

**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, July 21, 2009**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at **the Bastrop ISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas 78602.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Eaton, President
Johnny Sanders, Vice-President
Sophia Williams, Secretary
James Allen
Ty McDonald
Glenn Peterson
Jim Mills

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Stark
Linda Apostalo
John Apostalo
Carol Armstrong
Bernie Jackson
Douglas Clark
Shirley Bartsch
David Sherrill
Wren Wickliffe
Shari Eichler
John Richardson
Terry Conrad
Beth Awtrey
Nicole Willoughby
Matt Wieland
Christine Chrispen
Gavin Miner
Molly Bloom
Vivian Washington
Susan Weems Wendel
Reba King
Jan Eaton
Lori Tuggle
Chris Deters
Vera Preston-Jaeger
Wilma Mayes
Jerry Acevedo

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, Ex. Director of Communications
Thomas Dowdy, Director of Maintenance
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Tessie Young, Director of Programs
Shevis Moore, EMC/Safety Officer
Bryan Doyle, Director of IT Services
Nanci Stobaugh, Director of Special Education Coop
Mark Willoughby, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
James Matthews, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Robert Washington, Student Services Coordinator
Michele Stahl, Mina Elementary Asst. Principal
Marla Stewart, Science Curriculum Coordinator
Susan Gill, Math Curriculum Coordinator
Lauri Anzaldua, Communications Coordinator/Webmaster
Albert Gaines, Director of Child Nutrition
Dr. Celina Estrada-Thomas, Bastrop High School Principal
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Jenae Hill, Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
Marvin Conrad
Fallon Seitz
Eric Claxton
Sara Clayton
Ellen Owens
Sally Keinarth
Jennifer Long
Carolyn Green
Kara Brewerton
Jeff Fiebrich
Lori Gracey
Kim Deters
Tresha Silva
Beverly Anderson
Ella Williams
Tonda Owens

Julie Lindenaar
Tommie Martar
Melinda Gardner
Kelly Bender

Paul Lindenaar
Shelby Eskew
Gary Davis, CPA
Cheryl Robinson

1. Opening, Presentations & Open Forum

A. Meeting Called to Order

President Eaton called the meeting to order at 5:30 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

The Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

The Board of Trustees led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

D. Opening Prayer

Glenn Peterson offered the opening prayer.

E. Student Speaker on Character Education Trait for July - Patriotism

Fallon Seitz spoke to the Board on Patriotism, the Character Education trait for July.

F. Open Forum

There were no requests to speak in Open Forum.

2. Superintendent's Report and Board Discussion

A. Curriculum Report

1. Strategic Planning Presentation

Betty Richardson presented an update on the district's strategic planning. Mrs. Richardson explained that a Strategic Planning Committee was established and created a new vision, mission and goals. Mrs. Richardson reviewed the new vision and mission statement and board goals. She reported that 85% of current jobs and 90% of the fastest growing jobs will require some post secondary education.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed BISD student data. She reported that a survey done in May 2008 showed that 82.8% of seniors surveyed planned to attend college or technical school; however, less than half actually enrolled in Texas higher education institutions.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed preliminary accountability ratings. She reported that it appears that the district will receive an Acceptable rating, and Bastrop High School, Genesis High School, Cedar Creek Middle School, Bastrop Intermediate School, Cedar Creek Intermediate School and Red Rock Elementary will receive an Acceptable Rating. In addition, Bluebonnet Elementary and Lost Pines Elementary look to receive a Recognized Rating, while Cedar Creek Elementary, Mina Elementary and Emile Elementary look to receive an Exemplary Rating. Mrs. Richardson reported that the official accountability ratings would be released on August 1st.

Mrs. Richardson recognized the members of the Strategic Planning Committee. Superintendent Emanuel and President Eaton presented committee members with a certificate of appreciation.

Mrs. Richardson talked about the culture of the district and reviewed the elements of change which included curriculum, instructional practices, tools/technology, capable staff, evaluation/accountability methods, facilities, policies and practices and partnerships. She stated that a framework for how we move toward our new vision, mission and goals for BISD must be put in place to serve as the umbrella for all strategic decisions that follow to successfully complete this transformation.

Mrs. Richardson introduced Ann Wink, Programme Specialist from International Baccalaureate Organization (IB). Ms. Wink reviewed how IB aligns with the district's new vision and mission. She explained that IB is an international, high quality, student centered program for students in grades Pre-K through 12. She reviewed the IB Mission Statement and added that IB is committed to international education.

Ms. Wink reviewed the three IB programmes; the diploma program for ages 16-19; the middle years program for ages 11-16; and the primary years program for 3-12 year olds. She reported that the primary and middle years programmes teach through framework design, while the diploma programme has required curriculum. Ms. Wink added that the diploma programme requires community service hours. In addition, all three programmes have a language involved and the district chooses the language. She stated that beginning in the middle years programme, students will take the same foreign language every year for 4 to 5 years.

Ms. Wink reviewed the features of an international education. She reported that IB can work in any school, whether a public, private, magnet or charter school. She went on to say that IB also works for schools looking to redesign their failing schools. Ms. Wink reviewed programme standards – philosophy, organization, curriculum and the student. She stated that pedagogy is huge in IB, adding that teachers must use multiple pedagogies to meet the needs of all students. Ms. Wink reviewed the IB Learner Profile. She stated that students are not bored in the program because they are more engaged.

President Eaton asked how the IB program affects standardized testing and discipline. Ms. Wink stated that she has seen improved discipline in IB schools. She went on to say that students are taught to reflect on everything in IB, therefore they learn to think before they act. As far as testing, Ms. Wink stated that IB is currently doing studies to see how the program affects test scores, however she added that she has yet to see an IB school where scores have gone down. Ms. Wink stated that kids learn better for a lifetime than for a test. She added that IB schools see improved attendance as well.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed how IB aligns with the district's new vision and mission. Mrs. Richardson and several BISD administrators will be attending training in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed the implications for IB. She explained that IB will serve as a catalyst for changing the culture of the Bastrop community and what we want for our children. She went on to say that it will take a total commitment to change and to support that change in how we teach and learn – from community to board members, to parents, to administration, and to staff. Mrs. Richardson reported that it was not a quick process – it will take a minimum of 3 years to become certified and operate as an IB district.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed the general timeline for IB. She said that it was a goal for all regular campuses to become IB World Schools by the fall of 2012. Mrs. Richardson stated that some strategic decisions would have to be made beginning this fall. In addition, she said that the district would have tactical decisions to determine beginning in the spring.

Mrs. Richardson reviewed elements of change in the next 3-5 years. She explained that at some point, the board will have to take action to make a commitment. Mr. Allen asked what the cost was for the program. Mrs. Richardson answered that over a 3 year period, the cost of the IB program was approximately \$35,000 per school or approximately \$1.2 - \$1.4 million. She stated that in addition to the cost of the program, additional staff would be needed. Mrs. Richardson stated that the program requires the district to hire an IB Coordinator. She added that each campus would also need a coordinator; however that expense is included in the \$35,000.

President Eaton stated that the timing might be right to begin the implementation of the program due to the second phase of stimulus money. He said that the Governor had applied for the additional stimulus money, and if granted, the district should see approximately \$2 million which should fund the entire program for the next few years. President Eaton stated that if that doesn't work, the district could go after grants, and if all else fails, there is always fund balance money. He added that TEA supports this initiative.

The board took a 10 minute break at 6:45 p.m. The Board reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

B. Financial Report

Information was provided to the Board. Sandra Callahan reported that she is in the process of closing out the end of the 2008-09 fiscal year and would bring a near-final detailed report in August.

Mrs. Callahan reported the final pricing results of the bond sale that took place last week. She reported that the bonds were sold at a true interest rate of 4.91%, adding that this was a great rate. Mrs. Callahan also reported that the district's projected net debt service is \$42,762,639, which is less than what was communicated to

voters at the time of the 2007 bond election, while the district's maximum projected Interest and Sinking Fund tax rate would be 2.52 cents lower than anticipated.

Mrs. Callahan reported that Standard and Poor's upgraded the district's rating to A+ while Moody's Investors Service reaffirmed the district's A2 rating. She stated that this is very good news for the district.

1. Pre-Audit Requirement

Gary Davis, CPA with West, Davis and Company reported that his company would begin the audit in mid-August and gave board members the opportunity to contact him with any comments, questions or concerns.

C. Personnel Report

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

D. Operations Report

1. Update on Construction Projects

Information was provided to the Board. Henry Gideon introduced John Richardson, a Texas Tech student who is working as a summer intern with Mr. Gideon and Mr. Dowdy. Mr. Gideon commented that John is a great assistant and prepared tonight's reports for the board.

Henry Gideon briefed the Board on the current bond projects. He reported that the performing arts center and the high school are on time and under budget at this time, while the stadium is actually ahead of schedule and under budget. Mr. Gideon reported that the performing arts center would be available for public use starting in October.

Mr. Gideon presented a budgetary update on the performing arts center and the stadium projects. He reported that due to the economy, they are getting some good, competitive pricing and both projects are in pretty good shape financially. Mr. Gideon reported that several hundred thousand dollars were added back into the projects due to the CMAR process. Mr. Gideon commended the architects and the construction managers for working so well together. He stated that he would bring a budgetary update on the new high school in the fall.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Consider Approval of Minutes of June 16 and July 6, 2009

B. Consider Approval of Bids

- 1. Printing Services #2009-23**
- 2. Propane Services #2009-17**
- 3. Painting and Drywall Services #2009-22**
- 4. Data Networks for Performing Arts Center and BISD Memorial Stadium #2009-24**

C. Consider Approval of TASB Update 85

President Eaton asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. There being no request, President Eaton called for a motion. James Allen moved and Jim Mills seconded to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: the minutes of June 16 and July 6, 2009; the following vendors for printing services – Letterhead - G&C Printing,

Envelopes – G&C Printing, Communications – all low bids, Business Cards – G&C Printing, and Report Cards – G&C Printing; the propane services to Centex Propane effective July 2009 through July 2010; D&W Painting, Inc. be awarded primary vendor status and Complete Finishes LLC and Roy Milam Painting be awarded secondary vendor status; the contract for data, voice and video network systems be awarded to the low bidder, Technology for Education, LLC, in the amount of \$85,257.63 and that Bryan Doyle be authorized to negotiate the contract that will provide the best value for Bastrop ISD; and TASB Policy Update 85 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Action Items

A. Consider Selecting a Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the TASB Assembly

Jim Mills moved and James Allen seconded to designate Ty McDonald as delegate and Johnny Sanders as alternate delegate to the TASB Assembly in October. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing Tax Resale

Ellen Owens with McCreary, Veselka reported that they had received 14 bids on properties held in trust and she recommended that the board accept the bids.

Johnny Sanders moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the resolution authorizing tax resale as presented. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of Scoreboard Advertising Agreements

Sandra Callahan reported that four companies have sent in proposals for advertising on the scoreboard. She added that additional companies that send in proposals would be brought to the board as they come in. Jim Mills asked if there was a possibility of a shorter contract. Mrs. Callahan stated that she would check with Coach Perry and the district's attorneys about the possibility of shorter contracts. She added that the district would have to go out for another proposal if this change was made.

Glenn Peterson moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the scoreboard advertising agreements as presented. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote. Johnny Sanders abstained.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1-0

5. Information Items

A. District Wide Calendar

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

B. TASB Employee Opinion Survey Results

Information was provided to the Board. Mr. Emanuel passed out results from an employee opinion survey that was conducted in May. Mr. Emanuel reported that 799 employees completed the survey (69%) and 99% of employees surveyed were satisfied with their jobs and felt safe at work. Mr. Emanuel reported on some areas of concern and reviewed an action plan to address these concerns. One of the areas of concern was consistent discipline, and Mr. Emanuel stated that IB has the ability to improve students' behavior at all campuses. Another area of concern was related to the response time to technology requests. Mr. Emanuel explained that the technology department reimaged over 600 teacher computers in the spring and therefore fell behind in work tickets. He stated that the staff has been reorganized and additional staff has been hired to meet the demands and response time to replace or repair equipment.

Another area of concern was listed under supervisory skills. Some employees surveyed requested more frequent, informal, unscheduled visits to classrooms and other work areas in order for the Service Center to become more familiar with employees. Mr. Emanuel reported that his administrative team has created a calendar for informal, unscheduled visits to campuses for the upcoming year. In addition, Mr. Emanuel stated that he would be working with all principals and supervisors to ensure that all staff utilizes the Family Access system.

Mr. Emanuel stated that he was overall very pleased with the survey results, adding that there was even more participation in this survey than the survey done at the beginning of the school year. President Eaton stated that he was a "bit of a skeptic" at the results of the first survey, adding that the results seemed too good to be true. He went on to say that this survey showed improvements in every category and constructive comments in this survey that allows staff to make improvements. President Eaton stated that the survey has a great deal of credibility and Administration should be very proud of these results.

C. Shared Services Arrangement Agreement for the Region XIII Regional Day School Program for the Deaf

Information was provided to the Board. Superintendent Emanuel reported that BISD would be hosting the program for the deaf next year and Sherri Gilmore will make a presentation to the board next month.

D. 2008 Bastrop ISD Community Education Progress Report

Information was provided to the Board. Bastrop Chamber of Commerce President Susan Weems Wendel presented information on the 3rd annual report card for BISD. She explained that this concept was brought to BISD by the Austin Chamber of Commerce in 2006, and was formatted for business leaders and taxpayers to understand. Mrs. Wendel credited Donald Williams and Roderick Emanuel for agreeing to participate in the program. She stated that 9 ISD's are now participating in the program. Mrs. Wendel stated that this is great information to give businesses that are looking to locate in Bastrop. Mrs. Wendel introduced Molly Bloom with the Austin Chamber of Commerce.

E. TASB Director Nomination Information

Information was provided to the Board. Superintendent Emanuel reported that two individuals submitted letters asking for endorsement for the TASB Director position.

Johnny Sanders moved and Sophia Williams seconded to endorse Vernagene Mott for the TASB Director Nomination. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Facility Usage Information

Information was provided to the Board. Jim Mills asked why BISD's fees for using the performing arts center are lower than other districts. Mr. Gideon explained that Round Rock and some of the other districts use a very complicated formula to determine their fees, and he wanted to keep it simple. Johnny Sanders asked for a complete list of all non-school facility usage and the fees that are charged to each group.

G. Adult Meal Price Increase

Information was provided to the Board.

6. Closed Session

The Board of Trustees, at 7:38 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, convened into Closed Session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

A. Personnel Discussion (551.074)

1. Mina Elementary Principal Position

7. Action Resulting from Closed Session

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 8:02 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

Jim Mills moved and Sophia Williams seconded to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Kelly McBride for the principal position at Mina Elementary. President Eaton asked for comments or questions. There being none, President Eaton called for a vote.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President