

**Robert Wiegand**  
1715 Flaming Oak  
New Braunfels, Tx. 78132  
(830) 609-2343

**Biographical Information:** Born- San Marcos, Texas, June 25, 1956. Married to Julie Wiegand.  
Three children- Lindsey 25, Jeremy 24, and Erin 21.

**Experience:**

1999-Present, Principal Canyon High School, New Braunfels, TX.

- Instructional leader of AAAA high school which achieved TEA Recognized status as well as Just For the Kids four-star rating.
- Increased program and curriculum offerings such as AP courses, Technology Applications, Air Force JROTC, UIL Swimming, etc.
- Budgetary, Personnel, Facilities, Oversight of \$26 million expansion project.

1996-1999, Principal Medina Valley High School, Castroville, TX.

- Instructional Leader of AAAA high school with marked increase in AEIS indicators over three-year tenure.
- Increased program and course offerings (Dual Credit, Technology Applications, JROTC, etc.)
- Budgetary, Personnel, Facilities

1978-1996, Teacher, Coach, Administrator Texas High Schools and Middle Schools

- Three years middle school assistant principal
- Two years athletic director/head coach
- Thirteen years teacher/coach

**Education:**

1980-1981 Texas A&I, Kingsville, TX.  
Masters of Science, Mid Management

1974-1978 Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.  
Bachelors of Science, Biology/Physical Education

**Memberships:**

Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (ten years)  
Association of Texas Professional Educators (seventeen years)  
Texas High School Coaches Association (fifteen years)

**Professional Presentations:**

2004- Comprehensive Salary Study to Comal ISD Board of Trustees

2002- Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Summer Conference- "Those Dangerous School Prayers" (an overview of recent court rulings and interpretations on issues impacting public schools)

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Hello, my name is Bob Wiegand. I am a third generation Texas public educator with 29 years experience and I have been Principal of New Braunfels Canyon HS for the past eight. Materials related to my testimony in support of the School Children's Religious Liberty Bill have been submitted.

Although Secretary of Education Riley, in the Clinton administration, and President Bush with No Child Left Behind, attempted to spell out acceptable guidelines on the issue of faith based expression on school campuses, school districts and administrators continue to be threatened with litigation. Guidelines are not strong enough for those who would rewrite the constitution and place their own "spin" on Supreme Court decisions. Education attorneys, as a rule, advise districts to acquiesce to threats from separatist groups and individuals. School board policy writers do not place districts in a true position of neutrality. Misinformation abounds, and poor school board policy occasionally puts the campus-level practitioner in an untenable situation while insulating others at the district level. This was the case for me when I had to retain legal counsel at my own expense in 2002.

Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, public prayers were openly voiced and leaders called for more. On an October Friday night, a Student Council member spoke a prayer over our PA system. On October 30, I received demands and a threat of litigation from Americans United For Separation of Church and State. I requested advice from my district, and received none. I sought advice from my professional organization, but received no legal support. A friend referred me to Kelly Coghlan who advised me to remove some sectarian terminology from the Student Council By-Laws and special event programs that had been in place prior to my arrival at

Canyon. He also advised me it was the district's role to respond to AU. I followed his advice and moved forward.

Because the district did not answer AU wrote again in January of 2002. This time they demanded a response to their demands within thirty days. Although my superintendent was addressed in the letter also, no advice was forthcoming. Within days I received an email demand from our assistant superintendent to answer several incriminating questions for our school district's attorney. I retained Mr. Coghlan's services for the first time as no representation was provided for me. Another district official paid me a visit attempting to intimidate me into dropping my counsel. Following my counsel's advice I drafted a response to AU and although I requested district assistance, I received none. Mr. Coghlan offered our district the SBOE endorsed "Model Student Speaker Policy" to protect us from future problems. They refused it, continuing to further insulate themselves. Seeing no other alternative, I adapted the portions of the policy that included neutral selection of speakers, and a disclaimer on event programs where students would speak to protect the campus and myself. (an example of such a program is attached) I felt we were then in the position of neutrality that Supreme Court decisions mandate for schools.

The first test of this plan came in April 2002 when a student speaking in his role as Senior Class Vice-President uttered a brief generic prayer at the Senior Awards Ceremony. The next day I received an inquiry from the assistant superintendent and the district's attorney wanting to know where the disclaimer statement on the program came from and who knew about the prayer. After the

student explained that his remarks were his own, and I responded that I had adopted the disclaimer from the model to prevent litigation, they backed off. In the weeks leading up to graduation the disclaimer was slightly revised by the district's attorney. I was instructed to place it on the graduation program. Our selection process for student speakers was scrutinized closely. It is my belief they saw the merit in our method although no approval was offered.

On May 24, 2002 I received a ghost-written letter with instructions from the superintendent to copy, sign and distribute it to students speaking at graduation. (You can view a copy in the exhibits I have submitted.) The letter was an obvious attempt to direct the student's viewpoints. I would not sign the letter and retained counsel once again at my own expense. Mr. Coghlan and the district's attorney negotiated for two days after which I received another draft. It was only slightly less objectionable. When I refused to sign this draft the superintendent issued his own letter on May 29 and had it distributed to the Top 10 Seniors. (See attached exhibit)

In August 2002, the district issued an administrative directive. It prohibited students from speaking on the PA system at sporting events until further notice. They stated that new policy was being examined. Students were understandably upset and went to the School Board for answers. In spite of being given a perfect opportunity to bring the district into a neutral position, the choice was to censor students and eliminate an opportunity to develop their leadership and public speaking abilities. Although there has been some cosmetic change in board policy, to date there has been no change in this directive.

I love the education of young people. It is all I ever wanted to do. I did not

however, sign on to be a "prayer policeman." Poor policy and knee jerk reaction by my school district put me in a spot no school administrator should be in. By properly framing the issues and following law I have been able to steer my campus clear of any further litigation of this nature. Many school administrators would like to be put back in the business of protecting student rights rather than denying them.

Did you know many area HS campuses prevent FCA Huddles and other faith based organizations from meeting on campus while allowing other non-curricular organizations access? That a single separatist can often force a rewrite of curriculum? That religious dialogue in its lawful context is often squelched in the classroom out of fear by misinformed educators? This Bill is needed to clarify policies so that campuses can function without discrimination against faith based expression and/or recrimination against students or staff. We need HB3678 for clear, prescriptive policy to protect student rights and direct campus personnel.

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## Class Officers

President: *Tricky Swueger*  
Vice-President: *Amy Schalze*  
Secretary: *Stendall Stevins*  
Treasurer: *Pelly Ratzer*

## Class Sponsors

*Michelle Staehl*     *Frances Walker*     *Raquel Wallace*

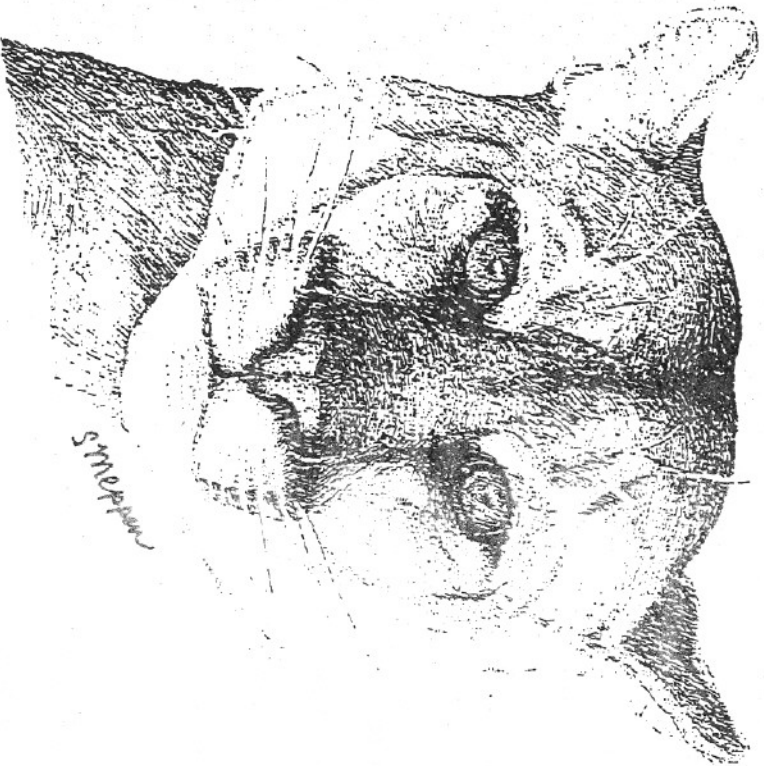
## Alma Mater

<i>Trail Canyon High School</i>	<i>Enward Dear Cougars</i>
<i>Here's our pledge to you</i>	<i>Trail the Cougars' night</i>
<i>Always you'll find us</i>	<i>Fly high your colors</i>
<i>Firm, unyielding, true</i>	<i>Canyon's red and white</i>
<i>Dwelling on Memories,</i>	<i>Banded together</i>
<i>As the years go by,</i>	<i>By our loyalty</i>
<i>Here's to the school we love</i>	<i>We will remember her</i>
<i>Our Canyon High</i>	<i>Our Canyon High</i>

The students who will be speaking at the graduation ceremonies were selected upon neutral criteria to deliver remarks or messages of their own choice. The Cornal Independent School District does not require, suggest, or endorse the content of the remarks or messages. The content of each student speaker's remarks or message to the private expression of each student and does not necessarily reflect any position or viewpoint of the Cornal Independent School District, its Board of Trustees, its administration, its employees or any other graduating student. No person is compelled to participate in, agree with or approve of the content of any student remark or message, nor should anyone feel compelled to do so.

Program Design by: *Sharon Meppen, Art Teacher*

# Canyon High School



*Graduation Ceremony*  
*May 27, 2006*



*Commencement  
May 27, 2006*

*The audience will please rise for the processional and remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.*

<i>Prelude .....</i>	<i>Canyon High School Band Walt Sparkman, Director</i>
<i>Processional .....</i>	<i>Canyon High School Band</i>
<i>Pledge of Allegiance .....</i>	<i>Amy Scholze</i>
<i>National Anthem .....</i>	<i>Senior Choir Members</i>
<i>Opening Remarks .....</i>	<i>Kelly Henze</i>
<i>Welcome .....</i>	<i>Jason Wohlfahrt</i>
<i>Introductions .....</i>	<i>Caroline Camosy</i>
<i>Salutatory Address .....</i>	<i>Noah Tian</i>
<i>Valedictory Address .....</i>	<i>Cody Covington</i>
<i>Student Recognition .....</i>	<i>Bob Wiegand Principal</i>
<i>Certification of Graduates .....</i>	<i>Bob Wiegand</i>
<i>Presentation of Diplomas .....</i>	<i>Bob Wiegand</i>
<i>Closing Remarks .....</i>	<i>Jordan Pawelek</i>
<i>Alma Mater .....</i>	<i>Canyon High School Band</i>
<i>Recessional .....</i>	<i>Canyon High School Band</i>

*Comal Independent School District*

<i>Dr. Marc Walker .....</i>	<i>Superintendent</i>
<i>Bob Wiegand .....</i>	<i>Canyon High School Principal</i>
<i>Allen Pooley .....</i>	<i>Assistant Principals</i>
<i>Alan Reaves</i>	
<i>Mary Ann Svoboda</i>	
<i>Beverley Coborn</i>	
<i>Cindy Rotzler .....</i>	<i>Senior Counselor</i>
<i>Margi Handrick .....</i>	<i>Junior Counselor</i>
<i>Mary Barnes .....</i>	<i>Sophomore Counselor</i>
<i>Jan Thomen .....</i>	<i>Freshman Counselor</i>
<i>Sherry Miller .....</i>	<i>College &amp; Career Facilitator</i>
<i>Margi Skolaut .....</i>	<i>Communities in School Project Director</i>

*Board of Trustees*

<i>Frank Baker</i>	<i>Charles Burt</i>
<i>Rose Cerwin</i>	<i>Donna Holmes</i>
<i>Laura Kistner</i>	<i>Dan Krueger</i>
<i>Bill Swint</i>	

*Teacher of the Year*

*Donna Williams*



**Date:** May 24, 2002

**To:** Bob Wiegand, CHS

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**From:** Jim Grunert, Superintendent 

**Subject:** Graduation

Please copy the attached letter on your school letterhead, sign it, and distribute it to any students who will be speaking at the graduation ceremony. Also, please give them a copy of Policy EIG Legal (attached).

Thank you.

jm

Enc.

May 24, 2002

I want to start off by congratulating you for being selected to present remarks or a message at the upcoming graduation based upon your outstanding academic achievement. You should feel proud that you have earned this honor, as a result of your outstanding hard work, dedication, and perseverance. There is no doubt in my mind that your family and friends are proud of you, and deservedly so.

As you know, although your particular topic may be limited in scope, there are no content restrictions placed upon your remarks or message, and they will not be reviewed by any District official to censor the contents of the message or remarks you will deliver. This is so for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the confidence our teachers and administrators have in your sense of responsibility, your maturity and your intelligence.

When preparing your comments, please keep in mind that two of the major purposes of student speeches at graduation are to unify the audience present to celebrate this milestone in the lives of the graduates, and to promote an atmosphere of inclusiveness and good will. While graduation is an event focused mainly on the senior class and the families and friends of the graduates, graduation ceremonies are also community events, permitting the graduating seniors to experience the community's recognition of student achievement. As a result, the audience will include people of many different ages, races, religions, creeds and cultures.

Since this is so, I have a simple, heartfelt request to make of you: if it is your private decision to include in your remarks or message references to or comments about religion or faith-based beliefs, please choose words that are non-sectarian (not favoring or referring to a specific religion or deity) and non-proselytizing (not attempting to convert listeners). I trust that you will find this request both reasonable and inoffensive; it is made in good faith, and in no way limits your freedom to make your own choice. I do trust your judgment, and your ability to take into account and respect the diverse sensibilities of your audience. Please, consider carefully what you will say, and choose your words wisely, with tolerance and understanding.

Sincerely,

Bob Wiegand  
Principal

Enc: CISD Board Policy EIG Legal



May 29, 2002

Dear Student,

I want to start off by congratulating you for being selected to present remarks or a message at the upcoming graduation ceremonies for Canyon High School, based upon your outstanding academic achievement. You should feel proud that you have earned this honor, as a result of your outstanding hard work, dedication, and perseverance. There is no doubt in my mind that your family and friends are proud of you, and deservedly so.

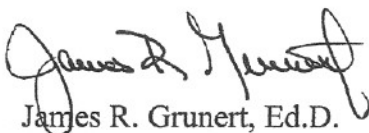
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Since this is so, I have a simple, heartfelt request to make of you: If it is your private decision to include in your remarks or message references to or comments about your personal beliefs, please choose words that are non-sectarian (not favoring or referring to a specific religion or deity) and non-proselytizing (not attempting to convert listeners), and words that neither disparage nor belittle any other beliefs that may differ from your own. (Of course, it goes without saying that obscenities, vulgarities, lewd or indecent language and defamatory remarks would be totally out of place and clearly inappropriate.)

I do trust your judgment, and your ability to take into account and respect the diverse sensibilities of your audience. Please, consider carefully what you will say, and choose your words wisely, with tolerance and understanding.

Sincerely,



James R. Grunert, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools