

Bastrop Independent School District
906 Farm Street
Bastrop, Texas 78602-3717

A workshop meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bastrop Independent School District was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2007, at the **BISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Valerie Bullock, President
Bill Vear, Vice-President
Rene Barrientos, Secretary
Sophia Williams
James Allen
Glenn Peterson
Karen Halladay

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dorothy Landoll
Jerry Acevedo
Michael Talbot
Jolene Wells
Jim Mills

ALSO PRESENT:

Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent
Betty Richardson, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer
Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer
Karen Dooley, Asst. Supt. of Human Resources
Donald Williams, Ex. Director of Community Services
Lori Gracey, Director of Instruction & Technology
Al Gaines, Director of Child Nutrition
Teresa Human, Child Nutrition Field Supervisor
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Nancy Barrientos, Secretary to Superintendent
Ashley Mutschink
Randy Wilson
Brad Pfluger
Jennifer Long
Kim Stewart
Bob Dransfield

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Valerie Bullock at 7:00 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.

2. Board Discussion on Possible Bond Election

A. Draft of Resolution Ordering a Bond Election

B. Sample Propositions

C. Ethics Information

Henry Gideon reviewed the Long Range and Master Facility Planning Advisory Committee recommendation which included a new 1500 student high school, centralized athletic stadium, centralized performing arts center, land acquisition for future sites, and district wide technology improvements. He explained that the centralized athletic stadium and performing arts center would keep the district from having to build new facilities every time a new high school is built.

Lori Gracey reviewed the district-wide technology plan. She explained that these technology improvements would benefit all students in grades Pre-k through 12th grade. Sandra Callahan reviewed a preliminary tax rate impact.

Bob Dransfield with Fulbright & Jaworski reviewed the resolution ordering a bond election. Mr. Dransfield reminded the Board that propositions must provide some degree of specificity, adding

the bond money could be used only for purposes specified. Mr. Dransfield asked the Board for direction so he can finalize the resolution and proposition and ballot language.

Mr. Gideon reviewed sample propositions. The Board discussed what might happen if the centralized athletic facility passed but the land acquisition did not. Mr. Vear reminded that the fund balance could be used to purchase land if necessary. Mr. Barrientos asked how many acres would be needed for the athletic facility, and Mr. Pfluger answered that it would take between 50-100 acres in order to allow for parking, practice fields, etc. Mrs. Halladay suggested adding the land acquisition to the proposition with the centralized athletic facility.

President Bullock stated that the Board has already taken a big step to let the community know that technology is a priority. She asked what would happen if the technology proposition did not pass. Mrs. Gracey explained that there was money included in the new high school figures for some technology however; the two high schools would be unequal if the technology proposition did not pass. Mrs. Gracey added that the figures have increased slightly due to some recent findings with the infrastructure.

The Board discussed the districts' total fund balance, which is at approximately 28% at \$17 million. Mrs. Callahan reported that when the technology amendment was approved the district anticipated using \$2 million from fund balance this year however at this time with the latest revenue estimates, it is estimated that \$1 million will be used. The total fund balance goal is 22.5%.

Mr. Vear stated that he favors giving voter's choices. He added that a new high school is the most important thing and he would like for that item to stand alone. Mr. Vear questioned including technology in the bond election or continue funding it in phases with the districts' fund balance. Mr. Allen commented that he likes the idea of including the athletic facility and land in one proposition.

Bill Vear moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to authorize Mr. Dransfield to use alternate #3 with the elimination of proposition #4 in drafting the resolution and bond and ballot language for the February 20th meeting. Mr. Allen reminded the Board that opening a new school costs money and the district may have to dig into the fund balance if the new high school passes. Mrs. Callahan estimated \$2.3 million in start up costs for opening a new high school. If passed, the new school would open in 2011-12. Mr. Vear reiterated that the districts' fund balance is quite a bit over the fund balance goal at this time. More discussion followed about technology. Mrs. Richardson stated that she trusts the Board 100% but is concerned about what might happen with the legislature in the next couple of years. President Bullock stated that the Board made a commitment to fund technology and can continue including technology money in next year's budget. Mr. Allen asked if it was worth the risk of not passing. Mr. Vear commented that it would be great to ask the voters for \$98 million instead of \$102 million. He agreed that it is the responsibility of the Board to fund technology. Mr. Barrientos inquired about selling some of the districts' properties. Mr. Gideon stated that the district owns some land in Paige that could be sold if the Board so decides.

President Bullock called for a vote on the motion. James Allen opposed.

MOTION CARRIED 6 - 1

Bob Dransfield reviewed the do's and don'ts of an election. He reminded that there is a prohibition against using school district resources for political advertising in connection with an election. Mr. Dransfield recommended putting together factual voter information materials. President Bullock thanked Mr. Dransfield for the information.

3. Consider Approval of Textbook Committee Members

James Allen moved and Karen Halladay seconded to approve the textbook committee members as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Board Self-Evaluation

The Board participated in a self-evaluation exercise. Following the exercise, Mr. Vear commented that he believes there is value to having Board committees.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Bullock adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President