

Brackett Independent School District
Board Minutes of Public Hearing & Monthly Meeting
September 12, 2005

Members Present	-	Tony Ashley, Ronnie Hobbs, Jeffrey Duncan, Sondra Meil, Henry Lutz
Member Absent	-	Mark Frerich, Sara Terrazas
Administrators Present	-	Paula Renken, George Burks, Alma Gutierrez, Frank Taylor
Guests	-	Marla Madrid, Connie Hall, Chuck Hall, Erick Henson, Sue Ann Rose, Eileen Allen, Elizabeth Hodges, Kay Sitgreaves, Jennifer Baggett, Stephen Horton, Cathy Quinton Etzel, Susan Esparza

PUBLIC HEARING: F.I.R.S.T. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

President Henry Lutz officially opened the public hearing at 5:50 p.m. No guests were present to address information on F.I.R.S.T. The district received a rating of "Superior Achievement" from the Texas Education Agency. The public hearing was closed at 5:52 p.m.

RECEPTION FOR NEW TEACHERS & RETIREES

Retirees Chuck and Connie Hall were presented with gift certificates, along with a thank you from the board for their years of service to the staff and students at BISD. Chuck Hall retired after 34 years, and Connie Hall after 32 years. Other retirees honored but not present; Elizabeth Goebel with 17 years, and Carroll Petrosky with 30 years. Teachers new to the district introduced themselves and were welcomed by the board.

The regular meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Henry Lutz, President.

Tony Ashley gave the invocation, and Paula Renken led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

No guests in attendance for public forum.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. MINUTES

Minutes for August 1, 2005 Monthly Meeting

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to approve the minutes for August 1, 2005, as presented. Henry Lutz seconded. The motion carried with Jeffrey Duncan and Tony Ashley abstaining.

2. PRESENTATION OF YEAR-END AUDIT, 2004-2005

Steven Horton, CPA for Coleman, Horton & Company, conducted a review of the annual financial report/audit for the year ending June 30, 2005, and starting June 30, 2004. The audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, based on a standardized format used throughout the state. Mr. Horton stated the district received a *clean opinion*, the highest rating a district can receive. Two

findings brought to the attention of the board; a \$400,000 adjustment to state revenue and a \$56,000 budget overspend in Food Service.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve the year-end audit for 2004-2005 as presented. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. CONTRACT RENEWAL: COLEMAN, HORTON & COMPANY, L.L.P.

CPA Steven Horton stated the district has the option to go with a four-year or one-year contract. BISD has always gone with the four-year. Mr. Horton explained the price increase is due to changes in requirements for state and government controls and standards. A recommendation was made by Henry Lutz to renew a four-year contract with Coleman, Horton & Company, L.L.P., to include the following fee estimates:

2006 - \$11,000	2007 - \$11,000	2008 - \$11,500	2009 - \$11,500
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A motion was made by Sondra Meil to renew a four-year contract with Coleman, Horton & Company, L.L.P. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4A. BUSINESS & FINANCE: CHECK RUN

The board conducted a brief review of the August check run. The district has made an effort to use local services in response to a request from the board, and reflected in a decrease in outside spending.

4B. ADOPT TAX RATE

A resolution to adopt a 1.2975 tax rate was reviewed by the board. Once adopted, the resolution will be published on the district's website. Valuation has increased, not the actual tax rate.

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to adopt the resolution as read:

"WHEREAS The Brackett ISD Board of Trustees agrees THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S RATE.

And

WHEREAS THE TAX RATE WILL RAISE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ON A \$100,000 HOME BY APPROXIMATELY \$187.50.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brackett ISD School Board Members hereby approves said property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$1.2975. ADOPTED this 12th day of September, 2005."

Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. ALAMO HEIGHTS CHAPTER 41 CONTRACT FOR 2005-2006

A recommendation was made by Paula Renken to renew our Chapter 41 agreement for 2005-2006 to educate an estimated 645 nonresident students by purchasing WADA through a partnership with the Alamo Heights Independent School District. The district has made money from this partnership, though this year we will make a little less due to a decrease in WADA/lower enrollment. (See payment schedule with agenda.) It is still up in the air if the purchase of WADA will be allowed to continue next year. After talking with other districts, Mrs. Renken stated we need to continue collecting on delinquent taxes. Attorney Quinton Etzel commented that the district has a contract with the appraisal district to collect those taxes, recommending we work through the appraisal office.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve a one-year Chapter 41 contract and partnership with Alamo Heights ISD for the sale/purchase of WADA. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. T.A.K.S. REPORT

Cathy Lutz conducted a review of district TAKS performance scores, stating a panel recommendation will be used here on out. The report was presented in three parts; Part I was a comparison of district to state by grade level, Part II subgroup comparisons, and Part III a summary of all data used to construct the graphs. The 2005-2006 testing calendar was also included in the report. Mrs. Lutz commented this is the first year in a long time our scores have not been at or above the state average, adding standards are tougher this year.

7. LOCAL BOARD POLICY UPDATE 76, 1ST READING

The board conducted a first reading of local policy Update 76. Paula Renken stated 95% of the update is legal policy in which the district has no say. The six remaining local policies are straightforward; the election date moved to the second Saturday in May, and campus principal given the authority to approve classroom to classroom transfers, etc. Mrs. Renken pointed out local policy EHBD, which was not included in the update, has been reviewed and is not needed. A recommendation was made to consider having the districts policy manual reviewed this summer on site by a representative from TASB. Susan Esparza stated a review was done in 2003 before the district's policy went on-line for administrator use.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: ENROLLMENT, DISCIPLINE REPORT, & CURRENT EVENTS

Jones Elementary School (Alma Gutierrez)

Refer to written report. Enrollment: 219 Additional comments: A Literacy Through School Library program will start on the 19th after school. The GT Parent Orientation scheduled for the 21st has been moved to Thursday, the 29th at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Gutierrez added instructional aides and three teachers will receive Mandt (restraint) training on the 20th through the 23rd. Back to School Night was a huge success!

Intermediate & Junior High (George Burks)

Enrollment: Intermediate school - 80, Junior High - 118 Additional comments: George Burks stated assault charges have been filed on an incident and he is working on resolving the matter. Parent Night went well with more Intermediate parents showing up than Junior High.

Brackett High School (Frank Taylor)

Refer to written report. Enrollment: 173 Additional comments: Frank Taylor reviewed Homecoming events planned. Open House did not have the outcome he was hoping for, but Mr. Taylor said they are working on ideas to encourage more parents to come next year.

Special Education Report (Melanie Jones)

Refer to written report. Total enrolled in Special Ed.: 84 Speech Only: 16 Mrs. Renken commented on the number of Spec. Ed. students attending the Academy, stating the figures show smaller groups work better with them.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Paula Renken informed the board that staff will be allowed to wear spirit shirts and shorts this Friday due to the heat and Homecoming events.

A) Student Travel America

As the parent of a Senior, Yolanda Reuda is sponsoring a trip for Seniors who want to go to Cancun in June. Only students who pay get to go, along with any interested sponsors. Mrs. Renken wanted the board to know the school is not/and will not be involved in anyway with this trip.

B) TASB Delegate Assembly Representative

Information on the TASB Delegate Assembly, September 24, 2005, was given to the board. Members interested in attending were instructed to let Henry Lutz know.

C) A.Y.P.

The district did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress. This needs to be our focus this year. Prior Superintendent Bobby Templeton did not apply for a waiver and as a result, Brackett ISD is now at Stage One. Mrs. Renken has contacted TEA and Region 20 and is now working to get a waiver for the District. Fourteen of the state's districts, including Brackett ISD, that did not meet AYP, did not apply for a waiver. Mrs. Renken has now applied for the waiver even though it is after the deadline to do so. It is uncertain if one will be granted by TEA. It will be late October before a ruling is given on the exception. Paula Renken stated she met with the Brackett District Advisory Committee today and they are proceeding as if the district is in stage one. We need to spend \$30,000 to \$40,000 out of our budget, which will probably be Alamo Heights money, for staff development. Cluster 5 is going to work with us (Pre-Referral Workshop, etc.) on all the early interventions we can do before a referral for Special Ed. The district met state accountability. We are currently under performance based monitoring. Mrs. Renken stated if there is any chance a student can take the TAKS, they will be taking it. In case the district does not get the exception the following stages apply:

1. A District Plan
2. We will have to offer a choice for students to go to another district, we have to take them
3. Superintendent is given the authority to take corrective measures by changing administrators or teachers
4. Restructure by TEA, they will come in and take over

If we do get the exception, it will take us back to zero, or basically starting over.

Additional Topic: Early Childhood Center

Tony Ashley expressed a desire to get an Early Childhood center up and running as discussed in a June board meeting, adding this was included in the budget for a facility and the hiring of a teacher. Henry Lutz stated this was tabled due to legislature possibly doing something with it. Paula Renken stated policy requires us to meet with Headstart before building a new facility, with everyone agreeing the existing one does not work. Mrs. Renken would like to meet with Alma Gutierrez and her team in October to look at options. Our first step would be going to a full day for Pre-K, next the board needs to decide on tuition, or just open it up. Headstart can hold 40 and the facilities are good. They currently have 20 children that go a full day (with some on a waiting list), by 12:00 p.m. the children are worn out. Mrs. Renken stated we still need to come up with policies and assess the need for this program. The state is not accepting any more Pre-K expansion grants. Also discussed were several options; filling up our existing pre-k classroom, sending out a survey of parents to see who would use this program, focusing on more parent involvement to get their kids ready for school, the need to train teacher on "awareness," and research other districts to see what they are doing. Mrs. Renken recommended coming up with a survey to see if the need is there.

A short break was called for at 7:45 p.m., with the board convening into a closed Executive Session at 8:05 p.m., pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.071, Consultation With Attorney, and Code 551.074, Personnel.

10. *CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY, GOV'T CODE 551.071: PENDING AND/OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION
11. *PERSONNEL, GOV'T CODE 551.074: SCHOOL NURSE, INCREASE WORK HOURS PER DAY

ADDENDUM: *PERSONNEL, GOV 'T CODE 551.074: RECOMMEND TEACHER FOR HIRE

The board convened into Open Session at 8:42 p.m., and took the following action:

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to extend Nurse Collins contract from 80% to 100%, giving her an extra \$7,000 for full-time. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Duncan to approve the hiring of Spanish Teacher Mary Frances Partlow for three periods per day at the rate discussed, to reduce class size. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no guests present for public forum participation.

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sara Terrazas, Secretary

Date

Date