

February 2, 2012

Dear Barbers Hill community,

This week I attended the TASA Mid-Winter Conference in Austin and wanted to share some things with you.

First, it is so evident from the negativity that currently permeates the issue of school finance that we are all blessed to be in Barbers Hill. The community we have and the public support for our schools is truly remarkable.

Secondly, I want to update you on where our district is positioned on the current school litigation. There are four groups suing the state of Texas over the financing of public schools. Barbers Hill ISD is part of the *Coalition of Revenue Contributing Schools*. The school districts that make up this coalition collectively give back over \$1 billion of our tax monies to the state each year via "Robin Hood."

Our coalition is chiefly concerned with maintaining the local governance "local control" that allows districts to manage their own individual tax bases in a manner that best serves the local needs. The *Coalition of Revenue Contributing Schools* has a web site that I would encourage you to visit at crcstx.org. The website also has a mechanism that allows you to sign up to receive updates and timely information. The "Stay Informed" signup option is located at the bottom of the Coalition's home page. Keeping abreast of these issues regarding your tax monies will allow you to communicate/educate elected officials when needed.

This is arguably the most critical time in our district's financial history, and I hope you will take the time to educate yourself and others so we can collectively stand against the many who covet our resources. Barbers Hill ISD is committed to the best use of the resources we have, so that our students will be prepared, successful graduates.

Greg Poole