

**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 16, 2008**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the **Bastrop ISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Mills, Vice-President
Karen Halladay, Secretary
Sophia Williams
Johnny Sanders
John Eaton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Allen, President
Glenn Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT

Evelyn Weilert
Jerry Acevedo
Anna Hodge
Audris Hodge
Ashley Johnson
Jan Eaton
Errin Arredondo
John Morris
Josh Mayfield
Tim Connerty
Joe Charlton
Mary Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson
Bill Owens
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
Shevis Moore, EMC/Safety Officer
Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas, Bastrop High School Principal
Sherri Gilmore, Ex. Director of Special Education Co-op
Nanci Stobaugh, Director of Special Education Co-op
Mike Granado, Director of Student Services
Melissa Lautenschlager, Science Specialist
Tessie Young, Director of Programs
Robert Washington, Student Services Coordinator
Richard Battle, Bluebonnet Elementary Principal
Trisha Mutschink, Attendance Officer
Shawn Adams, Cedar Creek Intermediate Principal
Linda Johnson, Mina Elementary Principal
Frank Cloud, Bond Construction Manager
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
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent

1. Opening, Presentations & Open Forum

A. Meeting Called to Order

Vice-President Mills 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

John Eaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- C. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag**
John Eaton led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
- D. **Opening Prayer**
Jim Mills offered the opening prayer.
- E. **Bluebonnet Elementary Student Speaker on Character Education Trait for September - Honesty**
Mr. Battle introduced Audris Hodge, BBE 4th grader. Audris talked to the Board about the Character Education trait for September, Honesty.
- F. **Open Forum**
There were no requests to speak in open forum.

2. **Public Hearings**

- A. **Presentation and Public Hearing on 2008-2009 Proposed Tax Rate**
The Public Hearing on the 2008-09 Tax Rate was open at 6:35 p.m. Sandra Callahan shared information on truth in taxation. Mrs. Callahan reported that the current tax rate is \$1.501 and the 2008-09 proposed tax rate is \$1.481 (\$1.040 M&O and \$0.441 debt). Mrs. Callahan reviewed property value history and reported that the power plants and the Hyatt are the districts' top three taxpayers.

Mrs. Callahan reviewed the maintenance and operations tax rate history and fund balance estimates. She reminded board members that the district must have enough money in the debt service fund balance to pay the August debt payments. There being no comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:40 p.m.

- B. **Adopt 2008-2009 Tax Rate**
This year's tax rate does not exceed the effective tax rate. Johnny Sanders moved and Sophia Williams seconded to adopt the tax rate of \$1.04 for maintenance and operations and \$0.441 for payment of principal and interest on debt for a total rate of \$1.481 for the 2008-2009 school year. Vice-President Mills asked for comments or questions. There being none, Vice-President Mills called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- C. **Public Hearing on the 2008 School financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Rating**
The School FIRST Public Hearing was opened at 6:42 p.m. CFO Sandra Callahan reported that Bastrop ISD had received a Superior Achievement Rating for the 2006-07 fiscal year. Ms. Callahan explained that ratings are based on 24 indicators. Mrs. Callahan reviewed the indicators and reported that the district scored an 84, with 85 being the highest possible score.

Mr. Eaton commented that the district needs to move the student/staff ratio up in the next few years. There being no other comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:55 p.m.

3. Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion

A. Financial Report

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

B. Personnel Report

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

C. Operations Report

1. Update on Construction Projects

Frank Cloud presented an update on BISD construction projects. Mr. Cloud reported that all contractors on the districts' three construction projects went the extra mile to make sure they were prepared in the event of inclement weather and flooding from Hurricane Ike. Henry Gideon agreed.

Mr. Cloud reported that he has been working with TxDOT on turn lanes, traffic lights, etc., at the new sites.

D. Report on Stay in School Program

Michael Granado, Director of Student Services, introduced members of the Student Services team – Mr. Robert Washington, Coordinator of Student Services, and Mrs. Trisha Mutschink, Attendance Officer. Mr. Granado presented an update on the Stay in School Program. He reported that thanks to the Ministerial Alliance and community volunteers, the effort to get students back in school has been a success. Mr. Granado added that including the mentor piece is imperative to ensure that the students stay in school once we get them back.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of August 11, August 14, August 19 and August 26, 2008

B. Consider Approval of Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2008-2009

C. Consider Approval of Qualified PDAS Appraisers

Vice-President Mills asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. There being no requests, Vice-President Mills called for a motion. Karen Halladay moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of August 11, August 14, August 19 and August 26, 2008; the Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2008-2009; and the list of PDAS appraisers as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Action Items

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

Betty Richardson reviewed a list of courses exempt from the UIL No Pass/No Play provision. Mrs. Richardson reported that in order to be considered for exemption and receive a waiver, the following must apply: waivers are only allowed in Advanced, Pre-AP, AP and dual enrollment courses; the student must have a 60+ average; and each student is allowed only one waiver per semester.

John Eaton moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve the advanced course exemptions for no pass, no play as presented. Vice-President Mills asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, Vice-President Mills called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider Approval of Resolution on Designated Fund Balance

Sandra Callahan reviewed proposed designations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and asked the board to approve a resolution on designated fund balance.

Karen Halladay moved and John Eaton seconded to approve the Resolution on Designated Fund Balance as presented. Vice-President Mills asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, Vice-President Mills called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Austin ISD for Title VII American Indian Education Grant

Tessie Young asked the Board to approve an Interlocal Agreement with Austin ISD for Title VII American Indian Education Grant. Mrs. Young reported that this would be the third year for BISD to participate in this grant. She stated that 26 Native American students were served last year, and 47 have indicated that they are Native Americans this year. Mrs. Young explained that services that that we receive from the grant are collaborated with Austin ISD. She added that AISD purchases books with the grant money, and she distributes the books to BISD students.

Johnny Sanders moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Austin ISD for Title VII American Indian Education Grant. Vice-President Mills asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, Vice-President Mills called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Consider Approval of Four Additional Teaching Positions

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Barry Edwards requested that the Board approve four additional teaching positions – two part-time positions at Bastrop High School, one position at Genesis High School and two positions at the elementary level.

John Eaton moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve four additional teaching positions and amend the budget accordingly. Vice-President Mills called for comments or questions. There being none, Vice-President Mills called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Consider Approval of TASB Policy Update 83

Henry Gideon recommended approval of TASB Policy Update 83 to include changes to policy FO (LOCAL). He recommended a slight change to the policy language that states that “Video/audio equipment shall be used for safety purposes to monitor student behavior on buses *and in common areas on District campuses.*”

Karen Halladay moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve TASB Policy Update 83 to include changes to policy FO (LOCAL) as presented. Vice-President Mills called for comments or questions. There being none, Vice-President Mills called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Consider Approval of 2008-2009 Board Goals

Superintendent Emanuel reported that the goals that are being brought to the Board for approval were selected at a recent workshop meeting. He added that he had included a draft of his objectives; however Mr. Emanuel asked for additional time to work on the objectives before bringing them to the Board for approval.

Karen Halladay moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the 2008-2009 Board Goals as presented. Vice-President Mills called for comments or questions. Mr. Eaton stated that he agreed with the goals but he felt that the objectives needed work. He went on to recommend that the goals and the objectives be approved concurrently. Mr. Eaton added that goals mean nothing without qualitative measures. He believed that the objectives that were submitted by the superintendent were “overdone” and may not be achievable by May. Mr. Eaton stated that objectives are needed to effectively evaluate the performance of the district and added that 18 month objectives are needed. Mrs. Williams stated that the item brought to the board for approval this evening was the board goals, which the board agreed upon at the workshop meeting in August. She added that objectives are drawn from the goals. Mrs. Halladay agreed and added that it’s the superintendent’s job to submit the objectives. Vice-President Mills asked for further discussion. There being none, Vice-President Mills 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 2008-2009

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

D. Revised Timeline for Cedar Creek High School Configuration

Information was provided to the Board. Barry Edwards reviewed the updated timeline for Cedar Creek High School configuration. He explained that open forum discussions are scheduled in November and December, and January remains the target date for the Superintendent’s recommendation for the CCHS configuration.

Mr. Edwards reviewed survey results of opening configurations for first year high schools. He explained that the administration would bring three scenarios to the Board for discussion – freshman only, grades 9 and 10, and grades 9-12. Mr. Sanders inquired about district boundary lines. Mr. Edwards stated that the demographer would assist the district by mapping out the three scenarios; however the lines look clean at this point. He added that the district is not locked into the boundary lines.

Mr. Eaton stated that he would like to see a projection of what the districts’ facilities would look like and what will be taught at what facility in 2012. He added that other facilities would be freed up when the new high school opens. Mr. Eaton stated that he felt like a magnet high school would do well in BISD, adding that “we may regret our decision if we open CCHS as a traditional new high school.” Mr. Gideon stated that the new high school was approved by voters with the expectation that it would be a traditional high school. He went on to say that there have been conversations over the last decade on the high school and what it would look like. Mr. Gideon asked if the district should review the long-range plan and high school facility discussions. Mr. Eaton stated that the district could benefit from a larger Genesis School. In addition, he stated that trade training was not considered in the long range plan. Mr. Sanders suggested updating the districts’ strategic plan. He stated that he was interested in a trade/technical school and a magnet school. Dr. Thomas agreed that the ideas deserved time to be studied, adding that student data must be reviewed and considered.

E. Update on TASB Employee Opinion Survey

Information was provided to the Board. Mr. Emanuel reported that the employee opinion survey would begin on Monday, September 22nd and close on October 3rd. He stated that TASB would bring a report at the conclusion of the survey. Mr. Emanuel stated that he hopes that all employees would participate in the survey. Mr. Eaton stated that the district should not be disappointed with a 30-40% participation rate, adding that many employees may use this survey as a test to see how confidential the survey really is.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President