

**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 **September 19, 2006**, beginning at 6:30 PM at the **Bastrop ISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Robert Pilgrim
Nelia Greene
Jud Stahl
Barbara Clemons
Shane Harrell
Warren Pedersen
Dorothy Landoll
Marla Stewart
Marilyn Cox
Heather Wheeler
Gary Gutierrez
Brad Pfluger
Andrew Polk
Clif Jones
Christi Martinez
Patrick Deviney, Sr.
Judge Ronnie McDonald

ALSO PRESENT:

Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent
Betty Richardson, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Karen Dooley, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources
Donald Williams, Director of Community Services
Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer
Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer
Robert Washington, Director of Athletics
Sherril Gilmore, Director of Special Education Coop.
Al Gaines, Director of Food Service
Lori Gracey, Director of Technology/CATE
Jennifer Womack, Director of Curriculum & Assessment
Tessie Young, Director of Programs
Jinger Myers, Cedar Creek Elementary Principal
Patrick Deviney, Network Services Manager
Augustina Lozano, Bilingual/ESL Specialist
Dr. Tamera Stark, 21st Century Grant Coordinator
Shawn Adams, Cedar Creek Intermediate Principal
Merv Doherty, Bastrop Intermediate Principal
Terrell King, Bastrop High School Asst. Principal
Pat Tips, Technology Specialist
Renee Setser, Technology Facilitator
Nancy Barrientos, Adm. Asst. to Superintendent
Bill Weddle
Roy Watson
Jerry Acevedo
Jana Snow
Diana Johansen-Jack
Randy Wilson

1. Opening, Presentations & Open Forum

A. Meeting Called to Order

President Bullock 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

Valerie Bullock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

Valerie Bullock led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

D. Opening Prayer

Valerie Bullock offered the opening prayer.

E. Open Forum

There were no requests to speak in Open Forum.

2. Public Hearing

A. Public Hearing on the 2006 School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST)

Sandra Callahan reported that Bastrop ISD earned a Superior Achievement Rating for the 2004-05 fiscal year by the School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas for the fourth year in a row. Mrs. Callahan explained that the rating is based on 21 indicators, including total fund balance, total tax collections, and debt related expenditures. Mrs. Callahan reported that BISD did have one “No” indicator which was the percent of operating expenditures expended for instruction. She explained that some of the factors relating to the indicator were the first year of the 21st Century Grant, increased transportation costs, and the opening of two new elementary schools.

President Bullock asked for questions or comments. Mr. Vear asked if the district would be at risk on the fund balance question for the 2006-07 school year after adopting the 2006-07 tax rate. Mrs. Callahan did not have the information available, but stated that she would bring the information to the next meeting.

B. Presentation on 2006-2007 Proposed Tax Rate

Sandra Callahan presented information on the 2006-07 proposed tax rate. She stated that the 2005-06 tax rate was \$1.7280, and the proposed tax rate for 2006-07 is \$1.6221. Mrs. Callahan reviewed the property value and total tax rate history. Mrs. Callahan reviewed a peer district tax rate comparison for 2006-07, ranging from \$1.5351 at Seguin ISD to \$1.778 at Hays ISD.

Mrs. Callahan reviewed the unreserved/undesignated fund balance history. She reported that if the budget amendment is approved, the districts’ fund balance would be at 18.5%.

Mrs. Callahan reported that Moody’s Investors Service upgraded the districts’ credit rating from A3 to A2 citing the increase in the fund balance as one of the factors for the upgrade. Mrs. Callahan reviewed results from a peer district fund balance goal survey. She reported that the majority of districts surveyed had no policy on fund balance.

President Bullock asked for comments or questions and there were none.

C. Adopt 2006-2007 Tax Rate

Karen Halladay moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to adopt the tax rate of \$1.37 for maintenance and operations and \$.0252 for payment of principal and interest on debt for a total rate of \$1.622 for the 2006-07 school year. President Bullock called for a vote. Glenn Peterson, Bill Vear and Valerie Bullock opposed.

MOTION CARRIED 4 - 3

3. 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. Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TPRI) Information & Results

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

2. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Information & Results

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

3. Read 180 Program Presentation

This item was postponed and will be rescheduled for next month.

4. Recognition of Making Math Real (MMR) Lead Teachers

Jennifer Womack introduced the BISD Making Math Real (MMR) Lead Teachers. She commended the teachers for the tremendous amount of work that they put into the program and added that they are an outstanding, dedicated group.

Mrs. Womack explained that the MMR program reaches all students, not only the struggling math students. She added that the program goes back to the basics and works it way up. Mrs. Womack stated that this is the 2nd year that BISD has utilized the program and training is being paid for with state and federal money.

5. Technology Plan Update & Budget Considerations

BISD Director of Technology Lori Gracey presented an update on the districts' technology plan. Mrs. Gracey explained to the Board that there is very limited funding available for technology, adding that no local money has been put into technology since 1995. She added that our students need technology to be able to compete.

Mrs. Gracey reviewed Phase 2 of the technology plan, which includes providing each 5th and 6th grader with an individual portable device, tools for all teachers, upgrades to campus infrastructures, and professional development and curriculum. Mrs. Gracey then reviewed phases 3 and 4 of the technology plan.

Mr. Allen asked if the district can monitor sites such as My Space. Mrs. Gracey explained that My Space is blocked in the entire school district. Mr. Allen then asked if the district could monitor usage of My Space from student's homes. Mrs. Gracey stated that she performs searches of My Space with her personal account, and added that administrators periodically survey the site as well.

Mr. Barrientos thanked Mrs. Gracey for the excellent presentation and stated that although it is expensive, this is much needed technology. Mr. Allen asked how BISD's technology compared with other 5A school districts. Mrs. Gracey reported that BISD is ahead in some areas and behind in other areas, however the districts' infrastructure is sadly far behind other districts. Mr. Vear reminded the Board that goal 2 states that it is the Board's responsibility to provide the resources to achieve academic excellence, and added that the Board will want to see measures of success.

D. Operations Report

1. Update on BHS Renovations & Additions Program

Shane Harrell presented an update on the BHS renovations and additions. Mr. Harrell reported that updates on the renovations are posted on the BISD website.

2. Presentation on Master Planning

Brad Pfluger presented a Master Plan Report for Bastrop ISD. He reported that growth is continuing in the district and BISD is doing a good job in dealing with the growth. Mr. Pfluger reviewed key master plan components which include demographics, needs assessment, funding, community input and schedule and added that the goal of the master planning is to identify growth of district enrollment and locate geographic trends for student populations. Mr. Pfluger stated that he'd like to see the district continue to use prototypical schools, which save time, money and ensure equity among schools. He stated that another goal is to establish a grassroots committee of citizens that represent diverse interests in the community, and he reviewed the committee makeup.

Mr. Pfluger reviewed a master planning schedule, adding that it is important to begin looking at the process now and make

some decisions. He reviewed key bond issue success factors to consider. Mr. Pfluger reported that May and November are the only times that districts can have elections. Mrs. Halladay commented that she would like to move forward as soon as possible. Mr. Gideon stated that the district must be proactive, adding that land prices are steadily going up. President Bullock asked staff to look at what would need to be done to call a May election should the Board decide to do so. In addition, she asked staff for a monthly update.

3. Presentation by Bastrop Village

Cindy Kohler from Walters Southwest presented information to the Board on Bastrop Village, a new development that will be coming to the Highway 71 and Highway 20 area. She reported that Bastrop Village would have 1,100 potential home sites. Ms. Kohler added that included in the plan is a site for an elementary school that Walters Southwest is prepared to donate to the school district if interested. In addition, she stated that the developers would like to partner with the school district on playscapes, ballparks, fields, etc. and they may even have a pool available for school use. Ms. Kohler reported that the first phase of construction is scheduled to begin around April 2007.

Bill Vear thanked Ms. Kohler for presenting this information to the Board.

E. Athletic Report

Athletic Director Robert Washington presented information on expanding the athletic programs that are offered at Bastrop ISD. Mr. Washington reported that the only UIL sports that are offered at Austin ISD that are not offered here are swimming and wrestling. He added that lacrosse and gymnastics are offered at AISD but are not UIL events. Mr. Washington reported that he surveyed students to see interest levels and students do appear to be interested in participating in swimming and wrestling, however their desire to participate in these sports competitively was significantly lower.

Mr. Washington shared some concerns with offering these two new sports; including securing and hiring certified coaches and teachers, facility rentals and partnerships. He reported that swim meets are generally held in February, so a heated pool would be necessary. Mr. Washington added that the pool at the State Park cannot be heated, however the district may be able to partner with The Colony or Hunters Chase.

Mr. Washington reported that the district is currently leasing tennis courts; however we may be able to increase athletic numbers by building our own courts. He stated that he received an estimate of approximately \$55,000 per court, but added that he felt that the

district could probably get a lower priced using the bid process. Mr. Peterson stated that he would like more information on tennis courts. President Bullock stated that she would like to see the district pursue a swimming program and would like a timeline on how long it would take to develop a program. Mr. Vear asked Mr. Washington to continue to explore some immediate options for a swimming program. Mr. Allen commented that he would like to see a centralized athletic facility with a swimming pool included in the next bond issue. Mr. Gideon stated that a centralized facility could have economic consequences that could bring extra revenue into the district.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Consider Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2006**
- B. Consider Approval of Tax Refunds**
- C. Consider Approval of Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2006-2007**
- D. Consider Approval of Advanced Course Exemptions for No Pass, No Play**
- E. Consider Approval of TASB Policy Update 78**
- F. Consider Approval of Qualified PDAS Appraisers**
- G. Consider Approval of Changes to the Bastrop ISD Student Code of Conduct**

President Bullock asked if any member of the Board would like to pull any of the consent agenda items for closer review. There being no further requests or objections, the following consent agenda items were approved: the minutes of August 15, 2006; the August 2006 tax refunds; the Region XIII Legal Services Program for 2006-2007; and the qualified PDAS appraisers.

Items D, E & G were pulled from the consent agenda.

Mrs. Halladay asked for clarification on item D. Mrs. Richardson explained that TEA recognizes challenge courses to increase opportunities for students to take upper level courses and continue to participate in UIL activities. She added that this is not an automatic exemption – students must apply and appeal to the teacher. In addition, the campus Principal has to approve the exemption. Mrs. Richardson reported that students are only allowed one waiver at the high school level. President Bullock asked how often exemptions are requested, and Mrs. Richardson answered not more than a handful per school year.

Valerie Bullock moved and Bill Vear seconded to approve the advanced course exemptions for no pass, no play as presented. President Bullock called for a vote. James Allen and Karen Halladay opposed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President Bullock stated that since the Board had just received a copy of TASB Policy Update 78, she was not prepared to vote on the item this evening. President Bullock asked to postpone the item until October.

President Bullock asked for clarification on the changes to the BISD Student Code of Conduct. Mrs. Dooley explained that the new leadership at Bastrop High School has requested to conduct their own expulsion hearings and the districts' attorneys suggested that the appeal process should begin at the district level prior to going to the Board. Mrs. Dooley stated that the Superintendent's designee to conduct expulsion hearings at Bastrop High School would be Jim Bonavita, and at the middle school level, Betty Richardson and Karen Dooley would be the designees.

Valerie Bullock moved and Bill Vear seconded to approve the changes to the Bastrop ISD Code of Conduct as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mrs. Dooley stated that corrections to the Student Code of Conduct would be sent out to parents.

5. Action Items

A. Consider Approval of an Interlocal Agreement Between the County of Bastrop and the Bastrop Independent School District for the Development of a County Park

Mr. Gideon reported that BISD's legal counsel and Bastrop County's legal counsel have worked through the Interlocal Agreement, which was approved by the County earlier today. Mr. Gideon reviewed some of the revisions that were made to the agreement, including the removal of the clause releasing BISD from any environmental problems on the land and BISD not having exclusive use of the park. He explained that the district would participate in the scheduling every summer and shall have use for all UIL matters.

Karen Halladay moved and Glenn Peterson seconded to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Bastrop County and the Bastrop Independent School District for the development of a County Park.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Consider Approval of Resolution on Designated Fund Balance

Mrs. Callahan reported that the Resolution on Designated Fund Balance is brought to the Board each year for approval. She noted that \$1 million was added to construction in the designated unreserved fund balances.

Rene Barrientos moved and James Allen seconded to approve the Resolution on Designated Fund Balance as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of General Fund, Debt Service and Food Service Budget Amendments

Mrs. Callahan reviewed proposed amendments to the general fund, debt service and food service budgets. She explained that the general fund amendment includes technology, Education Foundation Consultant, band needs, start up supplies for new classes added this year, extended day programs, Capturing Kids Hearts training, and athletic equipment received after June 30th. Mrs. Callahan stated that they are still getting prices for furniture for Bastrop High School and she'll bring a special amendment when those prices come in. Mrs. Callahan stated that the food service has a large fund balance and has some computer needs, and the debt service amendment is a formality to reduce the tax rate.

Rene Barrientos moved and Sophia Williams seconded to approve the general fund, debt service and food service budget amendments as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Consider Approval of Bid for Sale of Improvement on Real Property at 1202 Cedar Street

Mr. Gideon explained that the Board accepted a bid at last months meeting from Lynx Contractors to purchase the improvement to the real property at 1202 Cedar Street; however Lynx Contractors thought that BISD was going to pay them to remove the improvement. Therefore, Mr. Gideon recommended that the Board allow Lynx Contractors to withdraw their bid and award the bid for the improvement to Jimmy Mathison.

Bill Vear moved and Sophia Williams seconded to allow Lynx Contractors to withdraw their bid of \$22,800 for the sale of improvement on real property at 1202 Cedar Street and award the bid of \$5,001.00 to Jimmy Mathison for the sale of improvement concerning this same real property.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Consider Approval of Change Order to Bartlett-Cocke's Contract

Mr. Gideon stated that after meeting with Mr. Dowdy and Bartlett-Cocke regarding the possible fixes to the moisture concerns at Bastrop High School, he has concluded that the costs associated with the recommended procedure presented at last month's Board meeting are economically unfeasible. He added that the price for the procedure is outrageous and the company cannot guarantee that the moisture problem would be resolved. Mr. Gideon's recommendation was for BISD to direct Bartlett-Cocke and their sub-contractors to use the base bid of a VCT application throughout the renovation and addition areas and install in such a manner as to ensure that the district would get the best quality and most life out of the floor application. Therefore, there would be no need for a change order to Bartlett-Cocke's contract.

F. Consider Approval of Resolution to Financially Support the Foundation's Hiring of a Consultant to Assist in the Reorganization and

Development of the Foundation in Order to Provide Better Focus on the Foundation's Mission of Supporting the District and the District's Mission

BISD Executive Director of Community Services and Bastrop Education Foundation Board Member Donald Williams reported that the Bastrop Education Fund had changed its name to the Bastrop Education Foundation (BEF). Mr. Williams explained that the BEF is asking BISD to financially support the hiring of a consultant to assist in the reorganization and development of the Foundation in order to provide better focus on their mission of supporting the school district and the school district's mission. He added that this is a one time shot and well worth the money to establish the structure for the Foundation and foster a great partnership. Mr. Williams explained that the BEF would contract with the consultants for the next 10-12 months. Mr. Allen, who also serves as a Board Member for the BEF, stated that the Foundation raises money and awards teacher mini-grants. In addition, there are other committees and organizations that are jumping in to assist the Foundation. He added that all of the money raised by the BEF would stay in the community and the school system. Mr. Williams closed his presentation by stating that by approving the resolution, this would be a positive move for the school district, and the district would reap the benefits for many years to come.

Bill Vear moved and James Allen seconded to approve the Resolution to financially support the Foundation's hiring of a consultant to assist in the reorganization and development of the Foundation in order to provide better focus on the Foundation's mission of supporting the district and the district's mission.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- G. Consider all matters incident and related to the issuance and sale of Bastrop Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2006-A, including the adoption of an order authorizing the issuance of such bonds, establishing parameters for the sale and issuance of such bonds and delegating certain matters to an authorized official of the District relating to the issuance and sale of such bonds and the redemption of the bonds being refunded**

Bill Gumbert with RBC Dain Rauscher presented information on refinancing the districts' Series 1997 bonds. Pursuant to federal tax laws, 1997 bonds can be refinanced beginning November 17, 2006. Mr. Gumbert reviewed the potential available savings – a total of \$42,000 each year for two fiscal years. Mr. Gumbert reviewed a listing of parameters that would be used for the district's refunding program. He explained that unless all of the parameters could be achieved, the refunding program would not be implemented unless additional direction was received from the district. Mr. Gumbert went on to say that only bonds that the district has outstanding would be cost effective to refinance. He added that the district would have an opportunity to refinance at a later date; however each day that goes by, the savings would be lower. Mr. Gumbert reported that the cost to refinance the bonds is around \$50,000, and that cost is rolled into the bonds.

Karen Halladay moved and Rene Barrientos seconded to approve all matters incident and related to the issuance and sale of Bastrop Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2006-A, including the adoption of an order authorizing the issuance of such bonds, establishing parameters for the sale and issuance of such bonds and delegating certain matters to an authorized official of the District relating to the issuance and sale of such bonds and the redemption of the bonds being refunded.

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. BISD Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2006-2007

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

D. Superintendent's Charges and Priority Objectives for 2006-2007

Information was provided to the Board. Superintendent Emanuel stated that he would begin working on his measures of success if the Board approves of his charges and priority objectives for 2006-07.

F. Information on Demonstration Farm on Shiloh Road

Information was provided to the Board. Patricia Jacobs was scheduled to make a presentation to the Board; however she was not in attendance, so there was no discussion on this item.

G. Discuss Future Agenda Items.

President Bullock reminded Board members about the training session that has been scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at the BISD Service Center.

Mr. Allen stated that he would like to be part of the Master Planning Advisory Committee and he has recommendations for committee members. President Bullock stated that staff would be bringing information to the October meeting so it would be part of the agenda.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President