

News From Rice School District - Maintenance

**By Bill Hefner, IV,
Assistant Superintendent**
In the summer of 2001 I became business manager for the district and currently serve as the assistant superintendent. Two of the areas of business operations that I oversee on a daily basis for the district are transportation and maintenance.

When we think about schools most of us think about teachers, classrooms, math, history, extracurriculars, and all the other

educational areas.
It is easy to forget all the other support staff and activities that have to occur on a daily basis in order to give our students the best chance to learn and achieve optimum success in school.
First I would like to talk about transportation and the services we provide. The district currently has a school bus fleet numbering 33 busses in all. Over the past 6 years the district has purchased a total of 10 new busses which has

been important for us as we try to update our fleet make it as good as any fleet in the state.
We offer bus service to every single child in the district regardless of how close they may or may not live to a particular campus which is well beyond what many districts provide.
Each year we have experienced significant cost increases in the price of a new bus but fortunately we have been able to make these purchases without having to

ask for a tax increase or the bonds to purchase them.
We now feel that we are "on schedule" with our recent purchases and trying to budget annually to buy busses so that we do not get behind.
With the district as spread out as we are it is safe to say we wear out close to 2 busses a year. The new busses have more safety features and are significantly more fuel efficient than the older ones.
Despite the huge increases in fuel prices and the increase in the purchase price, we are committed to providing our students with the best that we possibly can so that they may arrive to and from school safely and when they travel outside the district they can be proud to be riding on a bus with RICE CISD on the side.

However, at times we have to make a choice of whether a particular structure has reached a point in its life where it is no longer wise to continue to pour money into it because it not cost effective to do so.
As with transportation, we now try to have our maintenance needs on a schedule so that we are aware of upcoming expenses and the district is not hit with a large unexpected expense at any one time.

create the best atmosphere for our kids.
Thanks for taking time to read this article, and as always we welcome your input on any issue at anytime!!! It takes both schools and communities working together to turn our students of today into outstanding citizens of tomorrow!



Brandy Meitzen

Meitzen To Graduate UT

Brandy L. Meitzen of Eagle Lake will graduate from the University of Texas at Austin on Friday May 18 at 9:00 am at the Erwin Center, with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.
She completed her major studies in Marketing with a minor in Management. Brandy is a distinguished graduate, having been named to the National Dean's List, Alpha Lambda Delta, the national Freshman Honor Society; Sigma Kappa Upsilon, the Sophomore National Honor Society; and Alpha Kappa Psi, the National Co-ed Professional Business Fraternity, where she has served as Vice-President of Alumni Relations and other official responsibilities.
Brandy is a 2002 graduate of Rice High School, and will be employed by the Starwoods Hotel Corporation.
She is the daughter of Sam Meitzen and Coleen Meitzen, of Eagle Lake, and the granddaughter of Pearl Meitzen Ulrich and the late Walter Meitzen, Jr., and the late Doris and Chris Hulbert, formerly of Garland, Texas.

RICE CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRUSTEE ELECTION Saturday, May 12, 2007

OFFICIAL BALLOT BALOTA OFICIAL

Vote for the candidate of your choice in each race by placing an "X" in the square beside the candidate's name.

Vote por el candidato de su preferencia marcando una "X" en la cajilla al lado de su nombre.

POSITION 4 — (Three year Term) Vote for no more than one.

POSISION CUATRO — (termino de tres años) Vote solamente por uno.

Jack Vawter

POSITION 5 — (Three year Term) Vote for no more than one.

POSISION CINCO — (termino de tres años) Vote solamente por uno.

Carolyn Baird

Carlos Gonzalez

Above is a sample of the ballot for the Rice School Trustee Election.

The busses begin cranking up each morning around 6:15 a.m., and having a dependable bus that is able pick up a child on a scheduled basis is an important part to starting the day in a manner to maximize success.
The maintenance of facilities is also an important part of daily activities at Rice CISD. Each morning I meet with the Director of Maintenance and we discuss projects, problems, and areas in need of work.
We have adopted the philosophy of trying to do things right the first time even though it may cost a little more upfront so that we do not find ourselves doing the same work multiple times and spending more this way than if we had just done it correctly the first time.

In Rice CISD we do not have any buildings that are new within our district. Our newest building, Eagle Lake Junior High, is quickly approaching 20 years and as all the buildings in our district continue to get older the cost of maintaining them will likely continue to increase.
Every building has a life span and we are committed to maintaining each of our facilities so that the maximum life span can be achieved and we get the most out of the tax dollars that you have entrusted us to use.

These are only two of the areas that are working behind the scenes to make things happen so that a positive environment conducive to learning can be created for each and every child.

There are a tremendous number of employees who often receive little or no credit for making Rice CISD the great place it is for our students and I tip my hat to them.
I can assure you that all of our employees, regardless of the area of employment that they are working in are striving hard to

Write-In

Rene' Cooper-Scott

For

Eagle Lake City Council