

**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, August 19, 2008**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the **Bastrop ISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Allen, President
Jim Mills, Vice-President
John Eaton
Johnny Sanders

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Karen Halladay, Secretary
Sophia Williams
Glenn Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT

Debbie Vega
Mike Vega
Vernagene Mott
Bill Owens
Bonnie McWhorter
Bernie Jackson
Sarah Eichler
Shari Eichler
Stephen Lusk
Vera Preston-Jaeger
Lynn Sorrells
Lee Gordon
Clara Colter
Jan Eaton
Linda Nunez
Marsha Goertz
Jerry Acevedo
Cindy Clegg
Cheryl Robinson

ALSO PRESENT:

Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent
Betty Richardson, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Barry Edwards, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources
Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer
Donald Williams, Exec. Director of Community Services
Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer
Thomas Dowdy, Director of Maintenance
Lori Gracey, Ex. Director of Technology/CATE
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Dr. Tamera Stark, Director of Community Programs
Lacey Padgett, Director of Human Resources
Bryan Doyle, Director of IT Services
Gerald Perry, Director of Athletics/Head Football Coach
Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas, Bastrop High School Principal
Sherril Gilmore, Ex. Director of Special Education Co-op
Nanci Stobaugh, Director of Special Education Co-op
Susan Gill, Math Specialist
Melissa Lautenschlager, Science Specialist
Tessie Young, Director of Programs
Dr. Laurie Bauer, Bastrop Middle School Principal
Shevis Moore, EMC/Safety Officer
Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas, Bastrop High School Principal
Martin Conrardy, Bastrop High School Assoc. Principal
Elva Conrardy, Bilingual/ESL Specialist
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Frank Cloud, Bond Construction Manager
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
Alan Jaeger
Lee Murray
Gary Davis
Sean Connor
Sally Craycraft

1. Opening, Presentations & Open Forum

A. Meeting Called to Order

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

Jim Mills led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

Jim Mills led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

D. Opening Prayer

Jim Mills offered the opening prayer.

E. Student Speaker on Character Education

Stephen Lusk spoke to the Board on the Character Trait of August - Respect.

F. Open Forum

1. Vernagene Mott

Ms. Vernagene Mott, a member of the Pflugerville ISD Board of Trustees, asked the Board for their endorsement of her to represent Region XIII on the TASB Board of Directors.

2. Bernie Jackson

Ms. Jackson shared information with the Board on two new programs that she's working on – the 3T (teach, train & transform) Program, which is a tutoring program to assist struggling students and the Coaching Boys Into Men program, where men train boys to be men and end violence against women. She stated that the Family Crisis Center would be conducting training for all interested men on August 28th.

3. Dr. Vera Preston-Jaeger

Dr. Vera Preston-Jaeger offered suggestions for improving student learning. She concluded by stating that she is looking forward to a wonderful year at BISD.

2. Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion

A. Information on Rural Texas Workforce Forum

Lynn Sorrells invited the Board of Trustees to a forum on October 6, 2008 entitled Workforce Meets Academia. She reported that the purpose of the forum will be to work on raising the skill levels of job seekers and to increase the employability of the local workforce. Ms. Sorrells added that there are many grant and partnership opportunities available.

Ms. Sorrells stated that the forum would be a full day and the location and time would be determined. She added that attendance would be limited to approximately 50 people, and she invited principals and some teachers from the district to attend. Ms. Sorrells stated that she would provide additional information prior to the forum.

B. Presentation by Pastor Mike Vega on the "Complete Your Homework – Stay in School Program"

Pastor Mike Vega, pastor of the Word of Life Church and President of the Ministerial Alliance, reported that Board member John Eaton had approached him to support the Complete Your Homework, Stay in School

Program. Pastor Vega stated that the Ministerial Alliance is strongly behind this effort and are concerned that students do not have enough homework. Pastor Vega urged others to show their support for the program. He added that volunteers are ready and area churches are ready to open their doors for afterschool homework centers.

Pastor Vega thanked Superintendent Emanuel and all Bastrop ISD teachers for answering their call to be educators. In addition, he thanked the Board of Trustees for their tireless work.

C. Information on TASB Employee Satisfaction Survey – presented by Cindy Clegg, TASB Director of HR Services

TASB Director of HR Services Cindy Clegg presented information on the TASB Employee Satisfaction Survey. She reported that TASB is a third party administrator that collects the data online and provides districts with a summary of responses and data tables. Ms. Clegg added that the information collected is a good way to monitor factors that are important for employee retention and job satisfaction.

Ms. Clegg explained that the bank of questions covers job satisfaction, support from coworkers, how employees feel about working conditions, communications, curriculum and instruction, and several other areas. She stated that she would work with administrators to develop questions and other demographic categories and added that participation is key to making this a legitimate survey. Ms. Clegg recommended a baseline survey now (at the beginning of the school year) and another survey at the end of the school year, with annual updates thereafter.

Ms. Clegg stated that surveys go directly to TASB servers and employees would be assured that personal information would not be revealed and individual comments would not be included in the summary to the district. She added that groups would be sizeable so individuals would not be identifiable. Ms. Clegg reported that participation rates vary between 1/3 and 2/3. She added that the survey would take 10-15 minutes for employees to complete from log in to log off. At the conclusion of the survey, TASB will report their findings to the district; however they do not make recommendations.

D. Curriculum Report

1. 2008 Accountability

Jennifer Womack reviewed accountability ratings for the district. She reported that overall the district received an Academically Acceptable rating. Mrs. Womack reported that Emile Elementary received an Exemplary rating, Mina Elementary, Bluebonnet Elementary, Red Rock Elementary, Lost Pines Elementary and Cedar Creek Elementary all received a Recognized rating, Genesis High School, Cedar Creek Intermediate, Cedar Creek Middle, and Bastrop Intermediate were rated Academically Acceptable, and Bastrop High School and Bastrop Middle School were rated Academically Unacceptable.

Betty Richardson reviewed a plan of action for the district. She reported that the district has hired additional curriculum and instruction specialists, added elective classes in four core areas, and is working with teachers to create a more rigorous curriculum.

Mrs. Richardson reported that the completion rate was evaluated based on the class of 2007, and added that students that get their GED are not included in the completion rate. Mrs. Richardson reminded the Board of the policy change in 2007 that allowed 53 students that did not pass the TAKS tests to obtain a certificate of completion. She added that if these students do not come back and enroll in some type of course, they will be considered drop-outs for the class of 2008. Mrs. Richardson reported that the high school has already contacted every one of the students to make sure that they show up next week, and if they do not show up on the first day of school, they will be making follow up calls. The timeline for finding no shows has changed from January to the end of September. She stated that if these students cannot be located by the end of September, they will also be counted as a drop-out. Mrs. Richardson stated that the district is on a five week timeline and it is critical that we locate these students. Mrs. Richardson also reviewed specific plans of action for Bastrop High School and Bastrop Middle School.

The board took a 5 minute break at 8:19 p.m. The Board reconvened at 8:27 p.m.

2. 2008-2009 Program Plans and Budgets for ESEA Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, and Migrant

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

E. Financial Report

Information was provided to the Board. Sandra Callahan reviewed new measurement charts that will be included in the monthly financial report.

F. Personnel Report

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

G. Operations Report

1. Update on Design and Construction Projects

Additional information on the shock pad for the turf at the new stadium was presented. Mr. Gideon reported that there is an 8 year warranty on the turf, with or without the shock pad. Coach Perry stated that he has toured many facilities and the turf is safe in every standard without the shock pad. Therefore, Coach Perry recommended that the turf be installed without the shock pad at this point.

Frank Cloud reported that there are no issues with any of the BISD construction projects. He added that the Cedar Creek High School

project is on schedule and the utility phase is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

3. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of July 24, 2008

B. Consider Approval of Bids

1. Job Order Contract Renewal

2. LCD Projector Replacement Lamps RFB #2008-01 Renewal

C. Consider Approval of Tax Refunds

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, President Allen called for a motion. Johnny Sanders moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of July 24, 2008; the renewal of the Job Order Contract agreement with Braun & Butler Construction Inc. and authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to negotiate contracts providing the best value for the district; the renewal of the contract for LCD Projector Replacement Lamps to Troxell Communications; and the tax refunds over \$2,500 for Bastrop ISD as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Action Items

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

Sandra Callahan reported that the power plants lost \$23 million in value instead of the anticipated loss of \$125 million. In addition, she reported that Agilent did not file for the Freeport exemption, which would add an additional \$8 to \$9 million to the tax rolls. Mrs. Callahan stated that she is proposing to reduce the debt service tax rate by 2 cents, adding that it may have to be increased next year after the sale of the bonds.

John Eaton moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the proposed maintenance and operations tax of \$1.040, debt service tax rate of .441 for a total tax rate of \$1.481 to be published and adopted at the September Board meeting. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider Approval of New TASB Policy CL (LOCAL)

Henry Gideon reviewed a proposed draft of the districts' new energy policy, CL (LOCAL). He stated that the district would begin to slowly enforce some of the simpler recommendations, and hopes to have all personal appliances out of classrooms/offices no later than January. Mr. Gideon added that there are no costs associated with these items at this time, adding that items requiring costs would be considered next year during the budget process.

Jim Mills moved and John Eaton seconded to approve the new TASB Policy CL (LOCAL) as presented. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consideration and Possible Action to Direct Auditor to Conduct the Districts' 2007-08 Audit and Report Back to the Board

Gary Davis with West, Davis invited board members to discuss any concerns or questions with him at anytime, reminded board members that his firm works for the board at their will and direction.

Jim Mills moved and John Eaton seconded to direct the Auditor to conduct the districts' 2007-08 audit and report back to the Board. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**D. Consider Sale of Pine Forest Tax Sale Lots Held in Trust by the
BISD**

Lee Gordon from McCreary, Veselka reported that Robert Leffingwell offered to purchase 223 lots in the Pine Forest tax sale for \$2,000 per lot. Mr. Gordon added that the sale of the lots would be contingent on the other entities approving the sale. Mr. Gordon reported that Mr. Leffingwell wants to eventually obtain approximately 400 lots in Pine Forest. He stated that they buyer has a 180 day period for which they have to close these deal. Mr. Gordon recommended approving the sale.

John Eaton moved and Johnny Sanders seconded to approve the sale of the Pine Forest tax sale lots held in trust by BISD as presented. President Allen called for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Information Items

A. District-Wide Calendar

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

B. Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2008-2009

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

C. TASB Policy Update 83

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

D. Discuss Future Agenda Items

Superintendent Emanuel reminded Board members of the goal setting workshop meeting on Tuesday, August 26th and the Back2School BASH this Saturday, August 23rd from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. at Erhard Stadium.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President