

Brackett Independent School District
Board Minutes of Monthly Meeting
October 10, 2005

Members Present - Sara Terrazas, Henry Lutz, Ronnie Hobbs, Tony Ashley,
Mark Frerich, Jeffrey Duncan

Member Absent - Sondra Meil

Administrators Present - Paula Renken, Frank Taylor, George Burks, Alma Gutierrez

Guests - Quinton Etzel, Marla Madrid, Guillermo Guzman, Susan
Esparza

1. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM

The regular meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Henry Lutz, President.

A. INVOCATION & PLEDGE

Jeffrey Duncan gave the invocation, and Mark Frerich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No guests in attendance for public forum.

3. MINUTES

Minutes for September 12, 2005 Monthly Meeting

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve the minutes for September 12, 2005, as presented. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried with Mark Frerich and Sara Terrazas abstaining.

4. BUSINESS & FINANCE

A. RECAP OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

RSCCC is still having problems on final reports, these should be available next week. Marla Madrid also ran into a glitch running the monthly recap, which came out on 38 pages instead of the usual 2. ESC Region 20 should have the system back on track by the next meeting.

B. CHECK RUN

A check made out to Athletic Supply (\$12,930.35) was pointed out as incorrectly designated for football supplies. Mrs. Renken stated the supplies purchased were for all sports. Additional cell phones have been purchased through Cingular Wireless (\$510.31). Marla Madrid spoke with the company and got the district a better deal. Texas Monarch Management (\$40,744.00) is the district's carrier for student insurance.

5. FUND BALANCE - DESIGNATED CONSTRUCTION

At a June 29, 2004 meeting, ESC20 Field Service Rep. Taylor Stephenson reviewed that .0675% of

our tax rate was to go into a permanent building fund annually. Auditors for the district recommended moving the money previously labeled as I&S (Interest & Sinking), to a fund balance for a designated construction fund.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to move \$67,000 from undesignated, to a designated fund balance for construction from the 2004-2005 fund year. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. INVESTMENT POLICY, CDA LOCAL

Business Manager Marla Madrid stated the district is required to adopt the investment policy annually and there have been no changes to board policy CDA Local. Our policy does meet state requirements. Included in her report was a review of district investments with Lone Star Investment Pool, TexPool, and the Del Rio Bank & Trust. With interest rates on rise, the district is keeping the largest part of its investments in Lone Star where funds are accessible. In addition to Marla Madrid having completed Investment Officer training, Superintendent Paula Renken has just completed the same required training.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve policy CDA (Local) as written. Sara Terrazas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara Terrazas to appoint Marla Madrid as Investment Officer, with Paula Renken as appointed designee in the event of her absence. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. NOMINATIONS: KINNEY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD, 2006-2008

With the floor open for nominations to the Kinney County Appraisal District Board, a recommendation was made to nominate incumbents Steve Crosby and Mike Holley. With no further nominations, the floor was closed.

A motion was made by Mark Frerich to approve the nomination of incumbents Steve Crosby and Mike Holley to the KCAD Board for the 2006-2008 term. Henry Lutz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. BOARD GOALS, 2005-2006

The board reviewed goals for 2005-2006 as discussed during a Level II, Team Building-Goal Setting/Roles & Responsibilities training on August 29, 2005. Considered was keeping or removing a subtopic under goal number one, to investigate expansion of the current early childhood program, depending on how the state goes with legislation. Alma Gutierrez stated a survey has already been prepared and ready for mailing to parents. The survey should give us information on the "need" for such a program. The board agreed to leave investigation of the early childhood program with the goals. Discussion continued with a handout of the Staff (Professional) Salary Schedule. Though the new salaries went out with the September paycheck, it was retroactive to August. Health insurance did not go up. Paula Renken added the district will look more closely at retired rehires, starting with revising the application to include questions dealing with applicants currently participating in TRS.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to adopt the goals for 2005-2006 as prepared. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

A revision of the BISD mission statement was made during a Team Building/Goal Setting

meeting on August 29, 2005. The word "all" was inserted to encompass every student. The revised mission statement will now read:

"The mission of the District, in partnership with parents and the community, is to enable all students to be safe and obtain the knowledge, desire and integrity to pursue meaningful and productive lives."

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to adopt the revised BISD Mission Statement as prepared. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. UPDATE 76, SECOND READING

The board conducted a second reading of Update 76. Paula Renken stated the policies discussed in Update 76 are straightforward and recommended approving all local policies as presented.

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to adopt Update 76 as recommended by TASB. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. REQUEST TO RENOVATE CUSTODIAL BARN

The board was asked to consider renovation of the custodial barn (old maintenance barn) to repair the exterior, roof, and electrical. Paula Renken stated anything over \$10,000 must have board approval to get the process going. Richard Terrazas is getting estimates of \$15,000 to \$23,000 to do the job. The barn is not watertight and the lighting and electrical needs to be redone. There is also a lean-to in back of the barn that the district can keep or remove.

A motion was made by Sara Terrazas to authorize the Superintendent to start the bid process for renovation of the custodial barn. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS, 2005-2006

Paula Renken stated only two plans will be presented tonight, the Jones Elementary and High School Campus Improvement Plans. Mr. Burks will present the Junior High Campus Improvement Plan next month, with the district plan to follow in December.

Alma Gutierrez conducted a review of the Jones Elementary Campus Improvement Plan for 2005-2006, stating all staff were given two weeks for input. The plan was also made available to parents and the elementary parent representative for review, which is above and beyond what the state requires. Dollar figures will not be available until after the six weeks. The main focus is on the Special Education Program. A recommendation was made by Paula Renken to adopt the base plan, adding revisions can still be made after initial adoption.

Frank Taylor reviewed the Brackett High School Campus Improvement Plan for 2005-2006. The campus lead teachers held two meetings. These lead teachers talked to all staff and collected input for the plan. Mr. Taylor stated the main highlight was getting teachers working together from 6th grade up, with the core teachers having a positive impact. The objectives for the plan incorporated all or most of the board goals. Also addressed by the teams was staff development.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to approve the Jones Elementary and Brackett High School Campus Improvement Plans for 2005-2006, as presented. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: ENROLLMENT, DISCIPLINE REPORT & CURRENT EVENTS

Jones Elementary School (Alma Gutierrez)

Refer to written report. Enrollment: 228 (Up three from last month.) Principal Alma Gutierrez

commented this is a busy month. A notable highlight was the 1st six weeks assembly, which was a huge success. Administrators and teachers led the assembly and recognized A and A&B honor roll, Accelerated Reader, and "Quality Character" students. One hundred and thirty dog tags were awarded.

Intermediate & Junior High (George Burks)

Enrollment: Intermediate school - 83, Junior High 118 - Had some 7th and 8th graders come in, and one 5th grader moved down to 4th grade. George Burks stated his total discipline referrals should be 22 instead of twenty. He added two to harassment. An 8th grader, Angel Maldonado, was involved in a critical accident and is in a San Antonio hospital.

Brackett High School (Frank Taylor)

Refer to written report. Enrollment: 173. Eighteen students made the all A honor roll, fifty-five made the A&B honor roll. Principal Frank Taylor stated he is continuing Mrs. Renken's practice of including a hand written note on each report card. The aim is to say something positive about each student or words of encouragement. Louisa Stone and Mary Salmon took four students to Our Lady of the Lake, in Austin, for a program targeting Migrant Scholarships. Had an incident involving four minors and alcohol in the High School student parking lot this week. They were not any of our students. The minors were from Del Rio and picked up by the sheriffs department. Frank Taylor recognized Don Smith, Michelle Frerich, Nathan LaFrenz, and Melanie Jones for their help with grieving students. Counselor Lorenzo Ortiz was gone, but those called upon made themselves available for the students, and met with several groups throughout the day. Sixteen year-old Benjamin Maldonado was killed in a car accident, his younger brother Angel was seriously injured. Students are pushing the dress code, due to teachers not being consistent in enforcing it. Paula Renken commended Mr. Taylor for turning to the teachers for their help in dealing with the dress code.

Brackett Educational Academy & Alternative School (Elizabeth Hodges)

Paula Renken reported Ms. Hodges did not do good today, she is taking Ben's death pretty hard. Benjamin had earned his first credit on Friday and the students had a celebration.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Special Education Honor Roll and Class Ranking

The board reviewed a letter from special education attorneys Richards Lindsay & Martin, L.L.P. A parent brought attention to the student handbook and the district's current policy of excluding all special education students from participation in honor roll and class ranking systems. The district could be sued for withholding any honors. In light of the letter, the district has taken care of the matter. Paula Renken stated she provided the information to make the board to be aware of this.

Library Grant

The K.A.R.E. program has started, with the district providing transportation. Funding for the program was made available through a grant. An article will be in the newspaper telling the public to watch for children.

Marquee

Friday's Board Brief contained a quote from Spectrum for a new marquee. The sign would be aligned to the speed limit. Information would be typed in the high school office. Ms. Renken stated she called Leakey and D'Hanis, both used Spectrum. Following discussion, Paula Renken offered to check with Wanda Whitworth, the Booster Club, and Bank & Trust for possible donations toward the marquee. The board agreed to the purchase, giving Ms. Renken the go ahead for the new marquee.

Track Field and Water

Seventeen hundred dollars worth of PVC pipe is ready to go into the ground. A 6" line will run on the right side. The city will bore a hole under the road. A water tower should be up in four months. Right now we're waiting for the city to approve the budget.

Prayer

Paula Renken contacted attorneys Schwartz & Eichelbaum for legal advice relating to prayer during board meetings. Attorney Brian Eichelbaum stated TASB and local attorneys will advise boards to go the cautious route. His advice was since this is a meeting of adults, go ahead and do until we get a ruling otherwise. Mr. Eichelbaum related a case between Meyers and the state of Nebraska. The school won due to a ruling that this was tradition.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to allow the Superintendent to negotiate for the purchase of a new sign/marquee. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A short break was called for at 7:17 p.m., with the board convening into a closed Executive Session at 7:42 p.m., pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.072, Discussion of Real Estate, and Code 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

15. *REQUEST TO START BID PROCESS ON ROSE HOUSE & HOUSE AT FOOTBALL FIELD, GOV'T CODE 551.072

16. *PRAYER: CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY, GOV 'T CODE 551.071

The board convened into Open Session at 8:08 p.m., and took the following action:

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to authorize the Superintendent to start the bid process for removal of the Rose House and Veltmann addition house. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve the certified agenda for July 5, 2005, as presented. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to approve the certified agenda for September 12, 2005, as presented. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

17. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no guests present for public forum participation.

18. ADJOURN

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sara Terrazas, Secretary

Date

Date