

**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, December 18, 2007**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. 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:

Raven Prettyman
Elma Fowler
David Castor
Lee Poplinski
John Apostalo
Mike Simms
Tammy Taylor
Casey Waites
Wendy Ansley
Daniel B.
Mary Moody
Randy Wilson
Georgie Hunter
Cheryl Robinson
Charles Hunter
Steven Mayberry
Cyril Adkins
Ronald Brooks
Kenneth Limuel
S. Barnett
C. Cormack
Annette DeLeon-Sanchez
Robert Wellington
Richard Kindred
Marty Burger
Jerry Acevedo
Mike Goebel
Lori Tuggle

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
Robert Washington, Director of Athletics
Lori Gracey, Executive Director of Technology
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Sherri Gilmore, Executive Director of Special Education
Tessie Young, Director of Programs
Lacey Padgett, Director of Human Resources
Thomas Dowdy, Director of Maintenance
Shevis Moore, EMC/Safety Officer
Dr. Tamera Stark, Director of Community Programs
Al Gaines, Director of Child Nutrition
Nanci Stobaugh, Director of Special Education
Jim Hallamek, Cedar Creek Middle School Principal
Merv Doherty, Bastrop Intermediate School Principal
James Richardson, Genesis High School Principal
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Jinger Myers, Cedar Creek Elementary Principal
Richard Battle, Bluebonnet Elementary Principal
Deborah Mayer, Emile Elementary Principal
Shawn Adams, Cedar Creek Intermediate Principal
Paula Vinklerek, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Beth Murray, Gateway School Principal
Linda Johnson, Mina Elementary Principal
Donna Orsag, Lost Pines Elementary Principal
Laurie Bauer, Bastrop Middle School Principal
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
L. Barnett
Katherine Rainosek
Brittany Wellington
Chris Duggan & Family
John Eaton
Scott Cooper
Wayne Smith
Linda Neubauer
Judge Ronnie McDonald

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. Special Presentations

1. **Presentation of Plaques to Campuses for Receiving Gold Performance Acknowledgements**

Superintendent Emanuel presented plaques to Bastrop Intermediate School, Cedar Creek Intermediate School, and Cedar Creek Middle School for receiving Gold Performance Acknowledgement awards. Mr. Emanuel congratulated the schools for receiving the awards.

F. Open Forum

1. **Katherine Rainosek**

BHS teacher Katherine Rainosek addressed the Board on the many wonderful things happening at Bastrop High School. Ms. Rainosek stated that even though all that is often reported is the negatives, she is constantly encouraged by the administration at the high school.

Ms. Rainosek informed the Board about a new TAKS program at the high school that is truly helping the students struggling with TAKS. A couple of students reported on their successes since beginning the program.

BHS teacher Clayton Cormack commented that BISD does not settle for mediocrity and the top priority of the administration is to recapture kids. Teacher Ms. Sanchez commented that Bastrop High School is a wonderful school with a lot of great things going on. She commended Mr. Benedict and his staff for their leadership.

2. **Judge Ronnie McDonald**

Judge McDonald addressed the Board in support of Athletic Director Robert Washington. Judge McDonald stated that Mr. Washington has had an impact on many students' lives. Judge McDonald applauded the district for Mr. Washington's leadership.

3. **Richard Kindred**

Richard Kindred agreed with Judge McDonald that Robert Washington is doing a great job as athletic director for BISD. He stated that he was very disappointed that the football coach walked away after one season, and he added that the district now needed to

concentrate on “fixing these students that he walked away from.” Mr. Kindred encouraged the Board to work on changing the image of the district to let people know of the good things that are going on here in Bastrop. Lastly, Mr. Kindred stated that he felt that it was unnecessary to mention the race of the students involved in the recent disagreement at the high school, adding that the color of the students’ skin was insignificant.

2. Public Hearing

A. Public Hearing on Contemplated Taxation of Certain Tangible Personal Property within the District

The Public Hearing began at 6:50 p.m. CFO Sandra Callahan explained that the resolution for taxation of certain tangible goods would allow the continued taxation of companies that ship goods. She stated that there were two companies in Bastrop that would be affected by this new exemption – Detex Corporation and Cook Investment Enterprise. Mrs. Callahan explained that if this resolution was not passed, beginning in January 2008, the personal property inventory for companies like these would be tax exempt. She added that the exemption does not apply to petroleum products or any of the types of equipment to which special inventory taxes apply such as automobiles, mobile homes, heavy equipment, etc. She went on to say that if the resolution was not passed, it would be more of a burden on the districts’ taxpayers. Mrs. Callahan reported that the resolution could be rescinded at anytime.

President Allen asked for comments or questions. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:55 p.m.

B. Consider Approval of Resolution to Tax Goods in Transit which would otherwise be Exempt (Texas Property Tax Code § 11.253)

Rene Barrientos moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the Resolution to Tax Goods in Transit which would otherwise be exempt. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Superintendent’s Report and Board Discussion

A. Curriculum Report

1. Campus Updates

a. Bastrop Intermediate School

Principal Merv Doherty presented an update on Bastrop Intermediate School. Mr. Doherty concluded his presentation by stating that you lead people and manage things.

b. Cedar Creek Intermediate School

Principal Shawn Adams presented an update on Cedar Creek Intermediate School. Mrs. Adams reported a very challenging year at CCIS with many positive changes. She stated bilingual is a major concern this year; however she has a strong commitment from her entire staff.

Superintendent Emanuel congratulated Shawn Adams and Cedar Creek Intermediate School for their first place finish in the UIL Meet this past weekend.

B. Financial Report

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

C. Personnel Report

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

D. Operations Report

1. Update on Design and Construction Projects

Brad Pfluger presented a bond projects update. Mr. Pfluger reported that the site feasibility study had been completed for the stadium, as well as preliminary cost analysis of design concepts and program priorities.

Mr. Pfluger reviewed the site and floor plans for the Performing Arts Center. Denise Shaw reviewed the interior and exterior views of the structure. Mr. Pfluger asked for input from the Board on the style for the roof and the signage. The Board agreed that they preferred the curved roof and the contemporary signage. Mr. Mills commented that he liked the slanted columns.

Mr. Pfluger reviewed the site and floor plans for the Cedar Creek High School. He explained that they are looking for something special for the 12th grade wing. Shawn Connor presented an inside look of the new high school. He reviewed the mission statement for the project – “Promoting student success by providing a safe and enriched learning environment.” Mr. Gideon asked the Board for input on the exterior of the school. The Board agreed on tower option 2.

Lori Gracey reviewed programs at the two high schools. Mr. Gideon commented that discussions would have to be had on configurations, etc. He added that the district may have to consider a shuttle system to shuttle students between the two high schools.

President Allen moved up Action Item E.

5E. Consider Approval of Schematic Design Recommendations for Cedar Creek High School and Authorize the Architect to Proceed with the Design Development Phase

Rene Barrientos moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the schematic design recommendations for Cedar Creek High School and Authorize the Architect to Proceed with the Design Development Phase. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Gideon reported that the earnest money contract on the proposed stadium site would run out tomorrow. He reviewed the geotechnical evaluation of the site and reported that there are no environmental concerns. Mr. Gideon reviewed the feasibility study on the site and reported that it is large enough to accommodate an 8,000 seat stadium.

E. Communications/Community Services Report

1. Discussion on Wee Bears Program

Dr. Tamera Stark presented an update on the Wee Bears Program. She reported that the goal of the Wee Bears Program is to reduce high school drop-outs and increase graduation rates. Dr. Stark reviewed program components which included counseling services, health services, transportation, instruction, child care, schedule modifications and case management and service coordination. Dr. Stark explained that pregnancy related services begin the date of initial contact with the student regarding the pregnancy and it ends when the student graduates from high school. Dr. Stark reviewed grant money that the district receives for the program.

Valerie Bullock asked if the district wanted to keep the program going, wondering if it is benefiting the district overall. She stated that child care services are still available to these students. Dr. Stark stated that there is a waiting list for subsidized childcare; however priority is given to students that are a part of the public school system. She added that students must identify the baby's father and file for child support to qualify for subsidized childcare. Mrs. Bullock stated that she would like to know the overall cost to operate this program. Mrs. Callahan stated that she would bring back a figure in January.

Mrs. Bullock asked about the impact if the program was discontinued. Dr. Stark stated that the district would not receive the \$2.41 funding if the program was discontinued. She added that for many students, not having transportation to get their child to daycare could present a problem. Additional information will be brought to the Board in January and this issue will be discussed further at that time.

F. Athletic Report

1. Update on BISD Athletic Department

Robert Washington presented an update on the BISD Athletic Department. He stated that he was excited about the program and looking forward to the future. Mr. Washington explained the process for searching for a new head football coach. He stated that a committee consisting of five members put together a head coach profile to assist with the search. Mr. Washington reported that he has received 127 applications for the position, and that number has been narrowed down to approximately 10 applicants that he will call in for an interview.

Mr. Washington reviewed his accomplishments since he became the Athletic Director. He stated that safety and security continue to be his priority.

Mr. Washington asked the Board for their permission to go out for bids to construct 8 new tennis courts at Bastrop High School. He explained that 4 courts would be located in the parking lot north of the stadium and the other 4 courts would be located behind the 9th Grade Academy. The Board gave Mr. Washington the ok to proceed with the project and obtain bids.

President Allen called for a 5 minute break at 8:45 p.m. The Board reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2007

B. Consider Approval of Portable Building Relocation Renewal

C. Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing Lease of Oil and Gas Interests in Real Property

President Allen asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. Glenn Peterson moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of November 20, 2007; the portable building relocation services contract renewal to Larry Jollisant, Inc.; and the Resolution Authorizing Lease of Oil and Gas Interests in Real Property as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Action Items

A. Consider Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plans

Valerie Bullock moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to approve the district and campus improvement plans as presented. 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 Demographic Study Proposal

Sandra Callahan reported that the district received three bids for demographic services and all three companies were interviewed. Mrs. Callahan recommended using School District Strategies, adding that this company also submitted the lowest bid. She added that School District Strategies does quarterly updates and updates the Board twice a year. Mrs. Callahan stated that this item was included in the budget amendment.

Jim Mills moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the School District Strategies, LLC for demographic services. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. There being none, President Allen called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of Parent Communication System

Donald Williams presented information on a parent communication system. He reported that BISD can revolutionize how we communicate with our parents. Mr. Williams stated that the system is real time communication and utilizes both phone and email communication. He added that text messaging was a feature that could be added at a later time if the district desired. In addition, campus and district activities can be promoted with the new system, as well information on bond referendums and elections.

Shevis Moore reported that the parent communication system is an excellent system that serves a dual role.

Rene Barrientos moved and Valerie Bullock seconded to approve the contract for a school communication system to School Messenger. 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 Tax Refunds

Sandra Callahan reminded the Board that the policy changed and the Board only approves tax refunds over \$2,500.

Valerie Bullock moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the tax refunds over \$2,500 for Bastrop ISD 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 Amendment to the 2007-08 General Fund Budget

Sandra Callahan reviewed major items included in the budget amendment. Mrs. Dooley stated that she would bring additional information on Senate Bill 9 (fingerprinting) in January.

Rene Barrientos moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the amendment to the 2007-08 general fund budget 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. Report on Board Member Training Received to Date

Information was provided to the Board. President Allen read a progress report on Board Member training received to date. He explained that Board members have until the end of February to complete their training. President Allen reported that all Board members have completed their required training for the year with the exception of Mrs. Bullock, who lacks only 2 additional hours of training. Mrs. Bullock stated that she was planning to attend the Winter Governance Conference in February.

D. Board Workshop regarding Design and Development of Cedar Creek High School

The Board decided to call a special workshop meeting to discuss the design and development of the Cedar Creek High School on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

E. Facilities Maintenance Services – Electrical Services

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

F. Discuss Future Agenda Items

There was no discussion of future agenda items.

6. Closed Session

The Board of Trustees on December 15, 2007, beginning at 9:22 p.m. convened into closed session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

A. Real Property (551.072)

1. Discussion of Possible Future Sites

7. Action Resulting from Closed Session

The Board of Trustees reconvened from closed session at 9:40 p.m. on December 18, 2007. There was no action resulting from closed session.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President