

## SHUT DOWN HCDE

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HERE IS SHORT REVIEW OF WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND THE CONCERNS THAT HAVE LED ME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ELECTED OFFICE SHOULD BE ABOLISHED ALONG WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION.

BUT FIRST, TO PREVENT CONFUSION, YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT EVEN THOUGH TEXAS EDUCATION CODE IDENTIFIES THEM AS HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES, THEY FILED AN ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE WITH THE HARRIS COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE IN 1991 TO DO BUSINESS AS *HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*, AKA *HCDE*. THAT IS ONE REASON WHY PEOPLE GET VERY CONFUSED ABOUT THEIR STATUS WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

FROM 1889 THROUGH THE MID-1900S, HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES ACTUALLY OPERATED PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY. ALL HARRIS COUNTY STUDENTS MOVED TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY 1966, BUT HARRIS COUNTY TRUSTEES DID NOT VOTE THEMSELVES CLOSED AS DID OTHERS IN COUNTIES ACROSS TEXAS. INSTEAD THEY ATTACHED TO MANY FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND OFFERED SOME SUPPORT SERVICES. THEY BECAME SOMETHING SIMILAR TO A TEXAS EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER (ESC) EVEN THOUGH HCDE'S BASE OF OPERATIONS IS FUNDED BY LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES WHILE ESC'S ARE FUNDED WITH STATE MONIES.

TODAY MOST OF HCDE'S FUNDING COMES FROM STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS. THEY ALSO COLLECT FEES FOR SERVICES AS WELL AS A LOCAL PROPERTY TAX PASSED BACK IN 1935 CALLED THE "EQUALIZATION TAX"- WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO BE USED FOR THE "MAINTENANCE" OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY.

IN THE 1970'S THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE STOPPED ALL STATE FUNDING FOR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS AND SUPERINTENDENTS, AND REMOVED THE LAWS GOVERNING THEM FROM THE BOOKS WHEN THE TEXAS EDUCATION CODE WAS REFORMED IN 1995. BUT THE LEGISLATURE LEFT A LOOPHOLE FOR TWO BOARDS TO REMAIN OPEN - THE HARRIS AND DALLAS COUNTY BOARDS - THE ONLY TWO THAT STILL COLLECTED THE "EQUALIZATION TAX." THE LAW READ:

**TEC 11.301 APPLICATION OF FORMER LAW.** (a) *A school district or county system operating under former Chapter 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, 27, or 28 on May 1, 1995, may continue to operate under the applicable chapter as that chapter existed on that date and under state law generally applicable to school districts that does not conflict with that chapter....*

CURRENTLY, THE HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES COLLECT APPROXIMATELY \$18 MILLION A YEAR THROUGH THIS "EQUALIZATION TAX".

TEC 18.14 (A-B) DIRECTS THE BOARD TO DISTRIBUTE THE EQUALIZATION FUNDS TO THE ISDs OF THE COUNTY ON THE BASIS OF THE AVERAGE DAILY STUDENT ATTENDANCE FOR THE PRIOR YEAR. BUT HCDE SPENDS ALL \$18 MILLION ON ITS OWN ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND DISTRIBUTES NONE TO THE ISD'S. HCDE'S REPLY TO A PUBLIC INFORMATION REQUEST ASKING FOR DOCUMENTS SHOWING HCDE'S COMPLIANCE WITH TEC 18.14(A-B) WAS

*"...HCDE DOES NOT CURRENTLY POSSESS RECORDS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO YOUR REQUEST..."*

(BY COMPARISON, DALLAS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES OPERATE THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR THE DALLAS COUNTY ISD'S SO IT APPEARS THAT THE FUNDS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO EACH DISTRICT ACCORDING TO THE DAILY STUDENT ATTENDANCE.)

TEC 18.28 SPECIFIES THAT THE "EQUALIZATION TAX" BE USED FOR THE "EQUALIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES" IN OUR COUNTY AND THAT NO PART CAN BE USED IN ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT DOES NOT LEVY A TAX OF A SPECIFIC AMOUNT FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES. YET, HCDE IS A "SERVICE PROVIDER" FOR GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND NON-PROFITS ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES.

HCDE CLAIMS THERE ARE 26 SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN HARRIS COUNTY (ANOTHER NUMBER I DISAGREE WITH) BUT HAS WELL OVER 400 CLIENTS NATIONWIDE. THAT MEANS HARRIS COUNTY TAXPAYERS ARE ONLY 6% OF HCDE'S CLIENT BASE, BUT PAY 100% OF THE PROPERTY TAXES TO SUPPORT THE BOARD, ADMINISTRATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND OVERHEAD SO THAT 94% OF THE CLIENTS CAN REAP THE BENEFITS WITHOUT SPENDING ONE PENNY OF THEIR OWN MONEY. SOME EXAMPLES OF CURRENT HCDE CLIENTS WHO PAY ZERO PROPERTY TAXES TO SUPPORT HCDE:

- Angelina & Neches River Authority
- Apple Valley, MN
- Arlington, Texas
- Ashford United Methodist Church
- Assoc of Christian Schools International
- Austin Community College District
- Avance
- Awty International School
- Bastrop County
- Bethany United Methodist Weekday School
- Brunswick City School District, Ohio
- Catholic School Cooperative
- Cenikor Foundation
- Central Texas Council of Governments
- Columbia Basin College (WA)
- Comanche Electric Cooperative Assoc, Inc.
- Coryell Central Appraisal District
- Dallas Housing Authority
- Devereux Foundation
- El Paso Housing Finance Corporation
- Las Cruces Public Schools
- Las Cruces, New Mexico
- Metro Library System of Oklahoma County
- Metropolitan Transit Authority
- Midland School District, Arkansas
- Minneapolis, MN
- Muleshoe Area Hospital District (MAHD)
- Neighborhood Centers Inc
- North Little Rock School District
- O'Fallon, Missouri
- Our Lady of the Lake Univ of San Antonio
- Park Board of the City of Galveston
- Raindrop Foundation
- Rogers, MN
- Region 1,2,3,5,6,11,12,17,19 Texas Educational Service Centers (ESC)
- Tallahassee, Florida
- Tamarac, Florida
- Texas Forest Service
- University of Texas System
- Westerly Public Schools, Rhode Island
- Weymouth, Massachusetts

TEC 18.26 STATES THAT THE "EQUALIZATION TAX" COLLECTED BY HCDE IS PART OF THE SCHOOL FUNDS OF OUR COUNTY AND SHALL NEVER BE LEVIED, ASSESSED OR COLLECTED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS IN OUR COUNTY. BUT HCDE OPERATES STATEWIDE GRANT PROGRAMS. THAT MEANS OUR LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES ARE BEING USED TO ADVANCE PUBLIC FREE SCHOOLS STATEWIDE, NOT JUST IN OUR COUNTY, BECAUSE IT IS OUR LOCAL TAX DOLLARS THAT PAY FOR THE SUPPORT AND OPERATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS WELL AS THE SUPERINTENDENT AND MANY OTHER ADMINISTRATORS.

ANOTHER CONCERN IS WITH THE RE-ARRANGEMENT OF WORDING OF THE LAWS GOVERNING HCDE. READ THE ACTUAL WORDING OF THESE TWO LAWS:

*TEC 17.31(a) "The county school trustees or county boards of education shall provide all information requested of them by the commissioner of education or any other person associated with the central Education Agency; they shall also exercise all other functions conferred upon them by the statute and may perform any other act consistent with law for the promotion of education in the county."*

*11.301(a) A school district or county system operating under former Chapter 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, 27, or 28 on May 1, 1995, may continue to operate under the applicable chapter as that chapter existed on that date and under state law generally applicable to school districts that does not conflict with that chapter....*

NOW READ THE RE-ARRANGEMENT OF WORDS USED BY HCDE TO JUSTIFY THEIR USE OF LOCAL TAX DOLLARS TO OPERATE A STATEWIDE PROGRAM FOR THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY.

*"HCDE is directed under Sec. 11.301 (formerly Sec. 17.31), Texas Education Code, to perform functions conferred upon them by the Commissioner of Education. "*

I DON'T KNOW HOW ANYONE COULD MAKE THAT STATEMENT FROM THE FIRST TWO LAWS, BUT HCDE HAS USED THIS RE-ARRANGEMENT OF WORDS FOR YEARS.

HCDE WOULD ARGUE THAT LOCAL DOLLARS ARE NOT USED BECAUSE THE GRANTS COVER THE COSTS. BUT, LOCAL TAX DOLLARS PAY FOR THE SUPPORT AND OPERATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS WELL AS THE SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION. TEC 17.94 SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT NO STATE FUNDS MAY BE USED TO SUPPORT COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS OR SUPERINTENDENTS, SO EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE THAT STATE GRANT FUNDS ARE BEING USED FOR THE BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT, IT WOULD NOT BE LEGAL EITHER.

YET, ONE OF THE STATEWIDE PROGRAMS OPERATED BY HCDE EVEN ADMITS ON THEIR WEBSITE THAT THEIR STATE DIRECTOR REPORTS DIRECTLY TO HCDE'S SUPERINTENDENT. THAT MEANS OUR LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES ARE PAYING TO OVERSEE STATEWIDE PROGRAMS.

*"Texas LEARNS employs 13 full-time employees to carry out the state administrative functions. Texas LEARNS staff includes a state director, an assistant state director, seven grant service managers, a state Even Start and Family Literacy assistant state director, a policy coordinator, an administrative assistant, a program assistant, and an office clerk/receptionist. The Texas LEARNS State Director reports directly to the HCDE Superintendent."*

ONE OF MY GREATEST CONCERNS IS HCDE'S USE OF OUR LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDS AS START-UP VENTURE CAPITAL FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL VENTURES. TEC 18.25 DIRECTS THE COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES TO DETERMINE THE TAX RATE "REQUIRED FOR (EDUCATIONAL) EQUALIZATION PURPOSES AND THE PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE" IN OUR COUNTY.

BUT, HARRIS COUNTY'S SCHOOL TRUSTEES HAVE APPROVED OUR EDUCATION FUNDS BEING RISKED AS VENTURE CAPITAL FOR PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO SERVE ANY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR NON-PROFIT AROUND THE COUNTRY. AT THE JUNE 19, 2012 HCDE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, THE TRUSTEES APPROVED NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET WHICH INCLUDES \$1 MILLION TO START THEIR NEWEST VENTURE, "CLOUD COMPUTING CONSORTIUM."

THAT MEANS HARRIS COUNTY TAXPAYERS NOT ONLY HAVE TO PAY THE SUPPORT OF THE BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION WITH OUR LOCAL TAX DOLLARS BUT WILL HAVE OUR TAX DOLLARS USED AS RISK CAPITAL TO POSSIBLY BENEFIT OTHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THE FUTURE. THAT IS NOT WHAT THE LAW SAYS THE "EQUALIZATION TAX" SHOULD BE LEVIED FOR.

MY IDEA IS TO PASS A SIMPLE BILL THAT WOULD ABOLISH THE ELECTED OFFICES OF HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES WHILE LEAVING THE DALLAS COUNTY BOARD OPEN TO OPERATE THE BUSES FOR THE DALLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS. IT COULD READ:

*"11.301(c) On May 31, 2014, the offices of county school trustees and county superintendent in a county with a population of four million or more, according to the most recent federal census, are abolished."*

THE PROCEDURES FOR CLOSING A COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ARE ALREADY OUTLINED IN TEC 17.96 AND 17.97 SO NO OTHER LAWS WOULD BE NECESSARY. I CHOSE THE CLOSURE DATE OF MAY 31, 2014 TO GIVE THE HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES AN ENTIRE YEAR TO CLOSE TO **GUARANTEE THAT ALL BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS COULD BE TRANSFERRED OR CONSOLIDATED WITH OTHER MANAGEMENT ENTITIES WITHOUT DISRUPTING ANY STUDENT SERVICES.**

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF WHERE THE MANAGEMENT OF HCDE SERVICES COULD BE TRANSFERRED OR CONSOLIDATED WITHOUT STUDENTS LOSING SERVICES:

- THE FOUR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS ARE ALREADY FUNDED BY THE ISDS PAYING TUITION TO HCDE - SO THEY COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME FACULTY BUT BE MANAGED BY AN ISD, ESC #4, A CHARTER OR A NON-PROFIT.
- ADULT EDUCATION IS FUNDED BY GRANTS SO IT COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME FACULTY BUT BE MANAGED BY AN ISD, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ESC #4, A CHARTER OR A NON-PROFIT
- ALTERNATIVE TEACHER CERTIFICATION AT HCDE HAS NOT PROVEN SUCCESSFUL. IT SHOULD BE COMPLETELY ABOLISHED AND ALL STUDENTS TRANSFERRED TO ESC#4 (ONLY 9 MILES AWAY) WHICH HAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM.
- CENTER FOR SAFE & SECURE SCHOOLS IS FUNDED WITH FEES CHARGED FOR SERVICES SO THEY COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL BUT BE MANAGED BY ESC#4 OR A NON-PROFIT
- CASE IS FUNDED BY GRANTS SO IT COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL BUT BE MANAGED BY ISDS, ESC #4, OR A NON-PROFIT
- ECI IS FUNDED BY GRANTS SO IT COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL BUT BE MANAGED BY ESC #4 OR A NON-PROFIT
- CHOICE FACILITIES PARTNERS IS SELF-SUSTAINING SO IT COULD BE MANAGED BY ESC#4 OR A NON-PROFIT WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL.
- HEAD START IS FUNDED BY GRANTS SO IT COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME FACULTY BUT BE MANAGED BY A NON-PROFIT. (CURRENTLY, THREE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ALREADY OPERATE HEAD START IN OTHER SECTIONS OF HARRIS COUNTY)
- INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES IS FUNDED BY FEES PAID AND COMPETES WITH ESCs. IT SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED WITH ESC#4
- PRINCIPAL CERTIFICATION HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. IT IS MOSTLY FEE BASED AND CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO ESC#4, A UNIVERSITY, OR A NON-PROFIT WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL.
- GULF COAST FOOD COOPERATIVE IS SELF-SUSTAINING SO IT COULD BE MANAGED BY ESC#4 OR A NON-PROFIT WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL.
- PURCHASING COOPERATIVE IS SELF-SUSTAINING SO IT COULD BE MANAGED BY ESC#4 OR A NON-PROFIT WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL.
- RECORDS MANAGEMENT SERVICES IS FEE BASED SO IT COULD BE MANAGED BY ESC#4 OR A NON-PROFIT WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL
- RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS IS FEE BASED AND COULD MOVE TO ESC#4, A UNIVERSITY, OR A NON-PROFIT
- TEXAS CENTER FOR GRANTS DEVELOPMENT IS FEE BASED AND COULD MOVE TO ESC#4, A UNIVERSITY, OR A NON-PROFIT

- **TEXAS LEARNS** IS FUNDED BY A GRANT SO IT COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL BUT BE MANAGED BY AN ESC OR A NON-PROFIT.
- **TEXAS VIRTUAL SCHOOL NETWORK** IS FUNDED BY A GRANT SO IT COULD REMAIN IN OPERATION WITH THE SAME PERSONNEL BUT BE MANAGED BY AN ESC OR A NON-PROFIT.

THE PERSONNEL WHO WOULD NO LONGER BE FUNDED WOULD BE ALL THE ADMINISTRATORS, DIRECTORS, CONSULTANTS, LOBBYISTS AND TRUSTEES AS WELL AS:

- **RESEARCH AND EVALUATION** WHICH HAS BEEN FUNDED TOTALLY WITH LOCAL TAX DOLLARS SO IT WILL NEED TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH ANOTHER PROGRAM IN TEXAS, MOST LIKELY AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL, BECAUSE IT BRINGS IN NO FUNDS. THE HCDE PERSONNEL WOULD MOST LIKELY LOSE THEIR JOBS.
- **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION** WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY
- **CLIENT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING** WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY
- **CONSULTANTS AND LOBBYISTS** WOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY.

THERE MAY BE OTHERS I HAVE MISSED BUT THE GENERAL IDEA THAT ABOLISHING THE OFFICES OF HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND TRANSFERRING HCDE'S SERVICES TO OTHER ENTITIES IS VERY DOABLE AND THE SAVINGS WOULD BE TREMENDOUS.

ONE OF THE EASIEST THINGS THE TRUSTEES COULD DO IS TRANSFORM THEIR CURRENT NON-PROFIT **EDUCATION FOUNDATION** INTO A NON-PROFIT THAT OPERATES MANY OF THE CURRENT PROGRAMS USING PROFITS AND FEES AS THE BASE OF ITS FUNDING. THEY COULD WORK OUT SOME TYPE OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY JUDGE TO USE THE EXISTING PROPERTIES AT AN AGREED COST AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN IN OPERATION TO SERVE **ONLY HARRIS COUNTY ISDs**.

WITH THIS PLAN, THE CURRENT ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS COULD REMAIN AS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO OVERSEE THE PROGRAMS, BUT THEY WOULD NO LONGER BE ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS WITH THE AUTHORITY TO LEVY A PROPERTY TAX. ALSO, ANY ADMINISTRATORS WHO STAYED ON WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE TO ACCEPT A MAJOR REDUCTION IN SALARY AND BENEFITS BECAUSE WITHOUT TAXPAYER FUNDS, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE FOUNDATION TO CONTINUE TO OFFER ADMINISTRATORS OVER \$220,000 PER YEAR OR OFFER BENEFITS LIKE \$900 A MONTH CAR ALLOWANCES.

AN EASIER SOLUTION WOULD BE TO TRANSFER ALL THE OPERATIONS TO THE STATE ESCS AS DIRECTED IN TEC 17.96(c). ESCS ARE FUNDED WITH STATE

EDUCATION DOLLARS AND OVERSEEN BY A BOARD OF DIRECTORS. LOCAL TAXPAYERS WOULD NO LONGER BE SUPPORTING AN ENTITY THAT PROVIDES SERVICES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. THEN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY JUDGE COULD DECIDE THE BEST USE OF HCDE'S LAND, BUILDINGS, AND FACILITIES FOR OTHER HARRIS COUNTY NEEDS, LIKE A HEALTH CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY, MORE OFFICE SPACE FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, ETC. OR THE FACILITIES COULD BE SOLD TO PAY OFF BONDS OR OTHER COUNTY DEBT.

HOWEVER, AS A HARRIS COUNTY TAXPAYER, I FEEL SOME PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE TO RETURN TO THE ISDs OF HARRIS COUNTY THE "EQUALIZATION TAX" FUNDS THAT HAVE BEEN HORDED BY HCDE OVER THE YEARS. THE TAX WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LEVIED FOR THE ISDs, NOT FOR FANCY BUILDINGS AND HIGH SALARIES FOR HCDE. SO, IF HCDE PROPERTIES ARE SOLD, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME MONIES DISTRIBUTED BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS BY WAY OF THEIR LOCAL ISDs. AND AS A RETIRED TEACHER, I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE FUNDS GO DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOMS, NOT TO MORE BUREAUCRACY.

THERE ARE MULTIPLE WAYS ALL THIS COULD BE WORKED OUT BUT, AS A RETIRED TEACHER WHO DEDICATED 30 YEARS OF MY LIFE TO "AT-RISK" YOUTH, I FEEL IT IS IMPERATIVE WE MAKE SURE NO STUDENT SERVICES ARE DISRUPTED IN THIS PROCESS. IT CAN EASILY BE DONE IF THE HCDE SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES REALLY DO PUT STUDENTS' NEEDS BEFORE THEIR OWN, AS THEY SO OFTEN CLAIM.

I KNOW THE BACKLASH FROM HCDE WILL BE HARSH. THEY ALREADY HAVE POLITICAL STRATEGIST, PAT STRONG, ON THE HCDE PAYROLL. THEY WILL BLANKET THE PRESS WITH EMOTIONAL STORIES FROM PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN HELPED BY PROGRAMS OPERATED BY HCDE - PROGRAMS LIKE HEAD START AND ECI - AND TRY TO SCARE THE PUBLIC INTO BELIEVING THAT ALL GRANT FUNDS STOP IF HCDE CLOSES, WHICH OF COURSE IS NOT TRUE.

THEY ALSO EMPLOY NUMEROUS HIGHLY PAID "CONSULTANTS", SOME OF WHICH ARE EX-TRUSTEES, WHO WILL LOBBY TO KEEP HCDE OPEN TO KEEP THE MONEY FLOWING.

TO GET MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.TEXASTRASHTALK.COM](http://WWW.TEXASTRASHTALK.COM).

## WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HCDE?

### PRE-TEST

1. WHEN DID THE FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN HARRIS COUNTY BREAK AWAY FROM THE CONTROL OF THE HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND BECOME AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT?
  - A. 1911
  - B. 1935
  - C. 1966
2. WHEN DID THE HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES LOSE CONTROL OF ALL HARRIS COUNTY STUDENTS TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS?
  - A. 1911
  - B. 1935
  - C. 1966
3. WHEN WAS THE "COUNTYWIDE EQUALIZATION TAX" FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PASSED IN HARRIS COUNTY?
  - A. 1911
  - B. 1935
  - C. 1966
4. WHICH TWO COUNTIES IN TEXAS REQUIRE TAXPAYERS TO FUND TWO COMPLETE SCHOOL SYSTEMS – A COUNTYWIDE SYSTEM ON TOP OF THEIR ISDs.
  - A. HARRIS CO. & DALLAS CO.
  - B. HARRIS CO. & BEXAR CO.
  - C. HARRIS CO. & TRAVIS CO.
5. WHEN DID HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEES FIRST FILE AN ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE TO OPERATE UNDER THE NAME HARRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AKA HCDE?
  - A. 1971
  - B. 1981
  - C. 1991
6. IN 2011, WHERE DID THE NEWLY ELECTED HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE GO FOR TEXAS SCHOOL BOARD TRAINING?
  - A. AUSTIN, TX
  - B. WASHINGTON, D.C.
  - C. SAN FRANCISCO, CA
7. WHICH HCDE ADMINISTRATOR IS ALSO A PAID CONSULTANT FOR THE VINCE RYAN CAMPAIGN?
  - A. JOHN SAWYER, SUPERINTENDENT
  - B. PAT STRONG, EXTERNAL RELATIONS LIAISON OFFICER
  - C. LINDA PITRE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT