



**JULY 2016**

On July 4th, 1776 , thirteen former British colonies declared their independence. This declaration inspired Americans to stand up for what they believed: a free and just country in which all persons live equally under the rule of law. The promises and hope contained in the Declaration of Independence will never be fulfilled until the struggle for social justice triumphs.

### **TEA Formalizes Extension of BISD Board of Managers**

There has been much discussion and interpretation of the meaning and consequences of Texas Education Agency's Commissioner, Mike Morath's letter extending the Board of Managers to 2018. Be assured that I have expressed to him my desire, that once the ills for which the Board of Managers were appointed are substantially corrected, we should return to a board elected by the patrons of BISD. With the greatest percent of the property tax rate and the charge of educating our children, the governance of the district should be selected by those governed. That is a basic tenant of the United States and right under the Constitution.

The facts are, had the letter not been issued prior to July 14th, the current Board of Managers would have been terminated and there would be no appointed or elected board and no board to call an election or govern the district until a duly elected board is in place. A process that is set to begin in May 2017.

It is my understanding that the Commissioner has charged the Board of Managers with the responsibility of facilitating training of any patron interested in learning the duties, responsibility and methods of proper governance by a board member. I also understand that TEA has offered their assistance to any community organization seeking a better understanding of the responsibility and duties of board membership. Such resources available to all interested parties from TEA and training established by the Board of Managers, and conducted by Region 5, should provide the community with a clearer understanding of the role a board member plays in guiding a school district in their ultimate goal of providing a quality education to all students.

### **Hurricane Preparedness**

Commissioner George P. Bush announced the Texas General Land Office has launched a new Hurricane Preparedness & Planning informational outreach initiative. The GLO Hurricane Preparedness and Planning initiative is a focused effort to pool local, state and federal resources, and

begin prioritizing efforts to build a resilient Texas coast. Currently, there are five studies being conducted in regards to coastal resiliency which include: Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan, Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study (Corps Study), Storm Surge Suppression Study, the Texas Coastal Resiliency Study, and the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Study. You can find additional information on each study at the new Hurricane Preparedness & Planning outreach webpage [www.txglo.org](http://www.txglo.org).

Hurricane season began June 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue until November. Due to the transition from El Nino to La Nina weather pattern, forecasters have predicted the 2016 hurricane season could produce more storms than in recent years. It is important you and your family have a plan and are prepared in the case of an emergency evacuation.

### **Headstart**

I will be attending the THSA Summer Training Conference on July 18th in our State Capitol, Austin, Texas. I applaud the Texas Head Start Association for their continued commitment to speak, represent and advocate for the Texas 0-5 early childhood community. Their continued commitment to providing a message of hope, determination, and support to children, families, communities, and supporters of the Head Start community is the foundation of their association. This year's theme, "Your Child, Our Future" speaks volumes to the daily work they do to build and develop a solid future for our children and our great State and the Nation.

---

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 2910 Austin, Tx 78768-2910, (512) 463-0662, FAX: (512) 463-8381  
District Office: One Plaza Square Suite 203 Port Arthur, TX 77642, (409) 724-0788, FAX: (409)  
724-0750

[joe.deshotel@house.state.tx.us](mailto:joe.deshotel@house.state.tx.us)