

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Brownwood Independent School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Brownwood Independent School District was held Monday, February 8, 2021 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Central Support Center located at 2707 Southside Drive. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Michael Cloy. The invocation was voiced by Trustee Codie Smith, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board President, Michael Cloy.

PRESENT:

Mr. Michael Cloy, President
Mr. Codie Smith, Member
Mr. Eric Evans, Member
Mrs. Diane Thompson, Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Joe Young, Superintendent
Mrs. Liesa Land, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Mitch Moore, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Karen Dempsey, Exec. Assistant to the Superintendent
Mr. Charles Musgrove, Community Relations Coordinator

ABSENT:

Mr. Roderick Jones, Sr., Vice President
Mr. Tim Jacobs, Member

Others Present:

BISD Staff – Doug Bonsal, Jenny Swanzy, Lori Maxcey, Darla Peter, Cara Helzer, and Jimmy Ward; Carsyn Ward & Kayleigh Willis – SFE; and Candyce Speidel with Sentaor Dawn Buckingham's office.

Instructional Focus: BISD Deputy Superintendent Liesa Land highlighted the layers of support that Brownwood ISD currently has employed for the benefit of both teachers and students. At the Elementary level, support includes a Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction (K-6), four Academic Response to Interventionists, four Instructional Coaches for teachers, up to three tutors for students which are mainly retired teachers, and department leaders designated for Math and English at each grade level (K-6). At the Secondary level support includes the Director of Secondary Curriculum Instruction and department heads for the four core subjects at both middle school and high school. Support at the district level includes five dyslexia teachers, a Behavior Interventionist, Mental Health Coordinator, three counseling interns in addition to the campus counselors, three parent liaisons, and a 504 Coordinator. Land noted that the positions all work together analyzing data, targeting weaknesses, and providing support for our students and teachers.

BISD recognized the following groups and individuals and presented them with certificates highlighting their achievements:

- **BISD Spotlight Teachers and Staff:** The Brownwood ISD Spotlight recognizes members of the BISD faculty and staff who go the extra mile to ensure excellence in education for all our students. Spotlight recipients are chosen from peer nominations. February 2021 honorees were Northwest Elementary School Kindergarten teacher, Cara Helzer, and Licensed Professional Counselor, Jimmy Ward.

BISD Trustee Eric Evans moved to accept Dr. Lisa Fowler's resignation from the BISD Board of Trustees due to moving out of the district. BISD Trustee Codie Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BISD Superintendent, Dr. Joe Young began the Superintendent's Report by noting that the 3rd Annual Business Industry and Trade Showcase was currently underway at Brownwood High School (BHS). It was well attended and continues to improve each year. The event is now combined with the annual endorsement fair and showcases the variety and quality of BHS programs to eight-grade students who will be moving into high school next year.

Dr. Young met with the Superintendent's Student Advisory Cabinet. Discussions and feedback covered a variety of school topics, from areas in which the schools are succeeding to ways the district can improve. Dr. Young is scheduled to meet with the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Cabinet and Parent Advisory Cabinet later in February.

Last week was Counselors Week and the district recognized its school counselors for listening, assisting, and caring for our students. From classroom guidance and behavior to Ms. Danielle Howard leading Mental Health initiatives, Dr. Young noted that the district is ahead in addressing the needs of both students and staff.

Brownwood ISD is now taking nominations for the renaming of the Brownwood High School Career and Technology/Vocational building. More information, including a schedule and nomination form, is available on the BISD website.

Dr. Young provided a budget update, adding that with the Hold Harmless protections enabled by the Texas Education Agency, the district faces a 1.06-million-dollar loss due to the effects of the pandemic. If the Hold Harmless protections are not extended, the district will face a 1.8-million-dollar loss, a number that continues to grow as student attendance has dropped to between 94-95%. In previous years, BISD attendance was 98-99%, and because state funding is calculated on attendance as opposed to enrollment, Dr. Young was hopeful that Gov. Greg Abbott and Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath would extend Hold Harmless protection for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

The board moved into executive session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and possible candidates for the open Board seat. They returned to open session at 7:29 p.m.

Brownwood ISD Board of Trustee Place 6 was vacated by the resignation of Dr. Lisa Fowler due to her move out of the district. This position will be up for election in November 2022. The Board considered the appointment of Amary Doremus as a new board member to serve in this capacity. Mrs. Doremus is a married, self-employed mother of two elementary-aged children who are currently in Woodland Heights Elementary. BISD Trustee Evans moved to approve the appointment of Amary Doremus as the new board member to fill Place 6 for the remainder of the position's term. BISD Trustee Diane Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Administration of the Oath of Office will be carried out at a later date.

Due to the resignation of Dr. Lisa Fowler, Place 6, who was serving as an officer of the Board of Trustees (Secretary), it is necessary to elect a new member to serve in this capacity. Trustee Evans made a motion to nominate Trustee Thompson to serve in the capacity as Board Secretary. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The following Departmental Reports were presented:

Budget Calendar: A calendar was provided that contained target dates for regular budget activities and processes through September 2021.

School Nutrition Report: Southwest Food Excellence representative and BISD Food Service Director Carsyn Ward, presented a report regarding the status of the School Nutrition Department and ongoing initiatives including district-wide free breakfast and lunches. Ward reported meal participation data and noted that decreases were due to the pandemic. 217,701 meals (breakfast + lunch) were served from the end of August to December 2021. Ward was hopeful that engagement would increase, and the department would end the school year strong.

Pre-K, Kindergarten, & Head Start Roundup: Dates and times for upcoming Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Head Start pre-registration events were provided. A flyer with the information has been prepared and will be released to the community. Deputy Superintendent, Liesa Land noted that 19 pre-k students were recently accepted to fill openings currently available for BISD Pre-K for the remainder of this school year.

At 7:40 p.m. the Board entered a public hearing for the TAPR report. The TAPR pulls together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. Performance is shown disaggregated by student groups, including ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The reports also provided extensive information on school and district staff, programs, discipline, and student demographics. BISD Deputy Superintendent Liesa Land noted that, because of the pandemic, data that is normally there for comparison is missing. Cover pages that typically include letter grades have been labeled with “Non-Rated Declared State of Disaster.” The report will be available on each campus and on the district’s website.

Dr. Young presented the proposed 2021-2022 school calendar for the Board’s consideration. The District’s Site-Based Decision-Making Committee met, as well as solicited input from their campuses in order to develop two school calendar possibilities for the 2021-2022 school year. The staff was polled for their preference and there were 149 who answered the survey. The poll results were: Calendar A – 50, and Calendar B - 99. BISD Trustee Smith made a motion to approve Calendar B, as presented. Trustee Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Evans moved that administrator contracts for 2021-2022 be approved, as recommended. Trustee Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The following items were listed for consideration on the Consent Agenda.

- Copier/Printer Contract
- Policy Update 116
- Approval of BMS UIL Fundraiser
- Minutes from January 19, 2021 Board Meeting

Trustee Evans moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented, with Trustee Smith seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Michael Cloy
President

Diane Thompson
Secretary