

Minutes of Board Meeting  
The Board of Education  
Levelland ISD

Vol. 43 Page 55

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A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Levelland ISD was held Thursday, November 15, 2018, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Administration Building Boardroom, 704 11th Street.

Members Present: Pres. Tania Moody, Vice Pres. Rusty Gibson, Sec. DeEtte Edens, and Members Carrie Ellis, Treva Potter, and Ronnie Watkins

Members Absent: Paul Ochoa

School Officials Present: Superintendent Jeff Northern, Director of Personnel and Administrative Services Rodney Caddell, Chief Financial Officer Lance Terrell, Director of Curriculum Heidi Blair, Director of SPECO Kathy Hutchinson, Director of Instructional Services Donna Pugh, and Secretary to the Board Sherry Alexander

Media Present: Kati Moody – Levelland/Hockley County Newspress  
Jody Rose - KLVT Radio

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1. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Ellis gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Recognitions

Supt. Northern welcomed the Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country teams who placed third in District competition and participated in Regional competition. Also recognized was the lone Cross Country State Qualifier, Rodrigo Ornelas.

Mr. Northern also thanked Melissa Young's CTED students who provided the meal for the board as part of Kathy Hutchinson's presentation of her annual SPECO report. It was noted these students bake cookies and make lunches for teachers at the Middle School every day by preparing, serving and cleaning up.

3. Call to Order

Pres. Moody called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and declared a quorum.

4. Public Forum

There were no requests to speak at public forum.

5. Consent Item

Pres. Moody requested to pull item B 'Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plan' to discuss and vote on separately. Ms. Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes and superintendent credit card charges as presented. Trustee Watkins seconded the motion and it passed unopposed with one member absent.

A. Approval of Minutes

Approved the minutes for the October 18, 2018 regular meeting as presented.

B. Approval of District and Campus Improvement Plan for 2018-2019

At the request of the board, Ms. Pugh discussed State Compensatory Education (SCE's) which are programs and/or services used to supplement the regular education program for identified at-risk students. She also explained that Full Time Equivalent (FTE's) are approximate hours of staff time annually allocated for program activities that is supported by state aid formula calculations.

Ms. Blair explained the District and Campus Improvement Plan is an ongoing process that is started in June through review of comprehensive needs assessments. Administrators develop a draft on needs, with this being a goal setting continual working document. Ms. Blair stated this year the District reconstructed four goals by targeting specific areas of state emphasis. The plan is submitted to the District Advisory Committee to begin building in activities and strategies, with this document being under constant review and revision.

Pres. Moody stated she thinks there needs to be more streamlining with all campus levels to format their plans in the same way. Ms. Pugh explained that each campus owns their own missions. Sec. Edens stated she likes how Capitol Elementary goals are very specifically presented. Ms. Ellis asked how these goals are measured. Supt. Northern stated results are gathered through walkthroughs, as professional development is built around specific needs. Ms. Ellis asked for more information on the safe objective. Mr. Caddell explained there is an increase in law enforcement presence, with law enforcement personnel now having key access to buildings. He stated the Police Chief, Sheriff and State Trooper recently met with 8th graders to discuss drug testing for extracurricular students, suicide prevention programs, sex education to promote abstinence, and Skylert messaging.

Ms. Blair stated that growth is relative to STAAR, with the ultimate goal to strive for better performance. Ms. Blair explained there are currently 23 first year teachers, with it generally taking 3 to 5 years to get a new first year teacher rolling. Ms. Blair further explained that High School goals are reasonable to incoming freshman, as it gets credit if a student makes 15 points or more, but if a student makes a 14, he does not get credit. Supt. Northern stated by 2014, 100% would pass the TAKS through NCLB, but there are challenges in 100% gaining growth. With no further discussion, Sec. Edens made a motion to approve the District Improvement Plans for 2018-2019 as presented. Trustee Potter seconded the motion and it passed unopposed with one member absent.

C. Approval of Superintendent Credit Card Charges

Approved the superintendent credit card charges as presented in the total amount of \$4,069.73 for charges related to the School Board TASA/TASB Convention.

6. Consider Financial Report

Mr. Terrell presented the monthly financial report for the period ending October 31, 2018. Mr. Terrell stated that football revenue is not as high as originally projected, as attendance was down due to rainy evenings and a cancelled game. He stated that playoff games and hosting games should help make up the loss. Mr. Terrell stated the general fund recognizes a suburban purchase this period. He discussed Fund 161 stating the District will not receive additional SHARS money like it did last year. Mr. Terrell reported an estimated \$3,500 savings under the construction report where Sodexo put up new heaters and saved the District on outside labor expense.

Pres. Moody asked if we are seeing changes with the Aquilla package. Mr. Terrell answered we saved \$15,000 the first month with an estimated \$88,000 per year, stating we are on track to beat that. With no further discussion, Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Trustee Ellis seconded the motion and it passed unopposed with one member absent.

7. Consider Special Education Bus Purchase

Mr. Terrell informed the board of a need to replace one of the District's Special Ed Lift Buses, as there has been a great deal of mechanical problems with the current bus that creates a need for the purchase. Mr. Terrell stated this bus will handle the Bledsoe/Morton Special Education Route. Mr. Terrell stated the plan is to use Federal IDEA B funds to make this purchase. Mr. Terrell listed quotes received for the bus as follows:

Thomas Bus Gulf Coast	\$97,890
Blue Star Bus Sales	\$99,470
Longhorn Bus Sales	\$95,862

Mr. Terrell recommended the Board approve the purchase of the Special Ed Lift Bus from Longhorn Bus Sales for \$95,862. He further explained the Longhorn bus has the same type of Cummins engine that is in our fleet, as well as being in stock and ready for delivery. Mr. Terrell stated the Longhorn bus also has an extra wheelchair handicapped spot that the others did not offer. With no further discussion, Ms. Potter made a motion to approve the purchase of the bus from Longhorn Bus Sales.

Sec. Edens seconded the motion and it passed unopposed with one member absent.

8. Consider Budget Amendment

Mr. Terrell requested a budget amendment that addresses two allotments. Mr. Terrell explained the District is reclassifying how two employees are coded, and as a result are moving their budgeted salary expenditures from Function 53 to Function 11 in

the amount of \$86,900. Mr. Terrell also stated he met with campus librarians to discuss needs to enhance their libraries and get them into condition where they will be in solid shape going forward. Cristal Isaacks spoke to the board regarding the request for \$47,500 for replacing degrading book collections and 40 + year old furniture. Ms. Isaacks stressed that powerful libraries make powerful learners. Ms. Isaacks stated there is a need for multiple copies of books for the 2x2 list and the Texas Bluebonnet list, as well as for GT programs. She explained that non-fiction at the Middle School campus is very outdated. She stressed that new books on the shelves will keep the students engaged in reading. Mr. Terrell explained the furniture at Capitol, South and the High School is old and needs to be replaced. Supt. Northern stressed that printed material is good for a student, as you want to develop lifelong readers. Trustee Ellis gave kudos to Mr. Terrell for reaching out to the libraries. With no further discussion, Ms. Potter made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Sec. Edens seconded the motion and it passed unopposed with one member absent.

## 9. Reports

### A. Report on Special Education

Ms. Hutchinson presented the annual Special Education report, stating the coop served 809 students during the 2017/2018 school year in a shared services arrangement including nine area school districts. Ms. Hutchinson explained an ARD committee determines the placement, with Levelland ISD being unique to accept students in as transfers. Ms. Hutchinson stated that currently out of a total of 126 life skills students, 39 of those are out of town students. Ms. Hutchinson further explained when a student receives intervention and is struggling, the campus works data, with parent permission, to determine if a child has a disability. Ms. Hutchinson informed the board that an additional diagnostician has been hired, as special education student numbers have tripled within the past 5 years. Ms. Hutchinson stated that all nine districts were 100% compliant for the TEA State Performance Plan Indicators 11 (evaluation timelines), 12 (evaluations prior to age 3), 7 (early childhood outcomes) and 13 (transition services). All areas were in compliance for the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. Hutchinson discussed the budget process where all 9 districts pay into the coop based on refined ADA. This process enables the smaller districts to get needed support.

Levelland ISD is partnered also with Lubbock Cooper and Frenship through the Project Search Program at Covenant Hospital. In January, one of LISD's students will be hired at Covenant as a result of this program. She praised her staff and the LOC program for training these students for skills that will be used to help them for a lifetime. She added that LISD is recognized in the State of Texas for its LOC program success. Other programs that have proven to be highly successful for special education students is CTED, the autism and social groups, swimming at SPC Natatorium, and field days. In addition, Special Ed students are treated to an annual Regional prom at the Texas Tech Museum as well as the local special education prom.

Mr. Terrell reminded the board that Ms. Hutchinson has been recognized as a state leader, and will serve one more year, with success at pushing through bills. Trustee Potter praised Ms. Hutchinson for the outstanding job that she does, with standards never changing and always treating everyone with kindness. Mr. Caddell stated her ability to deal with parents is with the highest dignity and respect. Ms. Hutchinson stated we have some of the state's best special education teachers that love what they do, stating all kudos go to the teachers.

### B. Report on Disposal of Property

Mr. Terrell reminded the board they approved the Superintendent to dispose of vehicles at the August 22, 2018 board meeting. Mr. Terrell listed the following vehicles that have been sold.

1998 Ford Expedition - Sold at Auction \$550

2002 Chevrolet Suburban - Jaime Rubalcava \$1,500

2001 Ford Taurus - Damian Nieland \$1,200

2008 Ford Expedition - John Roley's Autocenter \$1,500

2009 Ford Expedition - Damian Nieland \$3,100

C. Fund Raising Report

Supt. Northern provided a list of fund raising activities by group from August 2018 to the present that have been approved by the superintendent as per Policy FJ(LOCAL). Mr. Northern stated that policy reads that fund-raising activities by student groups and/or for school-sponsored projects shall be allowed, with prior administration approval and under the supervision of the project sponsor, adding there will be no door-to-door sales. Mr. Northern stated there was never a restriction by the board on the number of activities that can be performed. Mr. Northern stated an option could be to adopt the limit of amount of fund raising activity, adding he prefers to seek solutions. Pres. Moody stated she thinks these are still good rules to follow. Mr. Northern explained he categorized where the funds are going to, and even though noble, some are not benefitting the students. He added there are some fund raisers that we never see such as camps and concession stands. Sec. Edens stated she would like to see more detail rather than general requests, such as what kind of equipment. Ms. Edens added that businesses are more open to give if they have a more detailed reason. Ms. Moody stated that a holiday party is a want and not a need. Ms. Ellis stated she feels there are a lot of fund raisers that are not crossing the superintendents desk for signatures. She asked if rules need to be set, adding that book fairs are technically a fundraiser. Supt. Northern stated there is a fine line, as businesses are not getting hit with concessions or book fairs. Ms. Ellis suggested it can be distinguished if it goes to the community. Mr. Northern stated he does not see camps as being a fundraiser. Ms. Moody stated she views it as if it provides funds for a program then it is a fundraiser. Ms. Moody also stated the principals are the only ones who can curb this and ask if they really need this. Trustee Watkins stated this all started when several groups were trying to sell the same thing, adding that even though it is not my passion, it is someone's passion. Supt. Northern requested the board to determine what a fund raiser is. Pres. Moody asked administrators and the board to take all they have heard and put thoughts down, as well as getting principals input. She added this is part of the responsibility the board wants of principals, stating there is no sense in punishing a whole lot for the few. There was no further discussion.

D. School Board Goal Discussion

Pres. Moody opened discussion regarding board goals for the upcoming year. Ms. Moody provided a rough draft compiled of suggestions and ideas from the superintendent, board and cabinet for review and discussion. All board members and the cabinet weighed in on ideas and suggestions of how to word and prioritize these goals. The group discussed that academic programs should be more than state recommended. Discussion on promoting student participation in a wide array of activities was of high importance among the list. Goals of safety, security and maintenance were discussed. A comprehensive communication program to share information with the community was discussed, as well as strategies to show teacher support. Finally the goal of changing policies to strategies within the financial realm was discussed. Pres. Moody stated these proposed goals will be typed up with plans to adopt after the first of the year. In addition, any tweaking or proposed revisions of goals or discussion on KPI's for 2019-2020 will be solidified in July 2019.

E. Academic Report

Ms. Blair gave a report on progress monitoring of LISD 2018-2019 goals as of November 13, 2018. Ms. Blair informed the board the Domain I STAAR and NWEA component score is +1 on the goal of increasing at least 6 points from the previous year results by the end of the year STAAR results. Ms. Blair stated as compared to STAAR last year, we are ahead, adding the District is very strict in how we set cut points. Ms. Blair stated a major objective is to raise the level of critical thinking and cognitive demand.

Ms. Blair stated the STAAR and NWEA student growth goal of 70% or above for all students and meet or exceed the Domain III target for each accountable sub-group in the spring results is being measured at the student level by principals with each common assessment.

The goal that CCMR Domain I and III component score will increase by 20 points each year until at or above 90% of graduates meet at least one of the CCMR

requirements is shown by the 2018 Cohort study that 85% of students are meeting at least one CCMR indicator. She added that subpopulations are all up over 20 points except for special education students. Ms. Blair stated if we had scored this last year, we would have been a B.

Ms. Blair reported that STAAR Approaches Reading results were 70% in 2018, up from 67% in 2017. Writing was 54% in 2018, up from 52% in 2017. Ms. Blair informed the board that currently Reading is 63% compared to 61% at this time last year, so we need to grow 12% by spring. Writing is 68%, currently exceeding the goal compared to 2018 STAAR results.

Graduation rates goal has exceeded the goal of 90%, as 90.5% graduated in 2018 as compared to 83.9 in 2016 and 86.6 in 2017. Ms. Blair stated that Mr. Phillips does a great job tracking this.

Ms. Blair stated the final goal shows the District is currently meeting 0 of the 7 targets for Meets level performance in Math and 1 of the 7 targets for ELAR.

When compared to this time last year, we are up in 4 of 7 in Math and 5 of 7 in Reading. Ms. Blair concluded by saying the commissioner is promising they will leave this alone.

F. Board Report

There were no reports from the board at this time.

G. Superintendent Report

Supt. Northern informed the board they will receive the Superintendent/Board Self Evaluations in the mail in December. Pres. Moody stressed these need to give constructive feedback, and asked the board to take their time reviewing and completing these documents.

Mr. Northern stated unless the board wishes to meet, there will not be a December board meeting. The January meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17.

Mr. Northern stated that his office will send out the next month's board agenda immediately after the current meeting in order to let the board digest the upcoming agenda items.

Mr. Northern stated that Mr. Caddell and law enforcement agencies have met with the Middle School 8th graders and will meet with High School students to go over key areas that affect the schools and student consequences that await them should they violate certain laws. The meeting at the Middle School went very well.

Mr. Northern stated that Lobo Football Stadium is being used to hold area playoff games, which is a positive for the district.

Ms. Ellis asked if the June board meeting could be moved to June 20 to avoid vacation conflicts. That date will be confirmed at a later time.

10. Personnel

Mr. Caddell presented the following personnel.

A. Personnel Information

Auxiliary New Hires:

Shelby Silvas            Life Skills Teaching Assistant            South  
(effective 10-22-18)

Jerry Lynn Creed      Bus Driver    Transportation  
(effective 10-24-18)

Karla Carrillo            Pre-Kindergarten Teaching Assistant    ABC  
(effective 11-5-18)

Retirement:

Judy Whisenant        School Nurse                                        Intermediate/Capitol  
(effective 12-31-18)    High School

B. Professional Personnel

Trustee Ellis made a motion to approve the following professional new hires. Sec. Edens seconded the motion and it passed unopposed with one member absent.

Ricky Wiles            Life Skills Teacher    South                    Employment Agreement  
(effective 11-16-18)

Keri Terrell            School Nurse                    Capitol &            Employment Agreement  
(effective 1-7-19)    Intermediate

11. Executive Session

The board did not retire to executive session.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

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Tania Moody, President

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DeEtte Edens, Secretary