



TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Cecil Bell, Jr.

District 3



Dear Friends of House District 3,

I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Now that the holidays are upon us, it is my prayer that you will be blessed with friends, family, and safe travels. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

*Cecil Bell, Jr.*

Update on State Board of Education Implementation of House Bill 5

On November 19, I made the trip to Austin to address the State Board of Education (SBOE). A number of superintendents, board presidents, trustees, and informed parents within our district had recently expressed their concerns with the draft proposed rules for implementation of House Bill 5. H.B. 5 is intended to provide public school districts with greater flexibility and local control to develop courses and curriculum for our high school students. However, the Texas Education Agency's draft rules contained multiple hurdles to flexibility, including requiring speech and Algebra II, failing to recognize the strength of a student's ownership in his or her education.

After over 12 hours of testimony, the SBOE preliminarily voted to remove Algebra II as a mandatory requirement for students seeking to receive an endorsement on their diploma in four of out of five categories. While Algebra II will remain an available course for all students, Algebra II will be a required course only if a district locally mandates it, if a student is seeking to obtain a STEM endorsement, or if a student is seeking the distinguished diploma.

A 1/2 credit of speech was also removed from mandatory graduation requirements. A new set of draft rules will be made public soon and a final vote will occur in January.

Attention: Waller County Residents

Last month I mentioned Electro Purification filed an application with Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District to drill 7 wells in Waller County.

There are several deadlines for all parties to submit discovery, expert reports, and pre-filed testimony. The hearing on the merits will convene 9 a.m. October 13, 2014, at a location to be determined. The pre-hearing conference will be held at the same location at 10 a.m. October 6, 2014, if needed.

Need more information? Call my office or use BGCD as a resource:

<http://www.bluebonnetgroundwater.org/applications-forms/proposedapps/proposed-application-electro-purification-llc/>



Rep. Bell, Comm. Doyal, Congressman Brady, & Constable Hill at the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall

LOCAL EVENT THIS WEEK

Greater Magnolia Chamber of Commerce & District Office Open House

Where: In the Prosperity Bank building, 18935 FM 1488, Magnolia, TX 77355

When: Thursday, December 5, 12:00-6:30p.m.

Light refreshments will be served and door prizes will be raffled off!