

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Brackett ISD

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Brackett ISD was held October 8, 2007, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Central Office, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville.

Members Present: Mark Frerich, Sondra Meil, Henry Lutz, Tony Molinar, Ronnie Hobbs, Tony Ashley here at 6:44 p.m.

Members Absent: John Paul Schuster

Administrators: Paula Renken, Alma Gutierrez, Frank Taylor

Guests: John Graves, Jr., Maxine Bonner, Marla Madrid, Susan Esparza

***A change in the agenda was made by President Henry Lutz, starting with item 2.**

***2. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

A. MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m., with a quorum present.

Following a moment of silence, Ronnie Hobbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

A public hearing on the FIRST financial accountability rating was opened at 6:35 p.m. The Brackett Independent School District was rated based on twenty-one indicators, eighteen receiving a "yes" answer, giving the district a rating of Above Standard Achievement. As required by SB12, a copy of the Superintendent's 2007-2008 contract was included, along with a disclosure for reimbursements received by the Superintendent and Board Members for the 2006 fiscal year. With no guests present, the public hearing was closed at 6:38 p.m.

3. OPEN FORUM

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

No guests were present for open forum participation.

President Henry Lutz called for a postponement of item 4, allowing Board Member Tony Ashley time to be present for discussion of this item.

5. MINUTES

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

A motion was made by Mark Frerich to approve minutes for the September 10, 2007, regular meeting as presented. Tony Molinar seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to approve minutes for the September 21, 2007, special meeting as presented. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried with Mark Frerich, Tony Molinar, and Ronnie Hobbs abstaining.

6. BUSINESS & FINANCE

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN / MARLA MADRID

A. BUDGET AMENDMENT

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

A recommendation was made by Marla Madrid to amend the budget for changes to revenue due to a tax rate adoption of .97. The original budget was adopted at .94. The additional revenue received will come from the state and local tax collections. This money will be allocated throughout the budget.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to adopt the budget amendment as presented. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Tony Ashley here at 6:44 p.m.

B. INVESTMENT POLICY, CDA LOCAL

Annual review & adoption.

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

Our current district investment policy must be reviewed and adopted on an annual basis. There are no changes to local policy CDA. Paula Renken will attend investment training on Wednesday and Thursday.

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to adopt investment policy CDA local as presented, with no revisions. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. RECAP OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

A recap of revenue and expenditures for the month of September was reviewed by the board. Marla Madrid stated the district received the remainder of 2006-2007 money, \$500,000.00, and received our first payment on this year. Though we have applied for all federal funds, these have not been awarded yet.

D. CHECK RUN

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

The purchase of dead bolts is part of the district safety plan, which will allow teachers to lock classrooms from the inside. A check to Grainger for \$2,257.04 is for crosswalk safety vests and three air-conditioner units.

The meeting resumed with item 4 on the agenda.

***4. PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Boardroom expansion with two classroom additions.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN / ARCHITECT JOHN GRAVES, JR.

John Graves stated he met with several board members to walk around and see the condition and age of the portable buildings. Replacement of these portables was included in the master plan. Though not a priority, there is still an interest in a meeting room. With enrollment a new building is not feasible at this time. Expansion would be the way to go. In planning, the district would need to leave room for future growth. A recommendation was made by Mr. Graves to cut the project into three phases. Phase 1 would be to construct a meeting room along with two classrooms that can be divided to accommodate the Migrant Program, ESL, Speech and RTI. Phase 2 would be construction of a new Nurse Clinic and Special Ed room. The Nurse clinic would need to be located in a place accessible to secondary and elementary students. Both the Nurses Clinic and Special Ed room require plumbing. Phase 3 includes construction of a Music Room plus classroom additions to allow for an increase in enrollment and any new state requirements. A two classroom addition would run \$225,000, constructing 4 classrooms at the end would be \$550,000 to \$575,000, and boardroom expansion would run \$130,000. Going with a multipurpose meeting room and two classrooms would allow for the removal of two portables immediately. Mr. Graves stated the board is looking at \$800,000 for all approved projects (those currently out for bid) plus phase one. All are figured at \$105 per square foot, except for the meeting room at \$101. Construction time would run about six months. Bids for the football field projects are due October 16, and will be taken to the November 12th meeting. Construction on these projects would start the end of November. Projects in phases 1 through 3 could be split over two budget years. A projected start date would be for the end of May.

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to allow the Superintendent to work with John Graves to obtain RFP's for construction of a meeting room with two classrooms as recommended in Phase 1. Henry Lutz seconded. The motion carried with Tony Ashley abstaining.

A heating and cooling problem has surfaced with the high school. What insulation could be seen above the ceiling, does have a radiant barrier. The problem may be as maintenance goes through working on ducts, etc., the insulation gets folded over. John Graves recommended checking to make sure insulation is covering the ceiling above the classroom. The attic could also be ventilated better. The air-conditioning units may also be attributing to the heating and cooling problem. John Graves stated he will get with Gus Sandoval to check tonnage on the units.

7. NOMINATIONS: KINNEY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD, 2008-2010

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

Two positions are open for the 2008-2010 term. Incumbents Tim Ward and Steve Crosby have consented to continue to serve.

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to nominate incumbents Tim Ward and Steve Crosby to the Kinney County Appraisal District for the 2008-2010 term. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. RESOLUTION: EXTRACURRICULAR STATUS OF 4-H ORGANIZATION

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

The Board needs to formally recognize 4-H as an extracurricular activity for students to be able to participate in "S" days. This came into play with attendance and accounting changes, and having to recognize Mr. Elledge as an adjunct staff member in case he is with a 4-H student and one of our staff members is not present, we will still get foundation money. Our AG Teacher does not go to all the shows that the kids go to. Recognizing 4-H will meet the first part of State Board of Education amendment 19TAC 129.21, allowing us to then appoint County Extension Agent Robert Elledge as an adjunct faculty member.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve a resolution recognizing 4-H as an extracurricular activity. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. ADJUNCT FACULTY: COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

This item was brought up in September, but due to an issue with the way the contract was written, was moved to October. Paula Renken got with our counsel and 4-H to work on the wording. On the agreement, paragraph five, the last sentence, "The adjunct faculty member shall comply with all board and district directives, state and federal rules, and district policy and regulations as long as they exist." He will now fall under our jurisdiction. The agreement brought to the board to sign last month from 4-H stated he would not answer to, be recognized by, or fall under anything related to the district. At the next admin. meeting, Paula Renken and the administrators will go through policies and responsibilities with Robert Elledge. The district did run a criminal check through DPS and it came back clear. Mr. Elledge does meet our qualifications. We could get TRS if we were to hire him in a paraprofessional role, since he holds a degree and certificate from 4H. This will be an annual renewal.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to appoint Kinney County Extension Agent Robert Elledge as an adjunct faculty member of BISD. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

The textbook committee must be approved annually. With Math textbooks up for adoption, we have recommendations from the administrator for Jamie Ballew, Lindsey Kunz, Olivia Robinette, and Aracelie Wiebush. All four have agreed to serve on the textbook committee and are math teachers.

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to approve members of the 2007-2008 Textbook Committee as recommended. Tony Molinar seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. JONES ELEMENTARY/INTERMEDIATE CAMPUS
IMPROVEMENT PLAN, 2007-2008

Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ

Administrator Alma Gutierrez reviewed revisions to the Jones Elementary/Intermediate Campus Improvement Plan. The majority of the revisions being campus and long range goal percents on pages 13, 15, and 18. On page 38, the wording on GT was changed from “play” to “engage in higher thinking skills.”

A motion was made by Tony Molinar to adopt the 2007-2008 Jones Elementary/Intermediate Campus Improvement Plan as presented. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Enrollment, discipline reports, and current events.

Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ / FRANK TAYLOR

Jones Elementary/Intermediate (Alma Gutierrez)

Enrollment: 325 Discipline: 5

Refer to written report. Two students were caught trying to pass Tylenol off as something else. They have been disciplined. Board members were invited to the Fall Festival on October 30th. Lots of teachers are signed up for staff development. The morning science lab tutorials are being well attended. John McKaskle and Amy Hammerle are doing a great job with these students. The Uvalde Bank could not attend the board meeting to honor scholar students. They will be able to attend the November meeting.

Junior High/High School/Educational Academy (Frank Taylor)

Enrollment: 281 (One student wanting to transfer from Del Rio is on hold.)

Discipline: 18

Refer to written report. Frank Taylor was proud to announce the high school has been recognized by Region 20 as one of the top secondary schools in Science. Mr. Taylor, along with our Science teachers, have been invited to share how we achieved this. In reference to our controversy over using the Missouri Tiger logo, Mr. Taylor received an email from James Aronowitz who is on the Associate General Council for the collegiate licensing company has agreed to all phase out terms, giving us 5 years, this includes taking the logo off the gym floor. We had an estimate of \$15,000 to remove this. Athletic wise, to remove it from everything would have run around \$85,000. All uniforms can now be worn until they wear out, etc. This has been a learning tool for us.

Several other high schools have gone through this, Schulenburg and Texas A&M High School to name a few. Sealy is still using this same logo. A member of the community turned us in. We survived homecoming week. The Thursday night community pep rally received positive comments. Cindy Brandt, Yolanda Rueda, David Edwards, and all the class sponsors were commended for organizing all homecoming events. We had our first eligibility check and all teams survived the cut. Frank Taylor was asked to pass the Board's commendation on to the Science teachers. Math received this same honor last year.

The Special Education department received a 1A rating this year on the Performance Based Analysis System, the lowest rating ever achieved by our district. Mrs. Renken stated the lower the numbers, the lower Special Ed funds go down. If we keep all faculty next year in this department, we will need to come up with some funds. We continue to pay more for less service.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information & updates on projects and events.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

A. 2008-2009 DISTRICT AWARDS FOR TEACHER EXCELLENCE (D.A.T.E.), YEAR 1 GRANT APPLICATION

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

Mrs. Renken stated after reading the criteria on DATE, she needed guidance on where to go with it. All districts can opt in. This grant will award and reward those teachers that are doing a good job, but the district will have to match reimbursement costs. Districts must participate for three years. If our district decides to go with this we will have to apply and give our intent to participate by October 19, 2007. We will also have to set up an assessment for individual teachers, along with our own one year plan with intent. Funding is based on ADA. Mrs. Renken stated it is similar to the old career ladder program, adding it has caused lots of controversy. A timeline was included, and a change in the date for availability of the application was noted. Following discussion, Mrs. Renken agreed to go to the campuses with the available information.

B. TEAM BUILDING, GOALS, SUPT'S EVALUATION INSTRUMENT, LEGISLATIVE UPDATE TRAINING

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

Just a reminder for next Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m., we have our team-building session scheduled. Board members were instructed to let Mrs. Renken know by Monday if this is a problem because the trainer is coming out of Austin and all must attend. This will also be group picture day for the board, so wear the new white polo shirt. Susan Esparza will call board members with a reminder.

A closed session was called for at 8:10 p.m., pursuant to Gov't Code 551.074.

14. PERSONNEL

Pursuant to Gov't Code 551.074.

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

A. LETTERS OF RETIREMENT: ELEMENTARY
TEACHERS

Formal acceptance.

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

The board reconvened into open session at 8:35 p.m., and took the following action:

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to accept a letter of retirement from Judy Burks with regret, effective the end of the current school year. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Tony Molinar to accept a letter of retirement from Kandace LaMascus with regret, effective the end of the current school year. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

15. OPEN FORUM

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

No guests were present for open forum participation.

16. ADJOURN

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sondra Meil, Secretary

Date

Date