

**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, September 18, 2007**, beginning at 6:30 PM at the **Bastrop ISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Allen, President  
Rene Barrientos, Vice-President  
Karen Halladay, Secretary  
Valerie Bullock  
Glenn Peterson  
Sophia Williams  
Jim Mills

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jerry Acevedo  
Betty Voights  
Janean Whitten  
Bryan Whitten  
Shontyl Thomas  
Payton Thomas  
Gary Keil  
Mike Landrum  
Rusty Klaus  
John Easton  
Jazmine Ulloa  
Ronald Landrum  
Lee Poplinski  
Vikram Swarwp  
Mark Collins  
Mike Goebel  
Kelly Doyle  
Ginni Smith

ALSO PRESENT:

Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent  
Betty Richardson, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction  
Karen Dooley, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources  
Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer  
Donald Williams, Exec. Director of Community Services  
Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer  
Lori Gracey, Director of Instruction & Technology  
Tessie Young, Director of Programs  
Lacey Padgett, Director of Human Resources  
Thomas Dowdy, Director of Maintenance  
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment  
Dr. Tamera Stark, Director of Community Programs  
James Richardson, Genesis High School Principal  
Robert Washington, Director of Athletics  
Mike Benedict, Bastrop High School Principal  
Al Gaines, Director of Child Nutrition  
Pat Tips, Technology Specialist  
Bryan Doyle, Director of IT Services  
Andrew Ferranti, Network Technician  
Randy Sharp, Applications System Administrator  
Glenn Foor, Operations System Administrator  
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal  
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent  
Mary Kay Landrum  
Lindsay Simmons  
Jessie Poole  
Mary Voss  
Patty Green  
Greg Warner  
Steve McCleskey

**1. Opening, Presentations & Open Forum**

**A. Meeting Called to Order**

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:31 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.

President Allen pulled up action item C for discussion and approval.

**C. Consider Approval of Resolution Receiving Real Property Donation from Mary Voss**

Henry Gideon introduced Mrs. Mary Voss and reported that Mrs. Voss would like to donate some property located at Highway 21 and FM 535 in honor of longtime BISD employee Mr. Ronald Landrum. Mr. Gideon reported that the property was appraised between \$16,000 and \$19,000 and if the resolution is approved to accept the real property donation, the district would pay the closing costs.

Rene Barrientos moved and Karen Halladay seconded to adopt the Resolution to Accept Donation of Real Property and recognize Mrs. Voss and the Voss family for their generous donation in honor of Mr. Ronald Landrum. Mr. Barrientos further recommended the Board to authorize the Superintendent to tender the costs of closing on the property to the title company and to execute the legal documents necessary to effect the transaction. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Gideon thanked Mrs. Voss and her family for the generous donation. Mrs. Voss stated that she was delighted to present the land to BISD in honor of Mr. Ronald Landrum's 38 years of service to the district. Mr. Emanuel and President Allen presented Mr. Landrum with a plaque in gratitude and appreciation for his 38 years of service to the district and to the Cedar Creek community. Mr. Landrum thanked Mrs. Voss and her family for this honor. He stated that the schools in Cedar Creek have had quite an impact on the Cedar Creek community. Mr. Landrum thanked the Board of Trustees and the past Trustees that he has served under.

President Allen called for a brief recess at 6:45 p.m. for a reception in honor of Mr. Landrum. The board reconvened at 6:49 p.m.

**E. Open Forum**

**1. John Eaton**

Mr. Eaton addressed the Board on two-way communication with the community. Mr. Eaton commended the BISD Service Center for their communication tools and applauded the E3Alliance for their initiative. Mr. Eaton stated that the Board needs to have the support of the community and involve them at every opportunity. Mr. Eaton asked the Board to re-visit his request from July.

**2. Janean Whitten**

Ms. Whitten addressed the Board on the lack of tennis courts at Bastrop High School and asked the Board to consider building tennis courts at Bastrop High School.

**3. Betty Voights**

Ms. Voights addressed the Board on transportation for students that participate in the BHS tennis program. She explained that the students practice at the Tahitian Village tennis courts and the district does not provide transportation for the students to the facility. Ms. Voights asked the Board to make a stronger commitment to support the BHS tennis team.

**2. Public Hearing**

**A. Presentation on 2007-2008 Proposed Tax Rate**

Sandra Callahan opened the Public Hearing on the 2007-08 proposed tax rate. Mrs. Callahan reported that the 2007-08 proposed tax rate is \$1.501 - \$1.040 M&O and \$0.461 debt. Mrs. Callahan reviewed property value history and total tax rate history. She reported that it appears that at the end of 2006-07, the districts' unreserved/undesignated fund balance would be \$13,363,195.00, or 24.3%. Mrs. Callahan reported that the preliminary 2007-08 tax rate was originally estimated at 0.487, however after the final financing plan; the debt tax rate was 2 cents lower than anticipated. Sandra Callahan asked for questions. There being no comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

**B. Adopt 2007– 2008 Tax Rate**

This year's tax rate does not exceed the effective tax rate. Karen Halladay moved and Jim Mills seconded to adopt the tax rate of \$1.04 for maintenance and operations and \$0.461 for payment of principal and interest on debt for a total tax rate of \$1.501 for the 2007-2008 school year. President Allen asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion**

**A. Personnel Report**

Information was provided to the Board. President Allen moved up action item A for discussion and action.

**A. Consider Approval of Four Additional Teaching Positions**

Mrs. Dooley reported that the district is requesting 4 additional teaching positions due to growth. She stated that the requested positions are at Cedar Creek Elementary, Red Rock Elementary, Bastrop High School and a Special Education position at Bastrop Intermediate School. Mrs. Dooley reported that the Special Education position would be federally funded and would not impact the local budget.

Glenn Peterson moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to approve four additional teaching positions as presented. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**B. Financial Report**

Information was provided to the Board. Mrs. Callahan reminded the Board the Financial Committee would meet in November and bring the audit to the Board for approval. Mrs. Callahan reported that Jim Mills previously served on the committee as a community member, and asked for names of anyone wishing to replace Mr. Mills on the committee.

**C. Curriculum Report**

**1. Accountability Comparisons**

Jennifer Womack reviewed accountability rating comparisons with peer districts and reviewed statewide campus ratings by category and district AYP ratings.

**2. Update on Implementation Progress of the Technology Improvement Plan Phase 2 and Phase 3**

Lori Gracey presented a status report on the BISD Technology Plan. Mrs. Gracey thanked the Board for funding the technology and reported that the district is currently implementing phase 3 of the plan.

Mrs. Gracey introduced the districts' new IT Director, Bryan Doyle. Mr. Doyle thanked the Board for funding the technology and updated the Board on what his department has been working on this past summer. He stated that his department had a very busy summer and his staff worked a lot of extra hours to prepare for the new school year. Mr. Doyle reported that he is working with AT&T to triple the districts' internet bandwidth. Mrs. Gracey thanked Mr. Doyle and his staff for their hard work.

Mrs. Gracey reported that the district purchased laptop computers for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders and will purchase laptops for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders next year. Mrs. Gracey stated that all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers attended three days of technology training this summer. Mrs. Gracey thanked the maintenance department for their assistance in delivering the new laptops to the campuses.

Bastrop Intermediate School sixth grader Payton Thomas spoke to the Board on the benefits of having her own laptop computer. Payton thanked the Board on behalf of all 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students for the laptops.

Mrs. Gracey introduced Pat Tips who works with teachers and Dixie West who works with students at the intermediate schools. Mrs. Gracey commended the principals and teachers at the intermediate campuses. Cedar Creek Intermediate School teacher Mark Collins

spoke to the Board on the significant impact the new laptops have had on his students. He reported that students are engaged everyday and teachers are enjoying the curriculum. Mr. Collins reported a few bumps, but many more benefits.

Karen Halladay expressed concern with students using spell check and grammar check. She is concerned that students won't learn to spell. Mrs. Gracey stated that this was a valid concern, however teachers are taught appropriate times to use these tools, and are teaching students to use these as tools, not crutches. Mrs. Gracey reported that all students will turn in their laptops in May and the same laptop would be re-issued to the same student next year. She explained that eventually, a student will have the same laptop for 4 years.

**D. Operations Report**

**1. Update on BHS Renovations & Additions Program**

Steve McCleskey updated the board on the BHS renovations and additions program. Mr. McCleskey reported that everything came together and school was opened as planned. Mr. McCleskey thanked his staff and sub-contractors for working 7 days a week to complete the project. In addition, he thanked the BISD staff. Mr. McCleskey reported that they are finalizing the punch list items and tying up a few loose ends, and the final work should be wrapped up in 2-3 weeks. Mr. McCleskey thanked the Board for allowing Bartlett-Cocke be a part of the project.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Allen thanked Pfluger Associates and Barlett-Cocke for a fine job on the BHS renovations and additions program.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**A. Consider Approval of Minutes of August 21, 2007**

**B. Consider Approval of Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2007-08**

**C. Consider Approval of Qualified PDAS Appraisers**

**D. Consider Approval of Revision to Memorandum of Understanding between BISD and the Bastrop Policy Department for School Resource Officers**

President Allen asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. Rene Barrientos moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of August 21, 2007; the Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2007-08; the qualified PDAS Appraisers; and the revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding between BISD and the Bastrop Police Dept. for School Resource Officers.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Action Items**

**B. Consider Approval of Construction Manager at Risk**

Henry Gideon reviewed the CMAR criteria and evaluation team members. He reported that the district received bids from six highly qualified companies. Mr. Gideon introduced representatives from the companies that received recommendations.

**1. CMAR for New High School**

Jim Mills moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to authorize the administration to negotiate contracts, for the services of Construction Manager at Risk, to American Constructors for the new high school with a projected bond cost of \$65,770,000.00. American Constructors pre-negotiated purchase price is \$2,913,350.00. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2. CMAR for New Performing Arts Center**

Karen Halladay moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to authorize the administration to negotiate contracts, for the services of Construction Manager at Risk, to Bartlett-Cocke for the centralized, multi-purpose performing arts center with a projected bond cost of \$14,950,000.00. Bartlett-Cocke's pre-negotiated purchase price is \$1,281,325.00. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. CMAR for New Athletic Stadium**

Glenn Peterson moved and Sophia Williams seconded to authorize the administration to negotiate contracts, for the services of Construction Manager at Risk, to Drymalla Construction Co. for the centralized, multi-purpose athletic stadium with a projected total bond cost of \$17,000,000.00. Drymalla's pre-negotiated purchase price is \$1,085,575.00. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President Allen thanked Mr. Gideon and the committee members that participated in this process and added that he was confident that these three companies would take BISD into the future.

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

Betty Richardson reported that there were no additions or deletions to last years' list of advanced course exemptions for no pass, no play. She explained that each student may only request one waiver per semester and Mr. Benedict has the ultimate authority to grant the waiver. In addition, parental and

teacher approval is required. Mr. Barrientos asked how many waivers were granted last year. Mr. Benedict answered that he granted less than 20 waivers last year. Mrs. Halladay asked what criteria are used to decide whether to grant or deny a waiver. Mr. Benedict explained that he does not deny waiver requests if they qualify to apply for a waiver, adding that he encourages students to take rigorous courses and be challenged.

Karen Halladay moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the advanced course exemptions for no pass, no play as presented. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**E. Consider Approval of Change to TASB Policy EIF (LOCAL)**

Genesis High School Principal James Richardson requested to have Policy EIF (LOCAL) changed to allow the flexibility to require students to only meet state requirements for graduation under the minimum and recommended programs and not meet additional local graduation requirements. He explained that additional requirements for graduation were added to the local policy years ago due to block scheduling, and for the at risk youth that attend Genesis High School, the most important issue for them is to graduate from high school.

Mr. Richardson reported that there are currently 11 students at Genesis on the recommended program. In addition, he reported that Genesis High School started their evening program and have 16 students signed up to attend at this time. Six of those students are last years' seniors working strictly on TAKS.

Rene Barrientos moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the change to TASB Policy EIF (LOCAL) as presented. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**F. Consider Approval of Resolution on Designated Fund Balance**

Sandra Callahan reported no changes to designations for 2006-07.

Sophia Williams moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the Resolution on Designated Fund Balance as presented. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**G. Consider Approval of Amendment to the 2007-08 General and Debt Service Funds**

Sandra Callahan reported that the district will receive an additional \$426,000 of state aid based on the latest TEA template.

Rene Barrientos moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve the amendment to the 2007-08 general and debt service funds as presented. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

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 2007-08**

Information was provided to the Board. Mr. Emanuel stated that he has found a conflict on the date for the July meeting and asked the Board to consider rescheduling that meeting to Thursday, July 31, 2008.

**D. Resolution to Provide Certain Support to the Bastrop Education Foundation**

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

**E. Resolution Authorizing Lease of Oil and Gas Interests in Real Property**

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

**F. Discuss Future Agenda Items**

Karen Halladay asked for a presentation on what the district is doing to improve accountability ratings. She would also like to discuss transportation for the tennis and golf programs. Mrs. Bullock reminded that she requested a presentation on the NJROTC Program in October and the Wee Bears Program in November.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Glenn Peterson moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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Board Secretary

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Board President