

**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, November 18, 2008**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at **Red Rock Elementary School, 2401 FM 20, Red Rock, Texas 78662.**

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

Stacy Root  
Richard Crowell  
Barbara Koecher  
Tustin Kline  
Melissa Salinas  
Amber Lester  
Sheri George  
David George  
Lisa Peavy  
Jerry Cardwell  
Jan Grabbert  
David Castor  
Tony Salinas  
Terry Hagerty  
Lora Wilhelm  
Brandon Wilhelm  
Dwain James  
Pat Bowen  
Roxanna Ferguson  
Tres Womack  
Shelly Koehler  
Bryan Sanders  
Angela Jones  
Jerome Wenske  
Nancy Wilhelm  
Joey Cavazos  
Kris Lautenschlager  
Daniel Gutierrez

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  
Lori Gracey, Ex. Director of Technology/CATE  
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment  
Tessie Young, Director of Programs  
Lacey Padgett, Director of Human Resources  
Theresa Fierro, BISD Accountant  
Gerald Perry, Director of Athletics/Head Football Coach  
Albert Gaines, Director of Child Nutrition  
Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas, Bastrop High School Principal  
Kathleen Bethke, Interim Director of Community Programs  
Michael Granado, Director of Student Services  
Robert Washington, Student Services Coordinator  
Jim Hallamek, Cedar Creek Middle School Principal  
James Richardson, Genesis High School Principal  
Martin Conrardy, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal  
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal  
Jinger Myers, Cedar Creek Elementary Principal  
Melissa Lautenschlager, Science Specialist  
Elva Conrardy, Bilingual/ESL Specialist  
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent  
Lauri Anzaldua, Communications Coordinator  
Blanche Underwood, Adm. Asst. for Community Svcs.  
Katelyn Wilhelm  
Evelyn Weilert  
Jennifer Wenske  
Marvin Conrad  
Pam Kline  
Mary Castor  
Robert Finley  
Stacy Thompson  
Lee Poplinski  
Tammy Cunningham  
Christine Hansen  
John Apostalo  
LeAnn Gutierrez

**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**

Karen Halladay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag**

Karen Halladay led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

**D. Opening Prayer**

Jim Mills offered the opening prayer.

**E. Student Speaker on Character Education Trait for November – Compassion**

President Allen recognized Brandon and Lora Wilhelm, parents of Katelyn Wilhelm, a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Red Rock Elementary. Katelyn spoke to the Board on the Character Trait for November – Compassion.

**F. Special Presentations**

**1. Presentation of Plaque in recognition of Women Veterans who are Employed at Bastrop ISD in Honor of their Service**

On behalf of the women veterans that are employed at BISD, Pat Bowen, Chris Hansen and Loretta Dickson presented a plaque to Superintendent Emanuel.

**2. Presentation of Plaque in Recognition of the Bastrop Independent School District and Roderick Emanuel for their Support of the National Guard and United States Army Reserve**

Director of Student Services Michael Granado introduced Dwain James with the Department of Defense. Mr. James presented the Bastrop ISD and Superintendent Emanuel with a Patriot Award for welcoming back those that have served in the military. Mr. James went on to say that BISD goes above and beyond what the law expects and praised the district for setting a great example for students by showing them how the district takes care of their people.

President Allen recognized all of those in attendance that had served or are serving in the military and thanked them for their service.

**G. Open Forum**

There were no requests to speak in open forum.

**2. Cedar Creek High School Configuration Presentation and Discussion**

**A. Presentation on Cedar Creek High School Configuration**

President Allen stated that the board challenged the administration to gather information from other districts on how new high schools are opened. He explained that there is additional money involved no matter which option is chosen. President Allen stated that no decisions have been made yet about the configuration for the new high school, and he encouraged comments and questions following the presentation. President Allen assured the audience that the board would make a good decision that fits for Bastrop ISD in January 2009.

Mr. Emanuel stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to hear from the districts' stakeholders. He added that information gathered from tonight's meeting would be posted on the BISD website along with some frequently asked questions and answers. Mr. Emanuel agreed with President Allen that the configuration decision would be based on what is best for BISD students.

Barry Edwards presented information on the proposed CCHS configuration. Mr. Edwards reviewed the planning process. He explained that the 2001 demographic study supported the need for a new high school, and in 2007, voters approved bonds for the new high school, a new performing arts center, and a new multi-purpose athletic stadium. He reported that the performing arts center and the stadium would open in 2009 and the new high school in the summer of 2010.

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 9<sup>th</sup> grade only campus. He explained that 2009-10 Cedar Creek Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> grade course offerings at CCHS. He reported that the estimated budget impact of the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> graders would attend Bastrop High School for one year and then move to 10<sup>th</sup> grade at CCHS. In addition, Cedar Creek Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **B. Community Comments and Questions Concerning the Cedar Creek High School Configuration**

Mr. Emanuel introduced CCMS Principal Jim Hallamek, who served as the moderator for the evening.

- 1. Will kids that start 9<sup>th</sup> grade in Bastrop High School be able to change to Cedar Creek High School for 10<sup>th</sup> grade? Will parents/children have the option of which high school to attend?**

*Answer: Yes, Bastrop ISD has an open transfer policy.*

- 2. Presently I do not have children in high school; however, I have heard that because of the overcrowding, behavior is horrible. Does the board truly feel that by opening a 9<sup>th</sup> grade only campus dropping the current population to 2,134 would really help, or even 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>? One of my main concerns at BHS currently is overcrowding and discipline. Can any proposal other than 9-12 help alleviate these issues?**

*Answer: The 9-10 scenario alleviates the numbers at Bastrop High School. Referrals at BHS are down by 32% from last year, and the majority of the referrals are for tardies and cell phones. Behavior is very different this year at BHS, and we are working hard to build tradition and build a community.*

- 3. If the University Interscholastic League (UIL) schedules are set up two years in advance, why weren't you setting up schedules in time with the opening of the new school?**

*Answer: UIL has informed BISD that they will not accept enrollment numbers until November 1, 2009.*

- 4. Why not ask current sophomores: "If a new high school opened and you could go but your friends could not, would you go?"**

*Answer: Good question – we'll ask that question on our survey.*

- 5. Based on the budget figures presented in the CCHS configuration presentation, would it not be more cost effective to open 9-12?**

*Answer: No, it is important that we consider all 3 scenarios; however the 9-10 phase-in scenario will be more cost effective both initially and over time.*

- 6. If the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade proposal is adopted, will buses run to pick up kids taking my sophomore to CCHS and my junior to BHS?**

*Answer: Yes*

- 7. What will ultimately decide which proposal will be accepted?**  
*Answer: The School Board will make the ultimate decision based on community input and the superintendent's recommendation.*
- 8. Will the open transfer policy allow students to transfer to another school district? My child's future depends on a 4 year school!**  
*Answer: No, another district would have to decide if they accept out of district transfer students.*
- 9. Given BHS has had a TAKS rating of academically unacceptable ratings for the last two years and a 3<sup>rd</sup> is unknown. Parents will have the right to move their students to attend an "academically acceptable" campus. What will this do to CCHS and the projected grade opening decision?**  
*Answer: Bastrop High School was rated Academically Unacceptable only one year. We do not expect major differences based on the rating.*
- 10. Have you considered a math/science/LA magnet school at CCHS? 9-12 grades**  
*Answer: No, not at this time.*
- 11. Will CCHS have practice fields? Football, baseball, soccer, etc.**  
*Answer: Yes, CCHS will have practice and competition facilities for all sub-varsity sports, as well as varsity competition facilities for baseball, softball, and boys and girls tennis.*
- 12. Will the opportunity for students to take ACC courses on-site be available at CCHS? If so, will this be available for all three scenarios?**  
*Answer: Yes, however, it is important to note that students are not eligible for ACC classes until their junior year in high school.*
- 13. Is the student population expected to grow by the year 2010 to the point that opening grades 9-12 will be essential?**  
*Answer: No, the 2,526 figure used in the configuration presentation is the total projected high school student enrollment for the 2010 school year.*
- 14. What are the current drawbacks other than the financial aspect for opening grades 9-12?**  
*Answer: The most common practice in Texas public school districts is to phase-in the opening of new high schools as this is the least disruptive to the establishment of traditions, instructional continuity, the development of extra-curricular activities and to student friendships for both the existing high school and the new high school.*
- 15. At the last meeting the issue of magnet school versus traditional school came up, where does that issue stand now? My son will be a senior 2010/11. Can he stay at BHS even if CCHS opens 9-12?**  
*Answer: A magnet school has been discussed. We are constantly planning and looking at best practices to offer the very best for our students. At this point, this is only an idea. Your son would be able to stay at BHS if he chooses.*
- 16. Regarding the configuration of the CCHS School, what studies have been done in the ease of transition for students for all scenarios?**  
*Answer: The recommended method of opening a high school is the phase-in method.*

- 17. What is the maximum number of students for CCHS based on current design? Would the option for grades 9-12 at CCHS being a small 4A really utilize the entire facility?**

*Answer: CCHS will have classroom capacity for 1,500 students and is designed to be expandable up to 2,300 students. Yes, enrollment figures support the full utilization of the facility.*

- 18. Do the cost projections of the three high school opening plans factor in the cost reduction experienced at the existing BHS?**

*Yes*

- 19. What is the additional cost for transportation running duplicate routes for two high schools?**

*Answer: There are no additional costs. BISD anticipates efficiencies in transportation costs – despite growth – because there will be a reduction on time and miles traveled by our buses.*

- 20. What will the student/teacher ratio be at CCHS for each proposed level? Also BHS?**

*Answer: The student/teacher ratio will remain consistent with current practices. BISD remains committed to keeping student/teacher ratios at the lowest appropriate levels.*

- 21. I'd like to see the new high school begin with 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades. For the convenience of parents with more than one student of BISD & to see a major decrease in high school class sizes.**

- 22. If this second high school is to reduce crowding, how is just opening it up to 9<sup>th</sup> graders the first year reducing the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades? We already have a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy and you would only be relieving that campus.**

*Answer: This is only one of three scenarios that we are considering. We will be deciding what is best for the students, but must also consider economics.*

- 23. When the bond for the new high school was passed and ya'll had chosen the site to build the high school at and when you are thinking of a grade or grades to go to the new high did you ever think what the kids want and what grades they think the new high school should open with? I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and I want to be an eagle!**

*Answer: We did discuss surveying the students at a previous meeting – that's an excellent idea.*

- 24. Given the different grade distribution scenarios for the new high school, what important extracurricular programs have been considered and will be included with each proposal when the school opens: (i.e. choir, NJROTC, band, UIL events, drama, debate, etc) that students will be able to participate in on a campus level and compete as a recognized campus regionally.**

*Answer: BISD will offer all academic and extra-curricular activities in order to increase the number of opportunities for our students to participate.*

- 25. We all know that communication is key to success, could the school board explain to me why a school would be told by district office they are not allowed to send home a school wide flyer encouraging parent attendance to a school board meeting, one that has been brought to the community to supposedly**

**promote “communication” between parents and the district? Do we have an underlying agenda we are trying to keep quiet?**

*Answer: That is news to us! We encouraged campuses to do whatever is necessary to get the word out about the meeting. There was an ad that ran in the Advertiser for 3 weeks, we sent out an ENews blast to over 8500 people. We are doing everything we can to promote these board meetings. Flyers are a good suggestion for our next meeting.*

**26. In regards to opening scenarios- Opening 9<sup>th</sup> grade only would not provide any relief to the overcrowding at Bastrop High which is really the main reason another high school needs to be opened. The school will already be there, the athletic facilities complete; it makes sense to open with all grades 2010. Why prolong the moving of students over years? Financially speaking it makes better sense as well if the school is started as a 9<sup>th</sup> only, is that really fair to those students to not give them a FULL high school experience by not having the upper classmen, not having a fully functioning high school? Even opening 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grades doesn't give them a full high school experience, only 9-12<sup>th</sup> makes a complete high school.**

**27. Would you please consider posting a survey of the 3 options on your website?**

*Answer: Good point!*

Mr. Emanuel thanked everyone for their participation this evening and assured them that no decision has been made at this time regarding the configuration at CCHS. He stated that the district would do a better job to advertise the community meeting in December at CCMS.

President Allen polled the audience on their scenario preference. No one voted for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade only scenario, several in attendance liked the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> scenario, and the majority voted for the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> scenario. President Allen stated that this would be a serious decision for the board to make and thanked everyone for their input. He added that the staff would continue to research the options.

Glenn Peterson left the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The board took a brief break at 8:29 p.m. The board reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

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

#### **A. Financial Report**

##### **1. Report from West, Davis & Company on 2007-2008 Audit**

Gary Davis from West, Davis & Company reported a clean audit for Bastrop ISD for 2007-08. He added that there were no findings or recommendations and it was a good report. Mr. Davis reported that the fund balance looks good and the district is in excellent financial shape. He recommended approval of the 2007-08 audit. President Allen asked for comments or questions.

President Allen pulled up Action Item 5A for consideration.

- 5A. Consider Approval of Annual Audit Report for Bastrop ISD**  
Jim Mills moved and Johnny Sanders seconded to approve the 2007-2008 audit as presented. President Allen called for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**B. 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. NCLB Compliance Report**

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

**C. Operations Report**

**1. Update on Construction Projects**

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

**4. Consent Agenda**

**A. Consider Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2008**

**B. Consider Approval of Bids**

**1. Video Monitoring and Recording System for BHS and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center RFP #2009-03**

**2. Grounds Maintenance for BMS and BIS RFB #2009-05**

**3. Visitor Registration and Badging System**

**C. Consider Approval of General Fund Budget Amendment**

President Allen asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. Mr. Emanuel pulled item 4-A. There being no further requests, President Allen called for a motion. Johnny Sanders moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the contract for the purchase and installation of the video monitoring and recording system for Bastrop High School and BHS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy to Video Insight, Inc.; the contract for grounds maintenance services for Bastrop Middle School and Bastrop Intermediate School to Hewett Lawn Service; authorizing Henry Gideon and/or Shevis Moore to negotiate a contract with Raptor Technologies for a Visitor Registration and Badging System in accordance with the existing Round Rock ISD contract; and the general fund budget amendment as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Emanuel asked for an addition to be made to the minutes of October 20, 2008 found on page 13, second paragraph under topic #4 that reads “Mr. Eaton individually asked each board member if they agreed with his position and all concurred.” John Eaton moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the minutes of October 20, 2008, with the addition requested by Mr. Emanuel. President Allen called for comments or questions. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Action Items**

**B. Consider Approval of Resolution Explaining Intent to Exceed or Fall**

**Short of Proposed Expenditure Targets Established by the Commissioner of Education**

Sandra Callahan reported that TEA requires that the board adopt a resolution if they foresee that expenditures will exceed or fall short of proposed expenditure targets established by the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Eaton asked what the consequences would be for not adopting the resolution and Mrs. Callahan explained that it could affect the districts FIRST rating for 2008-09 if a resolution is not adopted and the district did exceed or fall short of the targets.

John Eaton moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve the Resolution Explaining Intent to Exceed or Fall Short of Proposed Expenditure Targets Established by the Commissioner of Education as presented. 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

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. 403(b) Plan Document**

Information was provided to the Board. Theresa Fierro shared some information with the board on the 403(b) plan document. She explained that a full plan document must be in place as of January 1, 2009 due to new IRS rules. Mrs. Fierro asked the board for guidance on whether to allow or not allow Roth 403(b) contributions, loans, and hardship withdrawals. She explained that the Roth is an elective plan, and if allowed, the school district would have additional tracking requirements. The concern with the loans and hardship withdrawals is that the final IRS regulations require the employer to certify that there is a financial need or hardship and that the loans do not exceed stated limits. Mrs. Fierro recommended that the district not allow the Roth contributions, not allow loans, and not allow hardship withdrawals.

Mr. Eaton stated that he would like additional information on the additional tracking requirements on the Roth, adding that Roth's have advantages that regular IRA's do not. Jim Mills stated that there would be no advantages to allow the Roth contributions, and added that a district could forfeit their entire plan if guidelines were not strictly followed. Mr. Mills stated that anyone can go to an agent and get the same Roth. Mrs. Fierro stated that this item would be brought back to the board in December for action.

President Allen reported that the employee opinion survey results were in and the Board needed to have a meeting to discuss the results and decide how to roll out the results of the survey. After some discussion, the Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

President Allen thanked Red Rock Elementary Principal Bruce Nelson for hosting tonight's meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, John Eaton moved and Johnny Sanders seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Board Secretary

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Board President