

## Summary of the June 30, 2015 Special School Board Meeting

The school board held a special called meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015.

Members Present: Joe Ballard, President; Kirk Pope, Vice President; Patty Willis, Secretary; Brent Clark, Joe Rammage, Brandon Skipworth and Kevin Weatherford.

Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Board President Joe Ballard, with the board addressing the following agenda items.

### ACTION ITEMS

- **Consider Revoking the 20% Optional Homestead Tax Exemption for Dumas ISD Residential Property Owners**

The board addressed this item with considerable discussion. For the past several years, DISD has been able to approve an optional 20% homestead exemption, providing homeowners a break on the taxable value of their home. Many school districts offered the break through the years, but because TEA does not give a school district credit for that exemption when calculating the amount of local taxes that have to be raised for the “local share” of the education program, most districts have long since quit offering the exemption. Currently only twenty percent of the districts statewide offer any type of optional homestead exemption.

The 20% optional exemption costs Dumas ISD approximately \$811,000 in tax revenue annually, which could be used to wipe out our current projected deficit for 2015-16 school year. The board also took into consideration that unless the law changes, the district will no longer receive the “Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction” in the amount of about \$2 million annually as of 2017-2018, which will require additional budget cuts and fund balance expenditures.

Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Joe Rammage and seconded by Kevin Weatherford to approve the optional homestead tax exemption for Dumas ISD residential property owners in the amount of 5%. This motion was carried 4-3 by the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Dumas ISD School Board will be on Monday, July 13, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at Central Office.