

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Brackett ISD

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Brackett ISD was held May 15, 2007, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Central Office, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville.

Members Present: Henry Lutz, Tony Ashley, Ronnie Hobbs, Sondra Meil, Mark Frerich, John Paul Schuster

Administrators: Paula Renken, Alma Gutierrez, Frank Taylor

Guests: Tony Molinar (elected 5/12/2007), Karron Childress, Norma Sandoval, Susan Davis, Francisca Hernandez, Jamie Ballew, Todd & B. Schroeder, Elena Molinar, Kathryn Letsinger, Leigh Volcsko, Candi Voyles, Julie Creel, Tara Coldwell, B.J. Eckenrod, Nick Eckenrod, Praxie Aguirre, Brandi Wilson, Ricky Flores, Rosario Guzman, Imelda Vela, Kitten Fohn, Maja Edwards, Sandra Rivas, Tanya Molinar

And students: Allison Del Bosque, Lisa Morgan, Lola Cano, Adam Sandoval, Cullen Duncan, Stanford Conoly, Seth Frerich, Cesar DeLeon, Junior Adams, Cesar Cantu, Clint Conrad, and Brenda Tate

1. 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 5:35 p.m., with a quorum present.

Following a moment of silence, Tony Ashley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CANVASS RESULTS OF MAY 12, 2007 ELECTION

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

The board conducted a canvass of election results, with Marla Madrid reading the counts as recorded by Election Judge Ricky Alvarado on the return sheet for the May 12, 2007, school board election.

Number of votes received per candidate, seeking the office of Board Trustee:

Sondra Meil	180
Tony Molinar	224
Cash Letsinger	145
Star Smith	99
Steven Stafford	88
Tony Ashley	208
Dan Laws	169

Andrea Garcia	113
Cesar Cantu, Jr.	143

Early Voting & Election Day voters:

Election Day	242
Early Voting	279
<u>Mail-in</u>	<u>18</u>
Total Voters	539

A motion was made by Mark Frerich to accept the results of the May 12, 2007, election as certified by the Election Judge Ricky Alvarado. Henry Lutz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. OATH OF OFFICE

Presenter: NOTARY PUBLIC

The Oath of Office was administered by Notary Public Kathryn Letsinger to elected board members Tony Molinar, Tony Ashley, and Sondra Meil.

4. REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL BOARD OFFICERS

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

Paula Renken opened the floor for nominations for President. Sondra Meil nominated Henry Lutz and motioned to cease nominations. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion to appoint Henry Lutz as President carried unanimously.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice-President. Ronnie Hobbs nominated Tony Ashley and motioned to cease nominations. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion to appoint Tony Ashley as Vice-President carried unanimously.

The floor was opened for nominations for Secretary. Ronnie Hobbs nominated Sondra Meil and motioned to cease nominations. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion to appoint Sondra Meil as Secretary carried unanimously.

5. OPEN FORUM

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

No guests participated in open forum at this time.

ADVANCED MATH PROJECTS [Not on the Agenda]

Presenter: Jamie Ballew & Students

Instructor Jamie Ballew introduced students who then presented their Math projects. Jacob Schroeder and Cesar Cantu demonstrated "Conics" by using planes breaking the sound barrier. Clint Conrad and Alison Del Bosque demonstrated the Law of Co-Signs with right triangle trigonometry used to determine adequate lighting needed by measuring from the top of a light pole to the pitchers mound, and also to measure the distance of throws from certain areas on the baseball field. Gabby Schroeder and Megan Davis presented Operation Anti-Flood. A model of a bridge on wheels was built to demonstrate

how to cross between the high school annex and new high school building during flooding, using the Law of Co-Signs.

At Mr. Lutz's request, item *8 was moved up on the agenda.

***8. REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT ON AGENDA:**

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES & CEREMONIES

Presenter: BHS SENIOR CLASS SPOKESPERSON LOLA CANO

The Senior class was represented by spokesperson Lola Cano, a high school Senior and Class Secretary. Ms. Cano stated this is the first class to be held at this high standard, with 40,000 graduates in the state of Texas in same situation. Paula Renken commented on the recent Special Education proclamation signed by Governor Rick Perry allowing special education students who have been in attendance at least four years; but have not met all the course requirements to take part in commencement exercises. A recommendation was made by Paula Renken to use Rocksprings ISD's policy as a model for revising local policy FMH. The Principal would have final say if students showed an effort was made to meet all graduation requirements. Along with revising our own policy, a plan would be developed to make tutorials mandatory.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to revise local policy FMH, using Rockspring's policy as a model. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried five to two, John Paul Schuster and Henry Lutz opposed.

Continue with original agenda.

6. HIGH SCHOOL ALLOTMENT & GOALS

Report.

Presenter: FRANK TAYLOR

Secondary Principal Frank Taylor gave the board a report on how High School allotment funds will be spent, stating the main goal is to offer courses to better prepare students for college. Funds will be used for the AP and Dual Credit programs, along with paying stipends for AP teachers and a local dual credit teacher. Frank Taylor commented he would like to see more Pre AP Science offered to students. The presentation was for information only.

7. PROGRESS ON BOARD GOALS, 2006-2007

Report on programs.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

A. GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

Review the Gifted and Talented program implementation and services.

Presenter: KARRON CHILDRESS

Gifted and Talented Coordinator Karron Childress shared a comparison of the GT program to prior years showing not only improvement, but growth in the program. All teachers are currently trained. New challenges in the program included a lab this year in elementary and implementation of an enrichment class. Other program highlights; GT students in grades 1st-6th will be taking a NASA trip, and teachers are doing differentiated lesson plans for GT students.

B. EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Monitor and evaluate the expansion of current early childhood program (PK).

Presenter: KAY SITGREAVES

Early Childhood Instructor Kay Sitgreaves gave the board an update on the expansion of the Pre-K program. The largest group had 34 students. Enrollment is now 26. Each child went through three benchmarks which show their levels of development. Principal Alma Gutierrez offered her thanks to the board for allowing open enrollment into the program. The board was treated to a presentation by the PreK class on days of the week and months of the year. Parent Rosario Guzman, Grandparent Proxie Aguirre, and Parent/Classroom Volunteer Maja Edwards all commented on the benefits of the program, thanking Mrs. Sitgreaves for her hard work and the board for allowing them to enroll their children in the program.

C. DISTRICT-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS

Development of a district-wide survey for staff, students and parents to assess the school health and climate.

Presenter: REP. FOR DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A student and staff survey was conducted under the School Safety Audit. The survey was done on-line with results going directly and tabulated by ESC Region 20. The district did the parent survey which was based off the student & staff survey. Three areas were addressed; safety, respect, and discipline. The instrument will be used at the campus level to address issues cited by the survey. High on the list was bullying and fighting. Communication is a concern with students. They do not feel they are asked for input with issues that concern them. The district is always open to areas for improvement. A fall survey will concentrate on curriculum. Tony Ashley commented on two issues he noted kept coming up; security and fencing, and school uniforms which would relieve problems with the dress code. Region 20 suggested a survey on its own with regard to school uniforms. Paula Renken stated the Safety Committee will meet within the next week or two to discuss continuing the fence to enclose the elementary campus. Cameras already installed have proved beneficial to

the district. The district may consider adding more. Survey results will be made available to staff, parents, and community via information posted on the district website.

9. TRUST PROPERTY - 12384 SPOF, BLOCK 11, LOT 9

Action item. Request to purchase property.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

The board was asked to consider a request from Joe A. Muraira to purchase “trust property” 12384 SPOF, Block 11, Lot 9, for \$500.00. The appraised value of the property is \$2,723.00 with delinquent taxes frozen at \$1,963.23.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to accept Joe A. Muraira’s offer of \$500.00 for trust property 12384 SPOF, Block 11, Lot 9. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. MINUTES

Action Item.

Presenter: BOARD PRESIDENT

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to approve minutes for the April 16, 2007, monthly meeting as presented. Henry Lutz seconded. The motion carried with Ronnie Hobbs, Tony Molinar, and Tony Ashley abstaining.

11. BUSINESS & FINANCE

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN / MARLA MADRID

A. QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

Information only.

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

Business Manager Marla Madrid reviewed figures on the quarterly investment report. The total interest earned for the third quarter is \$57,773.02, with a total interest earned year to date of \$176,571.52. The district continues to do well. See report with agenda.

B. AMENDMENTS

Action Item.

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

A request was made to allow budget amendments for additional funds (\$630.00) received due to an increase in the per student allocation for ARI/AMI funding, also an increase (\$266.00) due to the state’s reallocation and maximum entitlement of funds for the Optional Extended Year program. See report with agenda.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to approve the budget amendments as presented. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. BUDGET CALENDAR

Information only.

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

The board reviewed dates for the proposed 2007 budget and tax rate calendar. School districts with a July 1 start must have the budget prepared by June 19, not adopted, just prepared. We are waiting right now on legislature to see how the district will go on setting the tax rate.

D. FUND BALANCE - DESIGNATED CONSTRUCTION

Action Item.

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

At a June 28, 2004 board meeting, ESC 20 Field Service Representative Taylor Stephenson pointed out that .0675% of our tax rate was to go into a permanent building fund on an annual basis, part of a long term district plan. This date in 2004 is the last debt payment the district owed for construction. Since then the district has set aside or reserved funds for construction. Moving funds from undesignated to a designated fund for construction will help on our audit. Because we have a designated fund balance for construction the district does not have any debt or bonds owed.

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to move \$70,000.00 from undesignated, to designated fund balance for future construction from the 2005-2006 fund year. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

E. MONTHLY RECAP OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

Information only.

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

Spending has slowed down. The district has received 64% of our funds and spent 72%. Payments are still coming from the state, we usually receive them in June and July.

F. CHECK RUN

Information only.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

This was a small check run. Main expenses are UIL related, lodging and meals, due to kids going on to regional and state.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Enrollment, discipline reports, and current events.

Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ / FRANK TAYLOR

Jones Elementary/Intermediate (Alma Gutierrez)

Enrollment: 330 Discipline: 23

Refer to written report. Enrollment is down. Lots of events are going on. Thirty-five students with projects and their parents attended the Science Fair. Campus Improvement Plan goals set for 06-07 and recent scores were shared with the board. The lowest scoring was Science. The set goal was 80%, while the score reached was only 33%.

Math followed with a set goal of 85%, and a score of 73%. The second administration of Math TAKS was today. An AR Fun Fest was held today for students with an 85% or more. PTO, Civigenics, the Pinon Ranch, Rio Grande Electric, and Burger & Shake all supported the fun fest. This is the first year Art was offered as a subject, starting with the 3rd grade. Sandra Tate shared highlights of her Art class, showing examples done by students.

BJH/BHS/BEA (Frank Taylor)

Enrollment: 277 Discipline: 26

Refer to written report. Baseball playoffs continue Friday with two games against Charlotte, in Crystal City. The girls ended with a fantastic season. Frank Taylor gave an update on UIL results. Flex days are getting ready to start with Friday being the first day to qualify. The district will look at breaking up the ten days and going with five and five at the end of each semester next year.

Tony Molinar asked about fan buses for sports other than football. Transportation has always been a problem in the Spring. Lots of vehicles and buses are out due to all the spring sports and events going on. Mrs. Renken stated she has noted an increase in attendance at softball and baseball events, and offered to look into a fan bus for the playoffs on Friday.

Special Education

Total in district: 73 Speech only: 15

Refer to written report. No changes noted.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information & updates on projects and events.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

A. ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Information only.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

The board reviewed an attendance summary for the 1st – 5th six week periods. Attendance increased after the Christmas holiday, this is probably due to flex days. Averages for the district run 98.11% for the 1st 6 weeks, 97.19% for the 2nd 6 weeks, 95.65% for the 3rd 6 weeks, 95.82% for the 4th 6 weeks, and 96.64% for the 5th 6 weeks.

B. MEETING TIME

Possible action item.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

This agenda item was tabled at the last meeting. A recommendation was made to change the board meeting start time from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., this would require a change in local policy BE. Changing the time would

allow board members to eat from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., allowing for a hot meal and in consideration of guests who attend and need to get home. They would no longer have to wait for the board to eat during a break in the meeting.

A motion was made by John Paul Schuster to move the meeting start time from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., effective June 11th. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried with Ronnie Hobbs opposed.

C. SET DATE & TIME FOR TEAM BUILDING WITH WALSH ANDERSON

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

As previously discussed, the board has requested a session with Walsh Anderson to address team-building, set goals, and help with the Superintendent evaluation and new form. Henry Lutz stated the key is all board members and Supt. must be present the entire 3 hour session for it to count. This is a state requirement, with one per year. A suggestion was made to look at June 25th. The public hearing to discuss budget and proposed tax rate usually is short. The team building session would follow the public hearing and short meeting to approve the budget. Following discussion, Mrs. Renken will get with Walsh Anderson to see if June 25th will work for them. If not, it gives the board time to select another date at the June 11th meeting.

D. REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

Board members should have received brochures for the Summer Leadership Institute. Paula Renken reviewed the process for on-line registration and Marla Madrid gave each board member a purchase order number. Hotel rooms have been reserved for each board member for all three nights. Susan Esparza will need to know arrival and departure dates by Friday in order to cancel nights not needed. Packets with hotel checks will be given out at the June 11th meeting. Board members were reminded to keep all itemized meal receipts for reimbursement. Mileage is paid based on the State Mileage Guide. The district will pay for regular parking fees only. Henry Lutz offered to help anyone having trouble with registration.

The city will be turning the water off May 21st through June 21st, from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. They will leave the water on for the Sports Banquet. Notices will go home with the students.

Thursday is Spring board training at Sul Ross University in Uvalde. Agenda covers legal updates, student governance, and other topics. All members have been registered but this is not a required training. TASB called requesting a board member to attend a focus group prior to the training. Sondra Meil was selected since she is already in Uvalde and can leave work early to attend. Transportation will be arranged and will leave at 5:00 p.m. If not going, Henry Lutz requested a call so they do not wait. A meal is provided and members receive 2.5 hours of credit.

The board was given a quick overview of TAKS scores. Cathy Lutz will give her formal report this summer. High School did well in all areas with a big jump and outstanding performance in 10th grade. Junior High Writing and Reading students did an outstanding job in the 90 percentiles. Science is at the state level. The problem area in Junior High is Math for both 7th and 8th grades. Jones Elementary overall has some strengths. Areas of concern are 6th grade Math, and 5th grade Reading, Math, and Science. Administrators will start work on addressing these areas tomorrow.

At Mr. Lutz's request, item *15 was moved up on the agenda.

***15. OPEN FORUM**

Presenter: BOARD PRESIDENT

Norma Sandoval (Parent): Mrs. Sandoval voiced concerns with notification of students failing TAKS. Her son is one who did not meet the requirements for graduation. Mrs. Sandoval stated she had no knowledge four tests had already been taken on the same subject. She requested that parents be notified by letter at least during their Sophomore year that their child has failed the TAKS multiple times and may not graduate so steps can be taken before this happens. Mrs. Sandoval thanked the board for their vote because it kept her son from dropping out, adding she respected those who did not vote for it.

A short break was called for at 8:28 p.m., with the board convening into a Closed Session at 9:04 p.m.

**14. *PERSONNEL MATTERS, PURSUANT TO GOV'T CODE
551.074**

Closed Session.

Presenter: BOARD PRESIDENT

A. *NON-CERTIFIED CONTRACT

Move employee to exempt status.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

The board reconvened into Open Session at 9:50 p.m. and took the following action:

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to approve a non-certified contract for Noe Maldonado as recommended by the Superintendent. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mark Frerich to approve the certified agenda for April 16, 2007, as presented. John Paul Schuster seconded. The motion carried with Ronnie Hobbs, Tony Molinar, and Tony Ashley abstaining.

16. ADJOURN

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sondra Meil, Secretary

Date

Date