
PRESS RELEASE

Cleburne County Board of Education Refinances Debt with Savings of \$540,000

Heflin, November 3, 2015: The Cleburne County Board of Education voted last night at its regularly scheduled meeting to refinance a portion of debt that was originally issued in 2007. The remaining 2007 debt service had an interest rate of approximately 4.5% and the new issue achieved an interest rate of 2.83%. The difference resulted in interest savings to the Board of approximately \$540,000. The savings will be realized over the remainder of the life of the debt in approximately equal annual amounts.

Raymond James sold the warrants on Friday, October 30th. Matt Adams, a representative from Raymond James, spoke highly about the financial condition of the Board. "As a part of the refinancing, Standard and Poor's had to review the credit of the Board. S&P rated Cleburne County Schools in the A category, which is an excellent rating given the pledge of taxes and the demographics on the transaction." Adams added, "The rating reflects extremely well on the job that your superintendent and chief school financial officer do in managing the resources of this system on a day to day basis."

"The Board did not increase our debt or extend the maturity of our debt; we simply took advantage of lower interest rates. Refinancing this debt allows us to spend more of our funds on education and less on interest payments," said Claire Dryden, superintendent of Cleburne County Schools. "We want to be responsible with the money that funds education in our county and saving this amount of money is one way that we can do so," added Dryden.