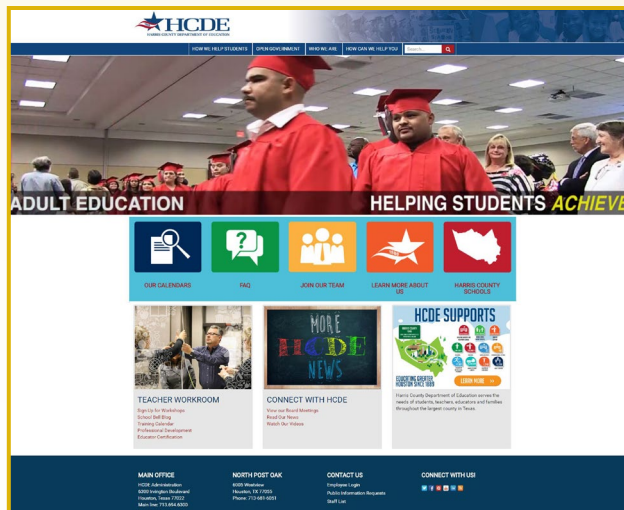
*...with purposeful intent*

## Community Relations

In keeping with the Board's expectations of me to

- Establish and maintain a program of public relations to keep the public well-informed of the activities of the Department, affecting a wholesome and cooperative working relationship between the Department and community; and to
- Work with other governmental entities and community organizations to meet the needs of students and the community in a coordinated way.

This week, the newly-revamped HCDE website was launched. It brings a fresh and contemporary presence to the online community. It showcases our students through videos and photographs, all which serve as a focal point for this marketing and communication vehicle. The new website is intuitive, easy-to-navigate, and provides a great summation of the Department as a whole.



**By enhancing this tool, it forwards my initiatives to meet the Board's goals of me to:**

- **Communicate the accomplishments of the Department through varied formats; and**
- **Present a positive, professional image of the Department.**

**It also allows me to ensure consistent web presence with the community-at-large as we communicate the vast array of programs and services that we offer, not only to our client school districts, but also the greater community within and outside of the state of Texas.**

**Visit [www.hcde-texas.org](http://www.hcde-texas.org) to become familiar with the new HCDE website!**

## HCDE BOARD

*Board President*  
**Position 2, Precinct 4**  
 Angie Chesnut

*Vice President*  
 Louis Evans, III  
**Position 4, Precinct 3**

Erica Lee Carter  
**Position 6, Precinct 1**

Marvin W. Morris  
**Position 1, Precinct 2**

Don Summers  
**Position 7, At Large**

Diane Trautman  
**Position 3, At Large**

Michael Wolfe  
**Position 5, At Large**

## UPCOMING BOARD EVENTS:

**Special Board Meeting**  
 Tuesday, June 7, 2016

**Board Budget Workshops**  
 Wednesday, June 15, 2016  
 Tuesday, June 21, 2016  
*(Immediately before the June Board Meeting)*

**June Board Meeting**  
 Tuesday, June 21, 2016  
 1:00 p.m.  
 ROOM 400

