Killeen Independent School District
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For Immediate Release

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Killeen Independent School District officials expect the 2019-2020 school year will bring continued growth and ongoing construction associated with the future opening of several new campuses. School officials have remained diligent in the hiring of over 400 new teachers in preparation to welcome the projected 45,583 Pre-Kindergarten-12th grade students. The district also remains vigilant in hiring bus drivers and support staff to fill critically important roles supporting district operations and instructional programming. The Board recently approved a very aggressive compensation plan for all district employees to include a 6.6%-10% raise for all teachers and a starting salary of $50,300.00. Bus drivers and Auxiliary Personnel will also receive a 6%-8% raise and all support staff/administration will receive a 3.5% raise. “The Board has made a $16.8 million investment in supporting our most valuable asset, our human capital, which remains an investment in our children,” Dr. Craft indicated.

The district has also hired several new principals this summer at the following campuses:

Montague Village Elementary School- Ms. Natalie Cue
Reeces Creek Elementary School- Ms. Sara Watson
Willow Springs Elementary School- Ms. Connie Locke
Palo Alto Middle School- Ms. Kernisha Hill
Liberty Hill Middle School- Ms. Latricia Brown
Nolan Middle School- Ms. Ashley York
Harker Heights High School- Mr. Jorge Soldevilla
The new Maude Moore Wood Elementary School, located at 6410 Morganite Lane, will open its doors to begin this school year. This will help to alleviate the influx of growth experienced at Timber Ridge and Skipcha Elementary Schools, as well as provide instructional space to the East Ward Elementary School students, while their new replacement school is being constructed. Ms. Norma Baker was named the Principal of this campus last spring.

Superintendent John Craft said the district is extremely excited for the upcoming school year in part, due to all projects associated with the previously approved $426 million bond election beginning construction. In addition, the district will be preparing to open the new Nolan Middle School project next fall and will include the second middle school STEM program. This project is outside of the Bond Program.

Campus security and safety upgrades continue to be underway across the district to include 10 miles of security fences and elementary school shade structures over the playground areas. The district is also continuing to update and construct ADA accommodations across campuses.

“We remain dedicated to bringing nearly $500 million worth of total projects online over the course of the next three years, while also remaining conservative stewards of the taxpayers support.”

Dr. Craft and Chief Financial Officer Megan Bradley recently sold the remaining $126 million in school bonds thus allowing the district to propose a $.1911 debt service tax rate, which is almost $.03 lower than originally proposed as the Bond was being considered by voters.

As the Killeen ISD continues to grow surpassing 45,000 students and becoming the 25th largest school district in the state of Texas; officials will continue to focus on providing excellent academic programming and instruction to students through the alignment and support of Best Instructional Practices and monitoring of individual progress. The district will also work with existing partners to include Central Texas College, Texas A&M University-Central Texas and Fort Hood on programs to expand Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics opportunities, to include a Cybersecurity Academy. The district expanded high school STEM programming to all four comprehensive high
schools last year, which currently has over 1,000 high school students engaged in the innovative program.

This is in addition to continuing to provide high school students the opportunity to attain an associate degree through the Early College High School program, which was recently named one of Texas’ most innovative high school programs by Educate Texas. The first graduating class of seniors received both their high school diploma and associate degree earlier in May.

Dr. Craft stated, “The district will continuously work to improve educational support programs across the district through the assessment of areas of strengths and those areas in need of additional development and support. This remains a vital part of the continuous improvement model.”

The district was excited to see the progress made last school year now receiving an overall rating of an 86 from the Texas Education Agency, up ten points from the previous school year. “The significantly improved state accountability rating remains a testament to the hard-working students and staff and they are definitely to be commended. We will continue to build upon this success throughout the 2019-2020 school year,” he stated.

Dr. Craft concluded, “It’s going to be another exciting and fast-paced school year. We welcome our new families and staff to the area, and we hope that they find their experiences to be excellent by all accounts.”