

Clarity—A Great Thing
By John Chapman

Two weeks ago, controversy took place as the FM (LOCAL) policy was challenged due to the implementation of the policy by administration not allowing students having too many extracurricular absences to participate in future extracurricular events. As the FM (LOCAL) policy currently states, students are allotted 10/5/2 extracurricular absence days per year. In Layman's terms, the 10/5/2 means ten absence days for regular extracurricular events, 5 additional absence days for post season competitions and two additional absence days for state competitions. A special School Board meeting was held on February 25th to try to find a solution to the controversial issue.

Statistical data as of February 25th shows 212 out of 384 Comfort high school students have participated in extracurricular events (55%). Another factual statistic states that several of the surrounding districts also share this same policy.

The Board agreed to implement a waiver system for the remainder of 2007-2008 school year in an effort to reward those well deserving students that work hard at what they do to represent Comfort ISD in a positive manner. The waiver system will be implemented as follows:

- A campus committee comprised of the campus principal, campus counselor and academic coordinator will be established.
- The committee will allow the student opportunity to gain 5 additional extracurricular absences only if the student comes to the committee a full week before the event. Consequently, if the student comes to the committee the day of an event, the request will be denied.
- The committee will look at the following criteria to approve or deny five additional extracurricular days:
 - Grades (GPA) - Student must have an 80 or above in every class.
 - Normal Attendance – Student must have no more than 3 excused absences and 1 unexcused absence for the semester. Excluding extracurricular excused absences.
 - Behavior / Attitude –Student should not have more than 1 day of ISS for the semester.
 - TAKS results will be taken into consideration.

Each student will receive a certificate/letter if granted those five additional days. Parents, students, sponsors and administration are responsible for counting and following proper protocol for extracurricular days. At this time, the waiver process is good from February 26, 2008 through June 4, 2008. Students will have the opportunity to request additional days as needed.

With that said, I would like to take this time to congratulate Coach Toot and the varsity basketball boys on a phenomenal season. Unfortunately the Bobcats lost in the first game of the Regional Tournament to Floydada. It took hard work and dedication to make it to the Regional Tournament and I, along with countless others, applaud the effort.