

## **Press Release for MISD Website Posting June 13, 2007**

As provided for in state statute, the Montgomery ISD Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing on 6/12/07 to consider a request for annexation by residents of a neighborhood known as Rolling Oaks located in extreme eastern Grimes County and western Montgomery County. The same petition was also denied on Monday 6/11/07 by the action of the Navasota Board of Trustees.

At issue was a verbal agreement made twenty-nine years ago between the superintendents of Montgomery ISD and Navasota ISD allowing students from the Grimes County portion of the neighborhood to attend MISD schools. In response to an earlier request, made by parents of students in the Rolling Oaks neighborhood, the MISD Board of Trustees determined that the non-resident students will be allowed to continue to attend MISD schools until they complete their requirements for high school graduation.

The Montgomery/Grimes County line serves as the boundary between Navasota ISD and Montgomery ISD. Had the Petition for Detachment and Annexation been approved by both school boards, the 544 acres and associated property value would have been transferred from the tax rolls of Navasota ISD to Montgomery ISD and additionally, MISD would have been required to assume a portion of Navasota ISD's debt associated with capital expenditures and building construction costs.

The petitioners expressed concern about the distance from their neighborhood to Navasota Junior and Senior High Schools which would cause their students to spend considerable time on school bus routes. Montgomery ISD officials noted that as a school district of 231.1 square miles, relatively long bus rides are not unique and are a consideration when choosing to live in a rural setting. Currently MISD has several bus routes that are in excess of 18 miles one-way. Additionally, MISD serves several neighborhoods that cross school district boundaries with Conroe, Magnolia, and Navasota; where the school district attendance zone is determined by the location of the house within the subdivision. It was also noted that Navasota ISD opened High Point Elementary in the fall of 2006 which was strategically placed to serve K-5 students in eastern areas of Grimes County.