

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Bastrop Independent School District

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Bastrop Independent School District was held Tuesday, September 18, 2012, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Bastrop ISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602.

The following were present at the meeting:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Allen, President
Jim Mills, Vice-President
John Eaton, Secretary
Linda Apostalo
David Long

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark Martyn
Glenn Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Vera Preston-Jaeger
Erin Green
Todd, Jamie, Zachary & Mason McClanahan
Samson Ciftci
Jacky Inich
Juan Rojas
Kristine Merka
James Jaso
Samantha Shirk
Jerry Kettle
Elizabeth Overholser

ALSO PRESENT:

Steve Murray, Superintendent
Barry Edwards, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources
Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer
Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer
Donald Williams, Ex. Dir. of Communications/Comm. Svcs.
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to the Superintendent
Tessie Young, Director of Federal Programs & Grants
Thomas Dowdy, Director of Maintenance
Kathy Cawthron, Director of Elementary Instruction
Delores Moore, Emile Elementary Principal
Camille Smith, Director of Assessment & Student Support
Michele Martella, Director of Special Education
Adelaida Olivares, Cedar Creek High School Principal
Shawn Adams, Cedar Creek Intermediate Principal
Shirley Garrison
Rick Kutcher
Lucia Garcia
Jacob Rojas
Chris Mendez
Nick Shirk
Elaine Jones
Laurie Ciftci

1. Meeting Called to Order

President Allen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum of Board members was present. The meeting was duly called and notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

2. Pledge, Presentations and Open Forum

A. Pledge of Allegiance

John Eaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

1. "Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

John Eaton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

C. Opening Prayer

Jim Mills offered the opening prayer.

D. Student Speaker on the Character Education Trait for September – Honesty

Zachary McClanahan, a 4th grader at Emile, spoke to the board on Honesty, the Character Education trait for September. Zachary plays baseball and participates in UIL.

E. Recognition of Cedar Creek High School Band

Cedar Creek High School Band Director Rick Kutcher introduced the CCHS Band and announced that the band was named KVUE's Band of the Week last week. Mr. Kutcher asked the board to keep supporting the band program and fine arts programs. It makes a huge difference in students' lives.

Mr. Murray applauded the BHS and CCHS bands for working together.

F. Open Forum

1. Vera Preston-Jaeger

Dr. Jaeger spoke to the board on required testing. Dr. Jaeger asked the district to allow the math teachers to do away with the "pretend tests" and let them teach. She said she is always happy to help students with math.

2. Jerry Kettle

BISD parent Jerry Kettle asked the board why transportation to Gateway was discontinued this year. President Allen explained that the board cannot respond to questions if the item is not listed on the agenda. President Allen assured Mr. Kettle that someone from the district would be in touch with him to discuss this further.

3. Juan Rojas

CCHS parent Juan Rojas spoke to the Board about a safety concern at Hwy 71 and Pope Bend Road. He stated that an accident is waiting to happen in that area. President Allen repeated what he had said to Mr. Kettle, and also told him that a district employee would be in touch with him to get more information.

3. Public Hearing

Presenter: Sandra Callahan

A. Presentation and Public Hearing on the 2012-2013 Proposed Tax Rate

The Public Hearing on the 2012-2013 Proposed Tax Rate was opened at 5:55 p.m. Mrs. Callahan reported that the district is proposing a \$1.04 M&O tax rate and 0.441 debt tax rate for a total tax rate of \$1.481. Mrs. Callahan reviewed the district's property value history and principle taxpayers. She reported that this rate is the same as last year's rate despite the impact of the wildfires of 2011. Mrs. Callahan reviewed taxes on various home values. Mrs. Callahan asked for comments or questions from the board or the public. There being none, the public hearing was closed at 6:00 p.m.

B. Adopt 2012-2013 Tax Rate

This year's proposed tax rate does not exceed the effective tax rate. John Eaton moved and Jim Mills seconded to adopt the tax rate of \$1.04 for maintenance and operations and \$.0441 for payment of principal and interest on debt for a total tax rate of \$1.481 for the 2012-2013 school year. President Allen asked for questions or comments. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion

A. Curriculum Report

1. 2012-2013 Program Plans and Budgets for ESEA Title I, Title II, Title III, and Migrant

Information was provided to the Board. There was no discussion.

B. Financial Report - Attachment A

Information was provided to the Board. There was no discussion.

C. Personnel Report

Information was provided to the Board. There was no discussion.

D. Communications / Community Services Report

1. BISD Daycares

Information was provided to the Board. There was no discussion.

2. Partner's in Education (PIE) Program

Information was provided to the Board. Mr. Williams reported that the PIE Program is being revamped. He presented a video that is being used to promote and get the community involved in volunteering and mentoring.

3. Strategic Planning - Reconfiguration

Barry Edwards reported that in 2010, BISD began a Strategic Planning process to create a rolling five year plan that charted a new course for the District. He stated that the plan was created by a 30-member committee who developed six strategic strategies. Mr. Edwards reviewed Strategy III which states "We will strategically organize the district to provide instructional programs to prepare students for post-secondary readiness". He explained that one of the steps to achieving this strategy is to look at the grade configuration for the district. Mr. Edwards stated that even though the plan definitively says "campus grade level grouping will be reconfigured", no decision has been made at this time. He added that this is a strategy that is being studied, and the district is in the process of gathering more information from surrounding districts. In addition, the district will host two Community Forums and numerous meetings with different organizations to gain insight and information on the grade configuration options. Mr. Edwards stated that the district would bring a report to the board in October and a recommendation to the board in November.

Mr. Edwards reviewed College Readiness and reported that several reports released by the Department of Education recommend that students begin planning for college as early as sixth grade. In addition, success in key

subjects in the middle grades is a strong predictor of success in high school and beyond. Mr. Edwards reviewed research and grade configuration and reported that a reoccurring theme in recent studies indicates the more transitions a student experiences, the greater the chance for achievement loss. However, he stated that effective programs and practices, not grade configuration, determine the quality of the schools.

Mr. Edwards reviewed a summary of benefits and challenges for reconfiguration, and reviewed options for moving forward. Option 1 is leaving the current grade configuration as is and develop an instructional transition plan to address academic loss from school to school and provide additional college readiness opportunities for intermediate level students; option 2 is to reconfigure campuses to K-5 and 6-8 to begin with the 2014-15 school year, move portable buildings to house 6th graders at current middle school campuses, repurpose Cedar Creek Intermediate to a K-5 campus, redraw attendance zones in Western Zone to house K-5 students at current elementary campuses and repurpose CCIS, repurpose Bastrop Intermediate to a K-5 campus and redraw attendance zones in Eastern Zone to balance K-5 student enrollment ; and option 3 to reconfigure campuses to K-5 and 6-8 to begin with the 2014-15 school year, reconfigure 9th grade campus to become a 3rd middle school campus, redraw attendance zones for three middle schools (BMS will house some western and eastern zone students), repurpose Cedar Creek Intermediate to a K-5 campus, redraw attendance zones in Western Zone to house K-5 students at current elementary campuses and repurpose Cedar Creek Intermediate, repurpose Bastrop Intermediate to a K-5 campus and redraw attendance zones in Eastern Zone to balance K-5 student enrollment.

Mr. Edwards reviewed financial considerations of all three options and stated that making physical accommodations for new grade spans would be costly; however, if the cost/benefit analysis eventually confirms that reconfiguring grade configurations is critical to student academic success, then the capital costs may be worth the investment.

Mr. Edwards stated that he would post information on the Community Forums and organization meetings on the district website, and would forward this information to Board members. The district will bring information back to the Board in October, and a recommendation to the Board in November.

4. Revisions to TASB Policy FD (LOCAL)

Information was provided to the Board. Mr. Williams stated that there was a sense of urgency to get this policy revision approved and asked the Board for their consideration.

John Eaton moved and Linda Apostalo seconded to approve the revisions to TASB Policy FD (LOCAL) as presented. President Allen asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Consider Approval of Minutes of August 21, 2012**
- B. Consider Approval of Qualified PDAS Appraisers**
- C. Consider Approval of District Investment Report**
- D. Consider Approval of Temporary and Permanent Easement and Right of Way**

President Allen asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. There being no requests, John Eaton moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the consent agenda items as follows: the minutes of August 21, 2012; the qualified PDAS Appraisers; the District Investment Report; and the temporary and permanent easement and right of way and authorizing the Board President to sign the easement documents.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Information Items

A. District Wide Calendar

Information was provided to the Board. There was no discussion.

B. Enrollment

Information was provided to the Board. There was no discussion.

C. BISD Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2012-2013

Information was provided to the board. There was no discussion.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, John Eaton moved and Jim Mills seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President