

**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 on **Tuesday, May 19, 2009**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at **Mina Elementary School, 1203 Hill Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Allen, President
Jim Mills, Vice-President
Karen Halladay, Secretary
Johnny Sanders
John Eaton
Glenn Peterson
Sophia Williams
Ty McDonald, Board Member Elect

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Cynthia Reese
Sandra Ballard
Catina White-Higgins
Steffani Motyka
Norma Longoria
Kristy & James Ramon
Kris Lautenschlager
Leo Hernandez
Debbie Burkham
Ann Wilson
Dan & Linda Smith
Mike Herman
Madison Herman
Cindy Brizzolara
Ashley Chavez
Cassandra Simpson
Cynthia Loera
Ronnie McDonald
Aaron Diaz & Family
Paula Clark
Bill Owens
Rena Deloach
Wayne Devine
Elke Hughes
Tina Westbrook
Linda Clayton
Bibiana Palacios

ALSO PRESENT:

Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent
Betty Richardson, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Barry Edwards, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources
Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer
Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer
Thomas Dowdy, Director of Maintenance
Sherri Gilmore, Ex. Director of Special Education
Lori Gracey, Ex. Director of Technology/CATE
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Tessie Young, Director of Programs
Gerald Perry, Director of Athletics/Head Football Coach
Lacey Padgett, Director of Human Resources
Robert Washington, Student Services Coordinator
Melissa Lautenschlager, Science Specialist
Michael Granado, Director of Student Services
Bryan Doyle, Director of IT Services
Nanci Stobaugh, Director of Special Education Coop
Albert Gaines, Director of Child Nutrition
Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas, Bastrop High School Principal
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Mark Willoughby, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Dr. Laurie Bauer, Bastrop Middle School Principal
Jim Hallamek, Cedar Creek Middle School Principal
Richard Battle, Bluebonnet Elementary Principal
Jinger Myers, Cedar Creek Elementary Principal
Denise Rogers, Cedar Creek Elementary Asst. Principal
Deborah Mayer, Emile Elementary Principal
Donna Orsag, Lost Pines Elementary Principal
Linda Johnson, Mina Elementary Principal
Michele Stahl, Mina Elementary Asst. Principal
Bruce Nelson, Red Rock Elementary Principal
Shawn Adams, Cedar Creek Intermediate Principal
Merv Doherty, Bastrop Intermediate Principal
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
Janet Eaton
Jennifer Wenske
S. Sims
Joel Sims
Sandra Munoz
Lauri Anzaldua

Angie Valderrama
Jerry Acevedo
Benita Collins
Joseph Nichols
Quincy Bland
Sheena Patterson
Robert Howe

Fil Valderrama
Tina Clayton
Bettina Huth
John Huth
Tresha Silva
Wilda Vasquez

1. Opening

A. Meeting Called to Order

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:34 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. Star Spangled Banner by Glenn Peterson, Jr.

Glenn Peterson, Jr. played the Star Spangled Banner.

E. Opening Prayer

Glenn Peterson offered the opening prayer.

F. Student Speaker on Character Education Trait for April – Self-Discipline

Emile Elementary Student Mariah Ramon spoke on Integrity, the Character Education Trait for May.

2. Canvassing of May 9, 2009 Board of Trustees Election

The Board members were handed the final results of the May 9, 2009 Trustee Election to canvass. The results of the Trustee Election are as follows: Place 1 – James Allen (925 votes) and Jim Clark (867 votes); and Place 2 – Karen Halladay (837 votes) and Ty McDonald (984 votes).

John Eaton moved and Jim Mills seconded to certify the May 9, 2009 trustee election results of James Allen winner of Place 1 and Ty McDonald winner of Place 2. President Allen asked the Board for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Superintendent Emanuel presented Karen Halladay with a token of appreciation for her service on the Board of Trustees.

3. Administration of Oath of Office to New Board Members

Judge Chris Duggan administered the Oath of Office for Newly Elected Board Members to James Allen and Ty McDonald.

4. Reorganization of Board – Election of Officers

President Allen opened the floor for nominations for the office of Board President. James Allen nominated John Eaton for Board President. Glenn Peterson seconded the nomination. President Allen called for other nominations. There being no other

nominations, Superintendent Emanuel called for a vote. John Eaton was elected Board President.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Eaton offered his personal appreciation to Mr. Allen for serving as President for the past 2 years. Superintendent Emanuel presented Mr. Allen with a token of appreciation from the district.

President Eaton called for nominations for the office of Board Vice-President. Jim Mills nominated Johnny Sanders for Board Vice-President. Sophia Williams seconded the nomination. President Eaton called for other nominations. There being no other nominations, President Eaton called for a vote. Johnny Sanders was elected Board Vice-President.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Superintendent Emanuel presented Mr. Mills with a token of appreciation for his service as Board Vice-President for the past year.

President Eaton called for nominations for the office of Board Secretary. Johnny Sanders nominated Sophia Williams for Board Secretary. Glenn Peterson seconded the nomination. President Eaton called for other nominations. There being no other nominations, President Eaton called for a vote. Sophia Williams was elected Board Secretary.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Presentations

A. District Educational Improvement Committee Presentation

Betty Richardson thanked members of the DEIC for their dedication to district and all of their hard work.

B. Bastrop ISD Student Recognitions

Bastrop ISD students were recognized for their achievements.

The Board took a break beginning at 8:07 p.m. The Board reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

6. Open Forum

President Eaton announced that procedures allow for 30 minutes for open forum. He explained that since there were many requests on multiple subjects, he would allocate 20 minutes for discussion about graduation and the other 10 minutes for the other speakers. President Eaton asked all of the people that signed up to speak about graduation to convene as a group and discuss how their 20 minutes would be spent.

1. Wilda Vasquez

Wilda Vasquez, former BISD CATE Director and 29 year BISD employee, requested that the Board split the position of Technology and CATE Director into two separate positions.

2. Dr. Vera Preston-Jaeger

Dr. Vera Preston-Jaeger applauded the efforts of the district and stressed the importance of district volunteers and community involvement.

3. Rena Deloach

Durham special needs bus driver Rena Deloach addressed the Board about buses with no air conditioning or heating. She stated that some days temperatures on the buses exceed 106 degrees.

4. Sandra Ballard

Former Durham bus driver Sandra Ballard stated that she does not support the district contracting with Durham Transportation due to unsafe situations that she experienced while working for Durham.

5. Robert Howe

Durham employee Robert Howe addressed the Board about his concern for the safety of children riding school buses due to bad tires, headlights that don't work, and discipline issues on buses. Mr. Howe stated that drivers are not allowed to stop or go into schools to use the restroom.

6. Sheena Patterson

Durham Student Discipline Coordinator Sheena Patterson addressed the Board on unsafe buses. She added that the Durham employees that attended the meeting tonight would be "counseled" by Durham tomorrow for speaking out about their concerns. Ms. Patterson stated that Durham has made promises of new buses and radios but they do not come through.

7. Linda Clayton

BISD parent Linda Clayton asked the district to consider banning hoodies with drawstrings on elementary campuses due to their potential for strangulation, especially on playgrounds.

8. Group of students and parents

A group of students and parents addressed the board and requested that they hold a special meeting to change the policy that would allow students that have met all graduation requirements except for passing all exit-level testing to participate in the graduation ceremony. Some of the students said that they were A/B students and are having trouble passing the TAKS test due to the pressure and anxiety associated with the test. Many students commented that they missed passing by one question on one test and many students stated that they attended special tutoring sessions and TAKS prep classes and still have not passed all of the tests. Many of the students made a promise to the Board that they would continue to attend tutorials and take the TAKS tests until they passed all of the tests. The students and parents concluded by stating that these students have completed four years of high school and have their required credits and they should be allowed to walk the stage with their classmates.

President Eaton stated that the Board could not comment on any of the items that were brought up in open forum this evening since they are not listed on the agenda. He went on to say that the graduation issue was one that needed to be addressed and the Board owed the public something on this issue. President Eaton suggested that the Superintendent email the Board the current policy along with the administration's recommendation on whether or not to change the policy. In addition, he asked any Board member that would like to have a special meeting to discuss this item further to email the Superintendent by the end of the business day on Thursday. President Eaton stated that if the Superintendent received four or more requests, the Board would have a special

meeting next week. He added that if there are not at least four requests, there would be no need for a special meeting.

7. Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion

A. Curriculum Report

1. Update on Technology/CTE Programs

Lori Gracey presented a Power Point presentation giving the Board an annual update of the district's Technology and CTE Programs. Mrs. Gracey reported an extremely successful year and thanked the Board on behalf of the students and staff of Bastrop ISD. President Eaton thanked Mrs. Gracey for the great presentation and commented that he would love to get this presentation out in the community.

Mr. Mills commented that Mrs. Gracey wore many hats and he felt that this was too much emphasis in one person's lap. He added that this position has outgrown just one person and he would like to see this position split into at least two separate positions. Mr. Mills asked Mrs. Gracey for her opinion on the position. She stated that the integration of all of the pieces of the position work best if they all work together as they are interdependent. Mrs. Gracey added that a position was lost in the past due to the budget. She concluded by stating that she did not feel that this was one of the most urgent needs of the district, however it would be critical to have all three positions under one umbrella under the Curriculum and Instruction Department.

B. Financial Report

Information was provided to the Board. Sandra Callahan reviewed the measurement charts.

1. Preliminary Budget Information

President Eaton suggested the Board have a Budget Workshop meeting on Monday, June 1st and defer tonight's presentation until that time. He stated that he would like to see details underneath gross numbers – campus by campus, department by department. He would like to review staffing and responsibilities for all campuses and all departments.

President Eaton stated that he would like for the workshop meeting to begin at 9 a.m. and added that the meeting would probably last 4 – 5 hours. Mr. Sanders requested a brief synopsis on legislation that was passed. President Eaton asked Board members to look through their budget booklets and let Mrs. Callahan know if they would like additional information for the workshop meeting.

C. Personnel Report

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

D. Operations Report

1. Update on Construction Projects

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

8. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2009

B. Consider Approval of Bids

1. Fall Sports Apparel and Equipment RFB #2009-15

2. Demographic Services 2008-07 Renewal

President Eaton asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. There being no requests, President Eaton called for a motion. James Allen moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of April 21, 2009; the low bids for the fall sports apparel and equipment with the exceptions that were presented to the Board; and the renewal of the contract with School District Strategies, LLC for demographic services.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Action Items

A. Consider Approval of Bastrop ISD Vision, Mission and Goals for 2009-2013

Betty Richardson reported that a group of parents, community members, business leaders, and school district personnel got together last month to develop a new vision, mission and goals for Bastrop ISD as the first step in preparing all of our students to meet the demands of the 21st century. She explained that their work was based on the book entitled *The Global Achievement Gap*. Mrs. Richardson reviewed the proposed vision and mission statements and four board goals. She stated that the goals were created in order to get to the vision. Mrs. Richardson also stated that the mission statement was not a part of the original work, but once the group got started, a mission statement was created. Mrs. Richardson thanked the committee members and added that she would be inviting the 44 participants of the committee to a future meeting.

Mrs. Richardson guided the Board through the process of how the Strategic Planning Committee developed the vision, mission, and goals that will guide the district over the next five years. She explained that this plan is about change, adding that the current systems are obsolete and new systems would have to be created. Mrs. Richardson went on to say that change is never easy and the Board must be committed to move in this direction. President Eaton stated that the district would need to find a proven vehicle to help facilitate the implementation instead of growing it from home.

James Allen moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the Bastrop ISD Vision, Mission and Goals for 2009-2013 as presented. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider Approval of General Fund, Food Service, Technology Allotment and Debt Service Budget Amendments

Sandra Callahan presented information on general fund, food service, technology allotment and debt service budget amendments. She explained that none of the amendments would have an impact on the fund balance. Mrs. Callahan stated that she would bring final budget amendments to the Board in June for approval.

Jim Mills moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the general fund, food service, technology allotment and debt service budget amendments as presented. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of Bank Depository Contract

Mrs. Callahan reported that a school district must select a depository for school funds every two years. She stated that the district received a number of competitive bids this year, and is recommending that the Board award the 2009-11 Bank Depository Contract to First National Bank of Bastrop.

Glenn Peterson moved and Sophia Williams seconded to award the 2009-11 Bank Depository Contract to First National Bank of Bastrop with the option of extending for two years in 2011. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Consider Approval of Contract for Financial Advisors

Mrs. Callahan reported that seven firms submitted bids for financial advisor services and recommended that the Board award the contract to BOSC, Inc. Mrs. Callahan reported that the district would be selling \$38 million in bonds in the next few months, and BOSC's finance team of Bill Gumbert and Josh McLaughlin's service to BISD in past bond programs has been excellent. Mrs. Callahan stated that BOSC lets the district assist in choosing underwriters, and she added that there are no fees charged until the bonds are sold.

Jim Mills moved and James Allen seconded to award BOSC, Inc. as financial advisors for Bastrop ISD, and authorize Sandra Callahan to negotiate the contract that provides the best value for the District. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Consider Authorizing Administration to Issue Contracts for 2 Additional Special Ed Coop positions for 2009-2010

Barry Edwards requested the Board approve the addition of two ARD facilitator positions to support the ARD process and primarily focus on teacher/parent consultation and be responsible for the conducting of ARD meetings. He added that these positions would be fully funded with federal funds.

Glenn Peterson moved and Sophia Williams seconded to authorize the administration to issue contracts for 2 additional Special Ed Coop positions for 2009-10 as presented. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. 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. Texas Department of Agriculture Equipment Grant

Information was provided to the Board. Henry Gideon reported that the Child Nutrition Department has submitted a grant to the Texas Department of Agriculture to replace aging and outdated equipment. He added that this grant request was part of the ARRA legislation and there would be no cost to taxpayers.

D. Change in Plan Document for 403(b) Plan

Information was provided to the Board. Mrs. Callahan reminded the Board that in December 2008 the board approved the districts' 403(b) document which included the following: Roth 403(b) contributions (not included in plan); loans (not allowed); and hardships withdrawals (not allowed). She reported that Great American Plan Administrators, the districts' third party administrator since October 1, 2008, now stands ready to review every loan request to make sure that the district operates within the new IRS guidelines. Mrs. Callahan reported that the district has received numerous inquiries and requests from employees and past employees for approval of loans from their 403(b) accounts. She stated that information sharing documents have been signed. President Eaton stated that he would like to look back at minutes from the meeting when this was previously discussed. Mrs. Callahan stated that she would bring the 403(b) Plan Document to the Board in June.

11. Closed Session

The Board of Trustees, at 10:05 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, convened into Closed Session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

A. Personnel Discussion (551.074)

1. Lost Pines Elementary School Principal

B. Real Property (551.072)

1. Discussion of Possible Future Sites

12. Action Resulting from Closed Session

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 10:55 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2009.

James Allen moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to name Denise Rogers as principal for Lost Pines Elementary School. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President