

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, August 19, 2014, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Bastrop ISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Allen, President
David Long, Vice-President
Ashley Mutschink, Secretary
Matthew Mix
Glenn Peterson
Billy Moore
Molly McClure

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

William Jaeger
Vera Preston-Jaeger
Rebecca Bennett
Joni Ashbrook
Cindy Geisman
Karen Sterling
Stephanie Fletcher
Tammy Pickering
Shawn Pickering
Allen Rhodes
Wes Gardner
Jeffrey Whitworth
Destrey Ruhe
Tristen Lang

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Murray, Superintendent
Barry Edwards, Deputy Superintendent
Janie Pollard, Asst. Superintendent for C&I
Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer
Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer
Donald Williams, Ex. Director of Communications
Tessie Young, Director of Federal Programs & Grants
Michele Martella, Director of Special Education Svcs.
John Korb, Director of IT Services
Camille Smith, Director of Assessment & Student Support
Les Hudson, Director of CTE
Nancy Roll, Director of Secondary Instruction
Kathy Cawthron, Director of Elementary Instruction
Jim Hallamek, Bastrop Intermediate Principal
Alan Laurent, Cedar Creek Middle School Asst. Principal
Reba King, Mina Elementary Principal
Melinda Marquez, Cedar Creek Elementary Principal
LaShun Gaines, Red Rock Elementary Principal
Laura Krcmar, Red Rock Elementary Asst. Principal
Mark Willoughby, District Athletic Coordinator
Celina Estrada-Thomas, Director of HR
Sara Guerra, Lost Pines Elementary Principal
Liz Wysocki, Bastrop High School Assoc. Principal
Patricia Melgar-Cook, Director of Bilingual /ESL
Sami Kinsey, Bastrop Middle School Principal
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent

1. Opening, Pledge, Presentations and Open Forum

A. 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 this meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

The Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

D. Opening Prayer

Glenn Peterson offered the opening prayer.

E. Student Speaker on the Character Education Trait for August – Respect

Bastrop High School Senior Sabrina Locke spoke to the board on Respect.

Sabrina enjoys reading, writing, photography and painting. Her parents are Jennie and John Locke.

F. Open Forum

1. Rebecca Bennett

Rebecca Bennett commended administration for bringing a report on teacher workload this evening. She stated that teachers need to spend less time on paperwork and more time teaching. Mrs. Bennett thanked Mr. Edwards for working with teacher organizations. Mrs. Bennett also thanked the Board for the generous raises. She added that money is a good way to attract good people, but they won't stay if working conditions are not good.

2. Dr. Vera Preston-Jaeger

Dr. Preston-Jaeger expressed her excitement about all of the good things going on in the district and is looking forward to a wonderful school year. She added that she was impressed with the District's partnership with Austin Community College.

3. Stephanie Fletcher

BISD resident Stephanie Fletcher offered her assistance to continue to make Bastrop a great place to live. Ms. Fletcher is a former educator looking for a "fit" to serve the community.

4. Joni Ashbrook

BISD teacher and citizen Joni Ashbrook addressed the Board on the outsourcing of the maintenance and custodial departments. She asked the Board to please take a good look at what is being cut and the repercussions of the cuts.

5. Cindy Geisman

Cindy Geisman spoke to the Board on the outsourcing of maintenance and custodial departments. Ms. Geisman would like a full disclosure to the community on the cost benefits and impact of the contract.

6. Karen Sterling

Karen Sterling addressed the Board on the outsourcing of the maintenance and custodial departments. She stated that citizens are very concerned about the outsourcing and would like more discussion.

2. Public Hearing on Proposed Application for an Optional Flexible School Day Program for 2014-2015

Presenter: Nancy Roll

Nancy Roll opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed Application for an Optional Flexible School Day Program for 2014-2015 at 5:50 p.m. Ms. Roll explained that the

OFSDP is a program that districts may offer to provide flexible hours and days of attendance for students in any grade who meet certain criteria. She added that the goal of the program is to improve graduation rates for students who are in danger of dropping out of school or who are behind in core subject courses. Ms. Roll stated that the district is requesting to submit application to TEA for the OFSDP for Genesis High School for 2014-2015.

A. Optional Flexible School Day Program Report 2013-2014

Ms. Roll reviewed the 2013-2014 OFSDP Report. She reported that Genesis High School participated in the OFSDP last year. Ms. Roll reported that Genesis students earned 800 credits last year.

B. Proposed Application for an Optional Flexible School Day Program for 2014-2015

C. Consider Approval to Submit Application for an Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) for Eligible Students for 2014-2015

Ashley Mutschink moved and Matthew Mix seconded to approve the submission of an application for an Optional Flexible School Day Program for eligible students for 2014-2015. President Allen asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen asked for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion

A. Curriculum Report

1. Accountability Update including Community & Student Engagement

Janie Pollard presented an Accountability Update which included Community & Student Engagement. Mrs. Pollard reported that the state's accountability system has changed significantly over the last two years, and instead of receiving ratings of Exemplary, Acceptable or Unacceptable, districts and campuses are now rated as only Met Standard or Improvement Required. As a District, Bastrop ISD received a "Met Standard" rating. Mrs. Pollard reported that all BISD intermediate, middle and high school campuses received the "Met Standard" rating as well as Lost Pines Elementary and Genesis High School. Bluebonnet Elementary, Cedar Creek Elementary, Emile Elementary, Mina Elementary, and Red Rock Elementary all received the "Improvement Required" rating. Gateway School was not rated. Mrs. Pollard stated that the District is looking into filing an appeal for Cedar Creek Elementary and Red Rock Elementary due to each campus missing the "Met Standard" rating by one point in one or more index areas. Mrs. Pollard acknowledged that there is work to do across the board and more specifically at the elementary level. Mrs. Pollard congratulated Cedar Creek Middle School, Cedar Creek Intermediate School, Bastrop Middle School, Bastrop High School and Cedar Creek High School for earning TEA Distinctions.

B. Financial Report

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

C. Personnel Report

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

1. Workload: Required Plans and Reports

Barry Edwards presented an annual report on the District's efforts to minimize teacher paperwork and on the number and length of written reports that teachers are required to prepare. Mr. Edwards stated that administration has been meeting with leadership of five active teacher organizations each month and together have defined three areas of focus for the 2014-15 school year: solicit additional specific information from teachers that will improve teaching and learning; review and determine the amount of "non-negotiable procedures" district wide and on each campus with the goal of minimizing and developing further consistency across the District to reduce redundant request of information; and monitor and limit the number of after school meetings.

D. Operations Report

1. Appointment of Integrated Pest Management Coordinator

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

E. Communications / Community Services Report

1. Strategic Planning Update

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

2. Naming Rights to Memorial Stadium

Information was provided to the Board. Donald Williams reported that a local business is interested in engaging in conversation regarding naming rights to Memorial Stadium. Mr. Williams stated that the District works with Steep Media for advertising. He asked the board if they are interested in entertaining this idea. After some board discussion, the Board instructed administration to set some ground rules and move forward with the discussion. Mr. Murray stated that the District would accept bids for the naming rights to the stadium. He added that Memorial Stadium would continue to be part of the name of the stadium. Mr. Williams stated that a recommendation would be presented to the board for approval once the bid process was completed.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of June 12 and 17, 2014

B. Consider Awarding Bids

1. Property & Casualty Insurance 2014-2015

2. Special Education Professional Services RFQ #2014-14

3. Sole Source Purchases over \$25,000.00

C. Consider Approval of Advanced Course Exemptions for No Pass, No Play

D. Consider Approval of District Investment Report

E. Consider Approval of IMA Expense Report

F. Consider Approval of Tax Refunds

G. Consider Approval of Resolution Regarding Extracurricular Status of 4-H Organization and Adjunct Faculty Agreement

H. Consider Approval of 2014-2015 General Fund Budget Amendment

I. Consider Approval of Leasor Crass, P.C. Proactive Legal Services & Retainer Program

President Allen asked if any Board member wanted to pull any of the consent agenda items for discussion. There being none, President Allen asked for a motion. Matthew Mix moved and David Long seconded to approve the consent agenda items as follows: the minutes of June 12 and 17, 2014; continued participation in the TASB Risk Management Program for Property/Casualty, General Liability, Educators Liability, and Auto Insurance Coverage for a premium of \$181,095.00 effective September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015; the following firms be awarded to provide Special Education Professional Services on an as-needed basis – Ardor Health Solutions, Cobb Pediatric Therapy Services, Cumberland Therapy Services, INVO Healthcare Associates, Progressus Therapy LLC, Providastaff, San Marcos Interpreting, Staffing Options and Solutions, Sunbelt Staffing and Supplemental Healthcare; purchases from the following companies that qualify for sole source status – Thinking Maps, Inc. in the amount of \$26,347.36; Learning A-Z in the amount of \$42,491.87; and Pearson Curriculum in the amount of \$29,064.30; the Advanced Course Exemptions for No Pass, No Play; the District Investment Report; the June and July 2014 IMA Expense Report; tax refunds over \$2,500 for July 2014; the Resolution Regarding Extracurricular Status of 4-H Organization and Adjunct Faculty Agreement; the 2014-2015 general fund budget amendment; and the Leasor Crass, P.C. Proactive Legal Services and Retainer Program as presented.

5. Action Items

A. Consider Approval of Proposed Tax Rate to be Published in the Notice of Public Meeting to be held in September

Mrs. Callahan reported that the proposed tax rate to be published and adopted in September will be as follows: Maintenance and Operations Tax \$1.04; Debt Service Tax Rate .401 for a total tax rate of \$1.441, which is a two cent reduction in the district's debt service tax rate. She stated that the Public Hearing on the Tax Rate will be held on September 16th.

David Long moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the proposed tax rate of \$1.441 to be published in the Notice of Public Meeting to be held in September. President Allen asked for comments and questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider Approval of the District Improvement Plan for 2014-2015

Ashley Mutschink moved and Matthew Mix seconded to approve the District Improvement Plan for 2014-2015 as presented. President Allen asked for

comments and questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Authorizing Administration to Issue Contracts for 6 Additional Teaching Positions for 2014-2015

Mr. Edwards stated that in advance of the new school year, administration is asking the Board to approve six additional teaching positions in anticipation of increase enrollment and/or class size. He added that the positions would only be utilized once balancing class loads across the district has occurred and the additional teachers are needed. Mr. Edwards stated that the positions are included in the August general fund budget amendment.

Matthew Mix moved and Molly McClure seconded to authorize administration to issue contracts for 6 additional teaching positions for 2014-2015. President Allen asked for comments and questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Consider Selecting a Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the TASB Assembly in September

David Long nominated Billy Moore to serve as Delegate and Molly McClure to serve as Alternate Delegate to the TASB Assembly in September. Glenn Peterson seconded the nominations. President Allen asked for comments and questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Initiation of Proceedings for the Sale of Real Property Located near Paige, Texas

Henry Gideon reported that the District owns an approximately 26 acre tract of land in Paige. He added that the site is landlocked and has no access other than easement. Mr. Gideon reported that the district has historically leased the property for cattle grazing and ag use; however all known leases are no longer current. He added that the property has no educational value. Mr. Gideon stated that a local property owner has expressed interest in bidding on the property.

Billy Moore moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Initiation of Proceedings for the Sale of Real Property located near Paige, Texas. President Allen asked for comments and questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Consider Approval of Resolution to Suspend Portions of TASB Policy EIE (LOCAL) for the 2014-2015 School Year Only

Mrs. Pollard stated that due to math assessments in grades 5 and 8, the district needs to suspend policy EIE (LOCAL) for one year only.

Molly McClure moved and Ashley Mutschink seconded to approve the Resolution to Suspend Portions of TASB Policy EIE (LOCAL) for the 2014-2015 school year only. President Allen asked for comments and questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Consider all matters incident and related to the issuance and sale of Bastrop Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014, including the adoption of an order authorizing the issuance of such bonds, establishing parameters for the sale and issuance of such bonds and delegating certain matters to an authorized official of the District

Mrs. Callahan reported that with interest rates at an all time low, the District would like to take advantage of another bond refunding opportunity that will save the District an estimated \$1.2 million. She added that the sale would occur in the next few months. Mrs. Callahan reported that the district has saved approximately \$7.2 million in debt over the last three years under Mr. Murray's administration.

Matthew Mix moved and Molly McClure seconded to Consider all matters incident and related to the issuance and sale of Bastrop Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014, including the adoption of an order authorizing the issuance of such bonds, establishing parameters for the sale and issuance of such bonds and delegating certain matters to an authorized official of the District. President Allen asked for comments and questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Information Items

A. District Wide Calendar

B. Proposed 2015 Bastrop Central Appraisal District Budget

C. TASB Policy Update100

D. TASB Board of Directors Endorsement

Ashley Mutschink moved and Matthew Mix seconded to endorse Doug Gaul from Hutto ISD for TASB Board of Directors. President Allen asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Glenn Peterson moved and Ashley Mutschink seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President