

**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 **Monday, October 20, 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
Karen Halladay, Secretary
Johnny Sanders
John Eaton
Glenn Peterson
Sophia Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Robin Smith
Jon Ross
Betty Ross
Cheryl Robinson
Ella Williams
Sheri George
Kimberly George
Lauren George
Janet Eaton
Joe Charlton
Lee Poplinski
Chris Duggan
Evelyn Weilert
Scott Cooper
Jerry Acevedo
Sean Connor
Tom Scott
Ellen Owens
Pam Peterson
Vivian Washington

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
Donald Williams, Exec. Director of Community Services
Thomas Dowdy, Director of Maintenance
Lori Gracey, Ex. Director of Technology/CATE
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Lacey Padgett, Director of Human Resources
Bryan Doyle, Director of IT Services
Gerald Perry, Director of Athletics/Head Football Coach
Shevis Moore, EMC/Safety Officer
Tessie Young, Director of Programs
Theresa Fierro, BISD Accountant
Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas, Bastrop High School Principal
Michael Granado, Director of Student Services
Frank Cloud, Bond Construction Manager
Sherri Gilmore, Executive Director of Special Ed Co-op
Robert Washington, Coordinator of Student Services
Nanci Stobaugh, Director of Special Education Co-op
Jim Hallamek, Cedar Creek Middle School Principal
Dr. Laurie Bauer, Bastrop Middle School Principal
Natalie Bennight, Bastrop Middle School Asst. Principal
James Matthews, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Merv Doherty, Bastrop Intermediate School Principal
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
Noe Reyes
David Castor
Jim Clark

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**
Glenn Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag**
Glenn Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.
 - D. **Opening Prayer**
Glenn Peterson offered the opening prayer.
 - E. **Bastrop High School Student to Speak on Character Education Trait for October – Responsibility**
Bastrop High School student Jon Ross spoke to the Board on Responsibility, the Character Education Trait for October.
 - F. **Open Forum**
There were no requests to speak in open forum.
2. **Superintendent’s Report and Board Discussion**
- A. **Curriculum Report**
 - 1. **Update on P-16**
Marissa Graham, Bastrop ISD P-16 Coordinator, presented a brief presentation on the activities that are being conducted this year as part of Year 2 of the P-16 Partnership for Post-Secondary Readiness, Participation, and Success for ALL Students Initiative in Bastrop.

Ms. Graham reviewed the goals of the P-16 program. She reported that Bastrop High School is now an ACT and SAT test site. Elgin, Del Valle, Smithville and Bastrop students are participating in testing at the site. Ms. Graham reported that 1,635 Bastrop High School students took the PSAT test, adding that results would be available in December. John Eaton commended Ms. Graham for her enthusiasm for the P-16 program.
 - 2. **Update on E3 – Education Equals Economics in Bastrop**
Betty Richardson reviewed Consolidated Action Plans from all of the area districts that participated in dialogues centered on Closing the Achievement Gaps between and among students. Mrs. Richardson reported that from these plans, four regional strategic goals were created and became part of *The Blueprint for Educational Change*. The goals are: children enter kindergarten school ready; Central Texas eliminates achievement gaps while improving overall performance; students graduate high school college and career ready and prepared for a lifetime of learning; and Central Texas, as a community, works with educators to prepare all children to succeed in life.

Mrs. Richardson reported that E3 is sponsoring round two of community dialogues with areas districts. The focus of these dialogues is *Graduates are Made. Not Born. Preparing Today’s Kids for Tomorrow’s Jobs*. Mrs. Richardson stated that the initial

informational meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2008. She stated that all previous participants were invited to attend the meeting and they will be asked if they would like to continue to be involved with the program. Mrs. Richardson stated that BISD is doing their part as a district; however it's time to see what the community wants to do at this point. Mrs. Richardson stated that she would bring a report to the Board in the next couple of months on the results from the meeting.

3. Adequate Yearly Progress Results

Jennifer Womack reviewed the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results for the 2007-2008 school year. She explained that AYP results are the federal part of the accountability system, and indicators include TAKS scores, Graduation Rates and Attendance Rates. Mrs. Womack reported that as a district, Bastrop ISD missed AYP in Reading performance and Math performance. In addition, Bastrop High School missed AYP in Reading performance and Math performance and participation, Bastrop Intermediate School missed AYP in Reading performance, and Bastrop Middle School and Cedar Creek Middle School missed AYP in Reading and Math performance. Mrs. Womack reported that all other BISD campuses met AYP for the 2007-2008 school year.

John Eaton commented that it is important for Board members to know how the district is doing compared to other districts in the state, and asked staff to present all facts when presenting information. In addition, he stated that the community needs to know this information as well.

4. Update on BISD Action Plan for 2008-2009

Betty Richardson presented an update on the BISD Action Plan for 2008-2009 that was prepared to address the immediate needs for the district's Academically Unacceptable campuses. Mrs. Richardson reported that the district has purchased CSCAPE, a statewide curriculum program for grades 7-12 to provide more standardization in what is to be taught at each grade level for each core subject. She added that staff has attended one day of training already, and additional training is scheduled for January. Mrs. Richardson stated that the district needs to raise the bar for our special education students and teachers.

John Eaton commented that it was time to understand systemic issues and remove root cause problems in the district. He added that the district cannot continue to apply band-aids. Mr. Eaton stated that a vast majority of these issues stem from the Central Office. Mr. Eaton individually asked each board member if they agreed with his position and all concurred.

Mrs. Richardson reported that the district is looking at adding instructional deans at the middle school campuses to assist the

principals in the overall development and implementation of instruction which improves student achievement. In addition, Mrs. Richardson reported that the district would look at purchasing CSCOPE for elementary levels next year.

B. Financial Report

- 1. Monthly Financial Report**
- 2. Measurement Charts**
- 3. Investment Report**
- 4. Tax Assessor-Collector Report**
- 5. Bond Financials**

Information was provided to the Board. CFO Sandra Callahan reviewed the measurement charts in the boards' packets.

Mrs. Callahan reported a small decrease in ADA from last year to this year. She stated that the district has been stressing to the community the importance of students attending school.

Mrs. Callahan reported that the 2007 bond money is invested at 5.011% in the Repurchase Agreement, adding that this was great news. In addition, Mrs. Callahan provided the Board with information on Expenditure Targets for the 2008-09 school year. She explained that House Bill 1 of the 79th Legislature directed TEA to establish and publish expenditure targets for school districts annually, and districts that do not meet the proposed targets will be required to adopt and publish a resolution with explanation and justification for not meeting the defined targets. Mrs. Callahan stated that based on current projections, BISD will not meet this target and will need to adopt the resolution in November.

Mrs. Callahan reported that the Finance Committee would meet prior to the regular November Board meeting, where the audit will be presented.

C. Personnel Report

- 1. Election of Personnel**

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

- 2. Resignations**

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

- 3. Substitutes**

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

- 4. Presentation on Cedar Creek High School Configuration**

Barry Edwards presented scenarios for the Cedar Creek High School (CCHS) configuration. Mr. Edwards reported that the administration would create a Frequently Asked Questions list and post on the district website. Mr. Edwards reviewed the planning process for CCHS and reminded that the November Board meeting would be held at Red Rock Elementary and the December meeting at Cedar Creek Middle School to gather input from the community on the configuration. Mr. Edwards

stated that the Superintendent would bring his recommendation on the configuration to the Board in January, 2009.

Mr. Edwards presented a student cluster population map and reported that the current boundary lines successfully splits the district in half; therefore, there would be no change to the current boundary lines.

Mr. Edwards stated that the first configuration scenario would open Cedar Creek High School as a 9th grade only campus. He explained that 2009-10 Cedar Creek Middle School 8th grade graduates would be the first freshman class at CCHS, and every year, one grade level would be added at the school. Mr. Edwards added that students that reside in the CCHS attendance zone that were in grades 10-12 would continue to attend and graduate from Bastrop High School. Under this scenario, Bastrop High School would remain a small 5A high school. Mr. Edwards reviewed 9th grade course offerings at CCHS. He reported that the estimated budget impact of the 9th grade only scenario was approximately \$1.7 million above and beyond current expenditures.

Mr. Edwards presented the second configuration scenario which was to open CCHS with 9th & 10th grades only. He reported that CCHS would have no varsity athletics with this scenario, and Bastrop High School would then be a large 4A school. Mr. Edwards explained that 2009-10 CCHS 9th graders would attend Bastrop High School for one year and then move to 10th grade at CCHS. In addition, Cedar Creek Middle School 8th grade graduates would attend CCHS. Mr. Edwards added that students residing in the CCHS attendance zones that were in grades 11 and 12 would continue to attend and graduate from Bastrop High School. This scenario also includes adding one grade level each year. Mr. Edwards reported that this scenario would be the most cost effective, with the estimated budget impact of \$2 million.

The final scenario presented was to open CCHS with grades 9 – 12. Mr. Edwards reported that under this scenario, both BHS and CCHS would be small 4A schools. Mr. Edwards reviewed course offerings and explained that there would be differences in course offerings at the two high schools with this scenario. He went on to say that some programs cost too much to operate at both campuses, so CCHS will offer some courses, and BHS will offer some of the courses. Mr. Edwards reported that the estimated budget impact of opening the new high school with grades 9 – 12 would be \$3.2 million.

Sandra Callahan reviewed budget projections for the three scenarios. She explained that the district would receive a New Instructional Facilities Allotment for the new facility. She went on to say that she was very conservative with the 3% weighted projected ADA.

Mrs. Halladay asked when the district would begin discussions on plans for the current 9th grade campus. Mr. Emanuel stated that some possible plans for the facility include expanding Genesis to 150-200 students,

expanding Gateway to accommodate 80-90 students, and giving the Special Education Cooperative a permanent home. He added that the Gateway campus could be utilized as a district warehouse and the current Genesis campus could be used for the NJROTC. Mr. Emanuel explained that these are some examples of district needs for the immediate future.

Mr. Eaton asked about options for funding the high school and asked how far into fund balance the district would have to go in future years. President Allen asked how difficult it would be to make up a 4% decrease in fund balance. Mrs. Callahan stated that it would be very difficult without a rollback election. Mrs. Halladay suggested making up some of the difference with interest money and leftover bond money. Mrs. Callahan replied that the district would be faced with some tough decisions in the coming years such as salary increases, purchases, scheduling, etc

Mrs. Callahan reported that the current estimates are based on block scheduling. Mr. Sanders stated that it may be an opportune time to switch from block scheduling to traditional scheduling with the opening of the new school. He asked staff to bring back information on traditional scheduling. Mr. Edwards commented that switching from block to traditional scheduling would be a major undertaking that would require a lot of time and work. Mr. Sanders stated that he would like to hear input from Mrs. Richardson and Dr. Thomas from an instructional standpoint about block vs. traditional scheduling.

Mr. Eaton requested to see financials in January based upon what the 9th grade campus would ultimately be used for. Mr. Sanders stated that he would like to see a 5 and 10 year trade and technical plan. Mr. Gideon reminded the Board that the current charge is the configuration of the new high school, cautioning that other conversations at this time may confuse the public. Mr. Gideon agreed that these items need to be discussed, but suggested waiting until early next year.

Mr. Edwards stated that the configuration presentation would be posted on the districts' website. In addition, this information will be presented at public meetings at Red Rock Elementary in November and Cedar Creek Middle School in December. He added that the district would highly publicize the meeting, adding that BISD wants to hear from the community.

D. Operations Report

1. Update on Construction Projects

Frank Cloud presented a brief update on the current construction projects. At the PAC, Mr. Cloud reported that the site rough grading was complete, along with the building pad. He also informed the Board that the Auditorium concrete walls and the front building footings and pilasters were completed. Mr. Cloud also told the Board that the performing arts center is on schedule and within budget.

Mr. Cloud then reported that the Stadium Project was still under budget and ahead of schedule. He stated that the base on the west parking lot, building pads, and Press box were complete. He reported that the select fill was completed in all areas and that drainage swales and detention pond work was nearing completion. Mr. Cloud also told the Board that work was commencing on all underground utilities and that the drilling of piers for the Press box had started.

Mr. Cloud and American Constructors also reported on the CCHS project. Work underway included storm system concrete structures, pier construction, finishing up on select fills and lime stabilization of roads. Lastly, 95% of underground utilities are in place and completed.

2. Consider Approval of the Cedar Creek High School Project Guaranteed Maximum Price

Scott Cooper and Joe Charlton with American Constructors reported that the proposed Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Cedar Creek High School is \$59,757,867 which is \$114,713 under the districts' target construction budget. Mr. Cooper stated that this amount includes the previously approved Partial Release GMP 1 for sitework and long lead materials which the board approved on June 17, 2008. He also added that the GMP includes contingencies.

Mr. Gideon commended American Constructors, Pfluger Associates and Frank Cloud for working hard to get the project back within budget targets. He emphasized that what the construction team is presenting is very good news because going into the bidding process, the district faced the real possibility of receiving bids that could have put us at 103% to 105% of budget. He added that this would have resulted in having to go through a value engineering process to cut costs by trimming the project back. Upon the Board's approval, this GMP, which also includes construction contingencies and allowances, means that the Cedar Creek High School project, as approved by the Board during the design development and construction document phases, has essentially remained intact.

Mr. Gideon also stated the CMAR process has once again proved itself a valuable tool in planning, designing and costing construction projects as it gives the owner, architects, and the contractor opportunities to look for savings throughout. He added that just because a GMP has been reached and a fixed construction cost does not mean the team's collective efforts come to an end with regards to budget. He assured the Board that the team would continue to look for cost savings.

John Eaton moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$59,757,867.00 for the district's Cedar Creek High School Project as presented. President Allen asked for comments or questions. Johnny Sanders stated that he had some concerns with spending \$700,000 on artificial turf for the practice fields at the new high school. Joe Charlton with American Constructors

reminded the Board of their previous presentation which involved a study that showed the savings of artificial turf over a grass field in operational expenses would be a cost savings to the district. He stated that there is a 10-year warranty on the turf and it would be paid for in 8 to 10 years. Mr. Charlton added that the life of the turf was 12-15 years. Mr. Gideon agreed with Mr. Charlton and added that the upfront savings if the board decided not to turf the field would only be approximately \$350,000. There being no further discussion or questions, President Allen called for a vote on the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The board took a 5 minute break at 9:07 p.m. The Board reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

3. BISD Visitor Policy

BISD EMC/Safety Officer Shevis Moore presented an opportunity to improve the districts' visitation policy. Mr. Moore stated that he has recently received multiple parent concerns regarding the districts' visitation policy. He reported that the district currently requires visitors to present photo identification during instructional time; however the concern that has been raised is the gap time between 7:00 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. when ID's are not currently being checked. Mr. Moore stated that the policy reads that the district should be checking for identification at all times; however it is hard for teachers to monitor whether a parent has checked in at the office without an ID badge. Mr. Moore added that it's a tough situation to try to maintain a family friendly environment and provide a safe environment for our students. He stated that some of the districts' parents are sex offenders and they have the right to go onto campuses to see their children.

Mr. Moore stated that the districts' responsibility is to provide campuses with adequate tools to provide a safe environment; therefore, he recommended that the district purchase the Raptor System. He added that this way campuses would have tighter control and know who was coming into their schools. Mr. Moore reported that he would be working with the districts' legal team to verify proper protocol, train BISD staff and communicate the new system with the stakeholders in the district and community.

Mr. Moore reviewed the projected cost of the Raptor system. He explained that there could be some infrastructure costs associated with the system, and Mr. Gideon stated that these costs would come out of the maintenance budget. Mr. Moore stated that he could audit each campus and see how much additional infrastructure would cost, adding that he would bring that information along with a policy revision recommendation.

John Eaton moved and Jim Mills seconded to move forward with the purchase of the Raptor System as proposed. President Allen asked for

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Consent Agenda**

- A. **Consider Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2008**
- B. **Consider Approval of Bids**
 - 1. **Spring Sports Apparel and Equipment #2009-04**
- C. **Consider Approval of Tax Refunds**
- D. **Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Department of State Health Services**

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. Glenn Peterson moved and John Eaton seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of September 16, 2008; all low bids for spring sports apparel and equipment with the exceptions presented; tax refunds over \$2,500 for Bastrop ISD; and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Action Items**

- A. **Consider Approval of Solicitation of Deeds in Lieu of Tax Lien Foreclosure from Delinquent Taxpayers in Pine Forest Unit 6 by McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen on Behalf of the Taxing Entities**

This item was tabled and will be presented to the Board at a later date.

- B. **Consider Approval of Sale of Lot 15, Block 22, Pine Forest Unit 6 to Bluebonnet Electric and Removal of said Lot from those Previously Agreed to be Sold to First Republic, LLC**

Johnny Sanders excused himself from discussion on this item. Noe Reyes from McCreary, Veselka reported that Bluebonnet Electric would like to purchase an adjoining lot from those previously agreed to be sold to First Republic, LLC. He added that he received a proposal from Bluebonnet Electric for \$2,000 and the market value of the lot is \$2,000.

Karen Halladay moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the sale of Lot 15, Block 22, Pine Forest Unit 6 to Bluebonnet Electric and remove the said lot from those previously agreed to be sold to First Republic, LLC. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote. Johnny Sanders abstained from the vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- C. **Consider Approval of Superintendent's Priority Objectives for 2008-2009**

Roderick Emanuel presented Superintendent's Priority Objectives for 2008-09. Mr. Emanuel explained that he is bringing measurable objectives from 2008-2013. He added that he would set a percentage on goal 2.3 after the employee opinion survey results are in. In addition, once those results are in he stated that he would complete 3.2 and 3.3. Mr. Eaton asked the Superintendent to change 3.2 and 3.3 to percentage of students instead of staff and use the results from last year's student survey. He stated that those percentages were 27% and 36%. In addition, Mr. Eaton asked the Superintendent to change 2.2 to read "Staff attendance will increase to 95.2% for 2008-09."

John Eaton moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the Superintendent's Priority Objectives for 2008-2009 as presented and as discussed. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Consider Approval of Two Additional Positions for Bastrop Middle School and Cedar Creek Middle School

Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources Barry Edwards asked the Board for approval to hire a Dean of Instruction for each middle school campus. Mr. Edwards reviewed the qualifications for these positions, and strongly recommended approval. He stated that the Deans would primarily focus on instruction, not discipline, adding that the Assistant Principal would continue to handle discipline and other issues. CCMS Principal Jim Hallamek and BMS Principal Laurie Bauer confirmed that they need assistance. They reported that at least 75% of their day is spent dealing with students, parents, and discipline issues, which doesn't leave enough time for them to get into the classrooms the way they need to.

Mr. Eaton questioned why the money for the positions had to come out of the districts' fund balance and stated that he could support the positions but not support taking money to pay for them from fund balance.

John Eaton moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve two new professional support positions for Bastrop Middle School and Cedar Creek Middle School. President Allen called for comments or questions. Johnny Sanders questioned how the district would pay for the positions if the funds would not be taken from the districts' fund balance. Mr. Eaton stated that it would be up to the Superintendent to figure out how to pay for the positions. He added that if the Superintendent could not find a way to pay for the positions prior to the next Board meeting, the Board could discuss the matter at that time. There being no further comments, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Consider Approval of General Fund Budget Amendment

Sandra Callahan reported that the proposed general fund budget amendment includes E-Rate and a change in allocation and has no budget impact. Mrs. Callahan added that the middle school positions that were approved earlier this evening would be removed from the budget amendment.

Johnny Sanders moved and John Eaton seconded to approve the general fund budget amendment excluding the \$120,000 for the middle school positions. 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. Enrollment

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

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Johnny Sanders moved and John Eaton seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President