

**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, August 21, 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
Gabriel Rodriguez
Brock Kovar
Cary Bauer
John Eaton
Christine Hansen
Melinda Gardner
Ginny Wessels
Ronald Landrum

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
Sherri Gilmore, Director of Special Education Co-op
Robert Washington, Director of Athletics
Mike Benedict, Bastrop High School Principal
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Jinger Myers, Cedar Creek Elementary Principal
Lora Hardway, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Jim Bonavita, Bastrop High School Assoc. Principal
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent

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

Rene Barrientos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

Rene Barrientos led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

D. Opening Prayer

Jim Mills offered the opening prayer.

E. Open Forum

There were no requests to speak in open forum this evening.

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

A. Personnel Report

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

B. Financial Report

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

C. Curriculum Report

1. **Accountability, 2007**

Jennifer Womack reviewed the two accountability systems – the State system (AEIS) and the Federal system (AYP). Mrs. Womack reported that all BISD campuses received an acceptable rating by the State System and all campuses except Bastrop High School met AYP in the Federal system. Mrs. Womack reviewed a look ahead at the 2007-08 assessment snapshot.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed the district's TAKS scores. She reported that the district has made gains; however there are some areas of concern in Math and Science. Mrs. Richardson stated that there are aggressive changes in the district's math program. Mrs. Richardson reported that the District has lost a little ground in completion rate; however BISD outperformed the state in 4 out of 5 areas. She added that the state continues to raise the bar on the rating system which is challenging. Mrs. Bullock asked for a comparison on TAKS scores with peer districts. Mrs. Richardson stated that she would bring that information to the next meeting.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed the Curriculum & Instruction Plan. She explained that the district would be implementing the teaching and learning plan for grades 5 through 8. Mrs. Richardson reported that 5th and 6th grade students would be getting laptops this year. The district has developed a response to intervention plan for grades K – 4 and the district will continue to evaluate programs for rigor. In addition, the district will adopt a new math textbook and incorporate it into the current math program. At the high school level, the district will continue to support staff development training and continue the alignment of TEKS to TAKS, redesign the Genesis program to serve at risk students (including a night program), and begin a P-16 partnership for college readiness, participation and success. Mrs. Richardson reported that teachers are continuing to be trained in the Making Math Real Program. Mrs. Williams asked how many students would be in each math class at the high school. Mr. Benedict explained that it depended on the course. Mrs. Richardson reported that many math classes are now being double blocked so students are getting math on a daily bases. She stated that she would continue to update the Board as information becomes available.

Mike Benedict reported on summer TAKS results. He reported that two of 23 students that participated in commencement exercises passed all exit level tests. Mr. Benedict stated that students will have another opportunity to take the test in October. Mr. Emanuel reported that the district would like to offer one-on-one TAKS prep

to the students that need to pass the TAKS tests at Genesis in the evening. Mrs. Bullock asked how many incoming seniors are in the same situation. Mr. Benedict stated that he didn't have an exact number, but felt that it was about the same as last year. He added that he has a good plan for these students including TAKS remediation classes. Mr. Benedict commended the great staff at BHS and stated that they would continue working hard on developing relationships with students this year.

2. **2007-2008 Program Plans and Budgets for ESEA Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Title V, and Migrant**

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

D. Operations Report

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

Steve McCleskey with Bartlett Cocke updated the Board on the BHS renovations and additions program. He reported that there is a lot of work remaining; however they have a good plan in place. Mr. McCleskey assured the Board that they are doing everything possible to complete the work, and he added that no corners would be cut. He reported that the project is still within budget. Mr. Gideon stated that a final report would be made in a couple of months.

Mr. Gideon reported that there are still some questions on the phone system that was purchased for the high school and everything is on hold until questions are answered. He reported that there will not be a phone in every classroom at BHS when the school opens.

2. **Discussion Regarding Location of Bastrop ISD Performing Arts Center**

Henry Gideon presented the Bastrop High School Master Plan and the property on Cedar Street that was designated for the Performing Art Center. Karen Halladay asked if the site was feasible for acoustics with the railroad track so close. Brad Pfluger stated that the site should not present a problem with the facility's acoustics, adding that an acoustical consultant will make recommendations for modifications to reduce any noise at the site. He added that other districts in the central Texas area have Performing Art Centers located near railroad tracks and most of these have no conflicts between train noise and performances inside the facility. Mr. Gideon stated that the Performing Arts Committee will tour some facilities in other districts in September.

Mr. Peterson asked about speed control on Cedar Street. Mr. Gideon reported that he has spoken with the City Manager about it; however he was unsure where it is in the process. Mr. Gideon will check into it and report back.

E. Communications/Community Services Report

1. **Update on District Daycares Which Includes the Employee Daycares and Wee Bears**

Tamera Stark reviewed recommendations on the district daycares which included combining the Emile daycare and the Wee Bears

daycare and continuing the Cedar Creek Elementary daycare. Dr. Stark reported that enrollment is up at the Cedar Creek Elementary daycare.

Dr. Stark reviewed projected income for 2007-08. She reported that if the daycares were combined, the district could serve 49 children with 11 employees. President Allen asked if the district had talked to teachers about combining the programs. Donald Williams stated that he has talked to staff about the issue. He added that they have also looked at other districts that combine their employee daycare with their student daycare and this is not an issue. Dr. Stark stated that she has heard from some employees that they liked the idea of combining the daycares because of mentoring opportunities. Mr. Williams stated that the reason for the recommendation brought forth this evening is to have a more efficient daycare.

Karen Halladay commented that less than 1% of staff is utilizing the daycare and added that the district should not be running the daycare at a deficit. President Allen agreed; however he does not want the decision to be completely financial. Valerie Bullock remembered that the plan was to make the daycares become self-sustaining, and added that the Board may need to re-evaluate the efficiency and necessity of the daycares and the Wee Bears program. Mr. Williams reminded the Board that support staff also utilizes the employee daycares, not just the teachers.

Karen Halladay moved and Jim Mills seconded to combine the Wee Bears Program and the Emile daycare for the coming school year. President Allen asked for comments or questions. Rene Barrientos stated that he did not have enough information to vote on this item tonight. President Allen asked Donald Williams to communicate with the daycare parents on the benefits of combining the two facilities and explain the need to do this at this time. There being no further discussion, President Allen called for a vote. Valerie Bullock voted against. Rene Barrientos and James Allen abstained.

MOTION CARRIED 4 – 1 - 2

F. Information on E3Alliance

Betty presented information on E3Alliance. She stated that the purpose of the E3Alliance is to close achievement gaps and help all students be successful in public and post secondary institutions. Mr. Emanuel stated that the message of E3Alliance is that students are being left behind. He stated that the E3Alliance is looking at what can be done to ensure a brighter future for our students. Mr. Emanuel reviewed 3 goals with 3 rewards for students: graduate from high school and earn \$1 million more in your lifetime; graduate college and earn \$2 million more in your lifetime; and speak 2 languages and have more opportunities, a better job, and higher pay. Mr. Emanuel stated that students are being encouraged to enroll in recommended, career focused classes. He added that the district recently

hired a P-16 Coordinator to assist students with financial aid forms, adding that all administrators are available to assist students.

Mr. Emanuel stated that community forums would be held in October. He added that the E3Alliance could have huge implications for the state. Mr. Emanuel reported that he was part of the Launch Committee for the E3Alliance back in May. He encouraged as many people as possible to attend the forums and learn more about this program. Mr. Emanuel stated that he would share more information with the Board throughout the process.

3. Consent Agenda

- A. Consider Approval of Minutes of July 31, 2007**
- B. Consider Approval of Bids**
 - 1. LCD Projector Replacement Lamps**
 - 2. Wireless Temperature Monitoring System**
- C. Consider Approval of Renewal of Property/Casualty Insurance and Liability Insurance**
- D. Consider Approval of Resolution Regarding the Extracurricular Status of 4-H Organization**
- E. Consider Approval of TASB Policy Update 80**
- F. Consider Approval of Revisions to TASB Policy FNG (LOCAL)**
- G. Consider Approval of Resolutions Exempting Ad Valorem Taxes**
- H. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between BISD and Bastrop Police Department for School Resource Officers**
- I. Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between BISD and Bastrop County Sheriff's 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 Karen Halladay seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of July 31, 2007; the contract for LCD Projector Replacement Lamps to Troxell Communications; the contract for the Wireless Temperature Monitoring System to FoodHorizon, Inc.; the renewal of the property casualty insurance with Insurance Network of Texas, through the Interlocal agreement with Texas Association of Public Schools; the Resolution that recognizes the Bastrop County, Texas 4-H Organization as approved for recognition and eligible for extracurricular status; TASB Policy Update 80; the revisions to TASB Policy FNG (LOCAL); the Resolutions Exempting Ad Valorem Taxes for the Kerr Community Center and St. Mary's Church of Bastrop; the Memorandum of Understanding between BISD and Bastrop Police Department for School Resource Officers; and the Memorandum of Understanding between BISD and the Bastrop County Sheriff's Dept. for School Resource Officers.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Action Items

- A. Consider Approval of Proposed Tax Rate to be Published in the Notice of Public Meeting to be held in September**

Sandra Callahan reported that the district's tax rate would be adopted in September and asked the Board to approve a proposed tax rate of \$1.501 to

be published and adopted in September. Mrs. Callahan stated that the proposed M&O tax was \$1.040 and the debt service tax rate was .461 for a total tax rate of \$1.501. She added that the current tax rate is \$1.622, so the new rate would be .12 cents less this year. Mrs. Callahan reported that the Notice of Public Meeting would be published on September 8th.

Rene Barrientos moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve a total tax rate of \$1.501 to be published and adopted at the September Board meeting. 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 New TASB Policy FNA (LOCAL)

Karen Dooley reported that the Texas Legislators designed a policy regarding student expression (the State Model) and the policy must be adopted prior to the start of the school year. Mrs. Dooley stated that TASB and Walsh, Anderson designed alternative policies to the State Model. She stated that the district reviewed all of the policies and is recommending the Walsh, Anderson version of the policy.

Valerie Bullock moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to adopt the version of Policy FNA (LOCAL) proposed to the Board from Walsh, Anderson.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of Job Order Contract (JOC)

Henry Gideon reported that some of the districts' portable buildings need to be re-roofed and the district has gone out for bids twice with no responders. Mr. Gideon explained that another method to get this work done is a Job Order Contract where the district can piggyback with Round Rock ISD to get the work done. He added that the contractor would be Braun & Butler Construction, Inc.

Valerie Bullock moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to award the Job Order Contract to Braun & Butler Construction, Inc. and authorize the Superintendent, or his designee, to negotiate a contract providing the best value for the District. 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 a Resolution Approving the Appointment of a Custodian and Authorized Investment Broker for the Bond Proceeds Associated with the District's Series 2007 Bonds and all Other Matters Related Thereto

Sandra Callahan reported that RBC Capital Markets, on behalf of BISD, successfully bid a Flexible Repurchase Agreement for the investment of bond proceeds from the sale of its Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds,

Series 2007. She added that the district received bids from six qualified financial institutions and achieved a fixed investment rate of 5.011% from MBIA.

Valerie Bullock moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the resolution approving appointment of a custodian and authorized investment broker for investment of district funds. President Allen asked the Board for comments or discussion. 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. Superintendent Emanuel reported that Thursday evening would be “Meet the Teacher Night” at all campuses except for high school. He added that that the high school would have an Open House on September 24th. Mr. Emanuel reminded the Board of the Team Building Retreat on September 13th and of the Back to School BASH on Saturday morning.

B. Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2007-2008

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

C. Revised Proposed 2008 Bastrop Central Appraisal District Budget

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

D. Discuss Future Agenda Items

President Allen reported that the Board would be discussing the pros and cons of placing the BoardBook online with the districts’ legal team at the September 13th retreat. Mrs. Bullock stated that she would like to consider an agenda item to discuss the daycare.

6. Closed Session

The Board of Trustees on August 21, 2007, beginning at 8:38 p.m. convened into closed session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

A. Real Property (551.072)

1. Possible School Sites for Future Development

7. Action Resulting from Closed Session

The Board of Trustees reconvened from closed session at 9:15 p.m. on August 21, 2007. There was no action resulting from closed session.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Valerie Bullock moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President