

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees

Duncanville ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Duncanville ISD was held Monday, December 16, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Duncanville ISD Education Plaza, 710 S. Cedar Ridge Drive, Duncanville, TX 75137.

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM

President Dr. LaSonja Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. This meeting was called under the Texas Government Code 551.045.

The following trustees were in attendance: Jacqueline Culton, Carla Fahey, Dr. LaSonja Flowers, Phil McNeely and Janet Veracruz. A quorum of the Board of Trustees was present, the meeting was duly called, and the notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

2. OPENING CEREMONIES

A. INVOCATION

Trustee Veracruz

B. PLEDGE TO US FLAG AND TEXAS FLAG

Board Members

C. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. T. Lamar Goree

1. UPDATE OF CURRENT DISTRICT EVENTS, INFORMATION, OPERATIONS, AND PROGRAMS

Dr. T. Lamar Goree

Dr. Goree presented the Superintendent's Report. Thank you very much, Dr. Flowers and a good evening to all our Board of Trustees members assembled today, as well as everyone in the audience assembled today. I certainly like to start off by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. And two, reiterate the importance of finding that time to rest, recharge, and rejuvenate yourself as we go into the year 2025.

Today, December 16th, 2024, I would like to highlight some of the exciting things that have happened in our district over the last month. The cover picture here is a wonderful opportunity that I had to be the mystery guest at the professional development for our instructional support staff last week. I really had a wonderful time visiting with them about the importance of teamwork, and about the importance of us making sure that we're always working as a collaborative team to achieve the best results for our boys and girls.

I certainly would like to start off by just pouring out all the pride, all of the excitement that I have for our football team. Let's be clear, our Duncanville Football Team had a wonderful season with a 13-1

record. Let me tell you a little bit about this team. This team has only lost two games in the last three years. This team, over the last seven years, has played in the state championship five times and yes, they are and will forever be back-to-back state champions. That's something to clap for folks. Words cannot express how proud I am of Coach Samples, the entire coaching staff, and all the boys, for the wonderful job they did for truly exemplifying and making sure that everyone knows that we are a City of Champions. Truly a class act and we want to give them one more round of applause.

We are super excited as we launch the Aspiring Principals Program. This is a highly selective cohort aimed at cultivating the next generation of exceptional campus leaders. This innovative program is designed to equip participants with the tools, strategies, and confidence needed to lead their campuses with vision and impact. We are excited because this was, again I'll reiterate, a very selective process to select the first three people that will participate in this prestigious program within our school system. Their commitment to rigorous programming is critical to their success, and we know that we must build a bench of success if we're to have leaders prepared to sit in the principal seat.

At this time, I do believe our first participants are in the room, and as I call your name, if you'll just stand, we want to certainly recognize you. We have Arentina Bannister, and Arentina is the Assistant Principal at Hastings Elementary. We also have Evelyn Carter who is Assistant Principal at Duncanville High School. And last, we have Shequita Miller, who's Assistant Principal at Reed Middle School. Again, we're so excited with the impact they will make, not only as they go through this prestigious program, but when they're in principal seats very, very soon. Congratulations.

At this time, I would like to wish a huge congratulations to Giselle Moreno. She is the first student in the Class of 2025 to receive a full ride scholarship offer to an Ivy League school. She has been accepted to Princeton University through the prestigious Quest Bridge Program. A dedicated and accomplished student, she is currently ranked number five in her class.

We were talking in communications today about the wonderful publicity and the wonderful opportunities that our football team has provided us with to showcase the incredible things that happened in our district. And that's certainly one of the biggest leaders of that effort is our own quarterback, Keelon Russell. We congratulate Keelon Russell on being named the National Gatorade Player of the Year. Let me tell you a little bit about what this means. This means of every child who's playing college football in the country, our own Keelon Russell has been recognized as an outstanding player there. We are so proud of Keelon. Trevon Diggs of the Dallas Cowboys, and who is also a University of Alabama player came out to personally present the program.

We're so excited that Gatorade Player of the Years are not only the best of the best in their respective sports, but they also are role models and leaders off the field. Russell is a member of the Duncanville National Honor Society and has volunteered locally with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organizations, distributing turkeys to the Duncanville community as part of a joint effort with the Dallas Cowboys as well. Russell has also maintained a 3.4 grade point average in the classroom and plans to enroll at the University of Alabama next fall, where he will play football. Let's give Keelon a huge round of applause.

Clearly from all those wonderful recognitions, you see that it's always a great day to be a Panther. And again, we continue to celebrate our Panthers as they do great things, as we continue to make better opportunities and better situations for children. Again, happy holidays and I wish you all the best in

this holiday season. Thank you, Madam President.

President Dr. Flowers asked. I'm sorry, will you go back to the slide with the young lady that was accepted at Princeton?

I just wanted to make a note. This is one of the young ladies that went on the college tour that Mr. Kane does. I just wanted to make sure that we were aware, the board and the community, just going on that college tour, that was her first time being there and her interest in attending was a spark there. So, we are seeing byproducts and results of just exposing our students on these college tours. So, I just wanted to make sure I put a note there.

Dr. Goree replied. Thank you, Dr. Flowers, for that too. And I will say that Mr. Kane is doing an incredible job of exposing our students to all the opportunities and possibilities, not only within our state but across our country too. And thank you Principal Byrd. I see he's on the picture there, I see he's in the audience today too, for all that we're doing to support this space of really growing children, to think and dream as far as they possibly can.

President Dr. Flowers stated. For all our sponsors and people that have money that they don't know what to do with, you may donate to the college tours.

D. RECOGNITIONS/COMMENDATIONS

Connie Wallace

1. DONATIONS

Connie Wallace

Ms. Connie Wallace presented the Donations. Good evening, President Flowers, Board of Trustees and Dr. Goree. It is a pleasure to share with you all the donations that we have received this month or since the last board meeting. As you can see here, some of the large donations from the Carter Blood Care Center. We have received funds that are going to our Student Council. Then we also received a cash donation from Kona Ice Southwest Dallas, as well as Epsilon Sigma Alpha with the Panther Pantry have made cash donations. The remaining donations were items that support different efforts here in our school district. We have so many, I have to flip the page. It is always a wonderful feeling to know that your community is in full support of all that is available, or all that we have going on here in our district. We truly just pause a moment to say thank you to our community for always stepping up and supporting our efforts. Are there any questions about the donations that we've received?

2. MADE WITH PRIDE

Connie Wallace

Ms. Connie Wallace presented Made With Pride. It is always a pleasure to celebrate our students, our staff, and our teachers. At this time, I am going to check the room. One of our participants, I don't know, the weather could have kept him from not making it here this evening, but it is our student. And when I tell you he is precious, he is precious. And so, I'm going to read a little bit about Kendon.

Kendon is a first grader at Merrifield Elementary School, and he is a natural leader who inspires both

peers and teachers with his focus, kindness, and integrity. He was nominated by Mrs. Jones, one of his teachers, because he encourages others, he builds trust and fosters a positive classroom environment. He's always thinking ahead and Kendon solves problems and adapts to challenges with resilience. His commitment to excellence both academically and personally sets a high standard, and ensures every classmate feels valued. We are so proud because Kendon is Made With Pride in Duncanville. Although he's not here, he may be tuned in online. Let's give him a round of applause.

Is Ms. Flatt-Ferguson in the room? Come on down. Come on down. All right, we are excited to recognize Ms. Tara Flatt-Ferguson. This is Ms. Tara Flatt-Ferguson, everyone, and she is a Special Education Teacher at Smith Elementary School. My kids went there. And she is dedicated to her students and colleagues. She mentors new teachers, and she fosters a culture of growth. She was nominated by Doria Telsa, a colleague of hers, because she says that you are trustworthy and you have integrity and resilience, and you create an inclusive environment where students thrive. As both an inclusion resource and self-contained teacher, she says that you set high expectations, and you celebrate the achievements of your students. You're always inspiring them to reach their full potential. And for these reasons, Ms. Flatt-Ferguson, your commitment to excellence, we name that you are Made With Pride here in Duncanville. Congratulations.

Will the family and friends of Ms. Flatt-Ferguson please stand? Family and friends, stand and be recognized. Thank you all.

Now, we have an entire crew that we are going to invite up here. This group is from our warehouse. If I can please have Mr. Rocha, Mr. Gonzales, Mr. Willis and Mr. Hanna, please join me at the podium.

If I'm going to read a little bit about you, and I could go on for a really long time talking about all of the amazing things, and how supportive and how they serve here throughout our district. But this is our Duncanville ISD Warehouse Drivers, Luis Rocha, Rudy Gonzalez, and Corey Willis. Mr. Hanna, Joe Hanna, was not able to join us tonight. But they stand out because of their professionalism, their reliability, and their positive attitude. Whether they are assisting nutrition services during staff shortages, or exceeding expectations with intra-district mail deliveries, their dedication ensures a smooth operation, making a positive impact on staff and students.

They were nominated by Mrs. Zamora. She says that they provide exceptional service, and that is why they are Made with Pride in Duncanville. If they have family and friends, please stand. Thank you.

Video played here.

3. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS TO DISCUSS PENDING AGENDA ITEMS BEFORE THE BOARD

There was no communication from citizens to discuss pending agenda items.

4. CLOSED SESSION as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

The board went into closed session at 6:52 p.m.

A. CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD ATTORNEY (§551.071)

Private Consultation with the Boards' attorney with respect to pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, and matters where the attorney's duty to the Board, pursuant to the code of professional responsibility of the State Bar of Texas, clearly conflicts with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

B. PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE, OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY (§551.072)

C. PERSONNEL (§551.074)

Appointments, Discipline, Dismissals, Duties, Employment, Evaluations, Extensions, Leaves of Absences, Non-Renewals and Proposals for Non-Renewals, Renewals, Reassignments, Retirements, and Settlements

5. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AT 7:20 PM

6. TAKE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

There was no action taken on items discussed in closed session.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (ALL ITEMS MAY BE ACTED UPON AT THE SAME TIME BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES)

Trustee McNeely made a motion for more information on Item 7G; Trustee Veracruz seconded the motion.

President Dr. Flowers stated. We would like Dr. Nix to come with the presentation on Item 7G.

Dr. Sam Nix presented on consent agenda item 7G, Approval of Texas Bluebonnet K-5 Reading Language Arts and Math Curriculum Through the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Cycle 3 Grant. Good evening, Madam President, members of the board, Dr. Goree. Historically, curriculum adoption has rarely if ever garnered the level of attention we are seeing around the state with this particular curriculum. So, thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk to you a little bit about it.

Just two short years ago, we adopted a new curriculum for math. We came from STEMscopes, and we began to use Eureka. Then just two years ago, we went from HMH to Amplify. That was a curriculum pushed by the state, and we moved in that direction because Amplify and Eureka were highly qualified, what's called HQIM, Highly Qualified Instructional Materials.

Well, we were informed this year that as of right now, as of next year, Amplify and Eureka will no longer be considered Highly Qualified Instructional Materials. Districts are required by TEA to use curriculum and materials that are Highly Qualified Instructional Materials. So now districts across the state are having to shift the curriculum for K-5 if they're using Amplify and/or Eureka to a curriculum that meets the Highly Qualified Instructional Material requirements. So, what we are doing is bringing for your consideration for approval, the Bluebonnet Curriculum. The Bluebonnet Curriculum has a new name, but for the most part, it's the same curriculum. I'll break that down in just a second.

There are some thoughts around this curriculum because there are elements of religious historical references in the curriculum. For example, there is a kindergarten lesson or we looked at

kindergarten, first grade, fourth grade, things of that nature lessons. So, an example of this would be for one of the kindergarten lessons on being a good helper. This lesson references the Good Samaritan story, and it talks about why it's important to be a good helper, and it references the biblical narrative of the Good Samaritan. It also states historical references from Islam, Quran, things of that nature, that this is a story that's found in multiple religions. The lesson is not about religion. The lesson is about the standard or the TEKS that the student is supposed to learn. But this is an example of how it pulls from different historical religious undertones.

There are three reasons why we are asking you to consider this particular curriculum, and each of these reasons aligns with our district's priorities and goals. So first, Bluebonnet is not a completely new curriculum. It's an enhanced version of Eureka and Amplify. And the reason I say this is because we looked at the actual material. This ties into our Priority One, student academic success and Priority Three, personnel and professional development.

This Bluebonnet curriculum has been tailored to align with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. It retains the same instructional approach, grounded in the science of learning and research, based on best practices. Its notable highlights are that it has a stronger alignment to STAAR than did Eureka and Amplify. It has the same proven instructional approach, the same lesson frameworks, the same resources. It has extended reading skills, lessons taught from third grade supporting literacy and development. It has enhanced instructional guidance.

We have so many new teachers. So many teachers that are coming into the profession that are getting certified or alternatively certified. And to be guided through the curriculum is a huge piece that we want to consider in terms of setting them up for success. This helps us to do that. There's tighter alignment to the rigor in the format of STAAR. So, these enhancements make it easier for us and seamless for us to transition to Bluebonnet, because from the teacher's experience, they're not going to notice any change. The curriculum will look the same. The format will look exactly the same. They won't notice any difference. It will just be a name change for them.

In addition to that, the second reason that we're asking for approval of this, or the second thing that we were thinking and processing through is all the challenges and all the changes that we are supporting our teachers through. We potentially will be looking at renovating several campuses next year, which will mean some movement. We are potentially looking at so many new things that we want to minimize change and disruption to the learning environment with the teacher. This curriculum will help with that because we have invested so much in training our teachers in how to implement this curriculum for the internalization process. We've worked so hard on the lesson frameworks, on the curriculum documents, on the assessments and the alignment of those assessments. Amplify and Eureka are out weekly with our campuses to help provide professional development for them. They are just getting comfortable with what we have. And so that continuity, we wanted to just keep that momentum going, as we're experiencing all these shifts with our teachers, so that the training doesn't stop, and it continues for them.

Then lastly, tied to our Priority Four, fiscal stewardship and operational excellence. This particular curriculum is of financial benefit to us, because of the LASO 3 Grant that is tied to this curriculum. So, with Bluebonnet, the state has incentivized our approval of this curriculum by providing us with \$40 per student, plus an additional \$20 per student for printed materials if we move forward with this

Bluebonnet curriculum. In addition to that, the Grant, LASO 3 we are applying for to support with the implementation of this curriculum means that there's no cost to the district. And as a matter of fact, other curriculums that we looked at, for an example, if we decided to stay with Amplify for an example, Amplify is no longer a Highly Qualified Instructional Material. So, we would be out of compliance with the state.

In addition to that, we could use Amplify and find other Highly Qualified Instructional Material to supplement that, but we would have to pay for that. It would come out of our pocket. Because of our current financial situation, we want to be as fiscally responsible as possible, which is why we're bringing this for your consideration. In addition to that, there are other ramifications for not going with Bluebonnet. If we choose not to go with Bluebonnet, we will lose funding for our federal accountability campuses. We have five of those and the funding for those campuses is very important for us to be able to continue that improvement for students.

So those are the three reasons. Number one, because really, it's not a different curriculum, it's a renamed curriculum. But all the elements would be so similar that it would be seamless for our teachers. Second, because we have invested so much in the training and development of our teachers in our curriculum, we really don't want to be as disruptive as we head into next year with everything that we're doing. And lastly, because of fiscal responsibility and the LASO 3 Grant, that we have a very good chance of getting as a high priority campus, it would take care of the financial need for moving forward with this curriculum. It would be my pleasure to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

President Dr. Flowers asked. What makes Bluebonnet highly qualified?

Dr. Nix replied. What constitutes highly qualified is that it's deemed that way by the State Board of Education. The State Board determines what is and what is not highly qualified, and I don't have access to that rubric. The same question for me is, just in full transparency, why would the State Board of Education say that Amplify and Eureka are highly qualified one year and not the next? But those are the mandates that they provide for us, and so we must adhere to those.

President Dr. Flowers stated and asked. So, the state just gives us a list of, they consider these people highly qualified. Are there any programs, the curriculum on the state list that do not have biblical references?

Dr. Nix replied. Yes. For example, there's a curriculum on the i-Ready. i-Ready is a company that we partner with, and they have curriculum that doesn't have any biblical references tied to it. Here's the challenge with that. Number one, if we went with i-Ready, we would still lose funding for our federal accountability campuses, which means that we would then incur that cost as a district. Number two, if we went with, as an example, i-Ready, I'm just giving an example, we would not get the \$60 per student allocation. So that would not be something that we would get, once again, tying it to our Priority Four, which is fiscal responsibility. And lastly, if we go with i-Ready, there is a complete overhaul with our curriculum department, our frameworks, our scope and sequence, our timeline, our assessments, our professional development for teachers, our implementation. They'd have to learn a whole new curriculum. We'd have to train them, and that's the disruption piece that we were trying

to avoid.

Dr. Goree added. That's something that we did just two years ago. So, we're really trying to be consistent and give this an opportunity to work for students.

President Dr. Flowers asked. Is there a number or a way to say Bluebonnet has 21 different references? Because it's really not just biblical, because some of it is other religions as well. So, I'll say religious instead of biblical, has a certain amount of religious references.

Dr. Nix replied. Yes. From what we have found, board, with your permission, I have a printout that I would like to share with you, just as a reference. I prepared for this, so I'm going to approach you guys if that's okay.

I just want to say this because just for the public, this curriculum is a public curriculum. Anyone can access this curriculum. It's on TEA's website. It's open for anyone to see, to vet, and it has been such since they've released for several months.

What we have been able to find is, as an example, the Golden Rule. This is a lesson that I just shared with you. This is found in Unit 7, Lesson 1, where it identifies the Golden Rule and identifies multiple religions that this is found in, but just as a historical reference. You'll see fifth graders, they have a lesson steeped around the Last Supper, where the fifth graders learn about Leonardo da Vinci's painting, which is based on the Christian Bible story of Jesus' last meal. So that's an example of a historical reference in the curriculum. You'll see the Parable of the Prodigal Son, where this story comes from the Book of Luke in the New Testament.

There are historical references to TEKS-based standard lessons that we have. And for all the lessons that there are, we found ... I'm going to use the term minimal, but it depends on what you determine as minimal. In terms of an entire curriculum.

Trustee McNeely asked. Start off with what does LASO stand for?

Dr. Nix replied. LASO stands for the Learning Accelerated Support Opportunities Grant. We are currently in Cycle 3. And Mr. McNeely, this is a grant that we have applied for, I believe the last three cycles. This is the Cycle 1, Cycle 2. It's a one-year grant and TEA is already planning for the fourth year of that grant.

Trustee McNeely stated and asked. These examples are not bad. It says, but then do we have any examples of it referencing other religion, other than just the biblical ones?

Dr. Nix replied. With your permission.

Trustee McNeely asked. So, the federal dollars are tied just to this?

Dr. Nix replied. Yes. In full transparency, Mr. McNeely, they know what they're doing, in terms of really incentivizing Bluebonnet and wanting us to use Bluebonnet, and really making it advantageous for districts to use Bluebonnet. If you don't, it's your choice, but you'll have to pay for the things that

go along with that. In addition to that, lose funding for other things that you need.

Trustee McNeely stated. So, it's all about the money.

Dr. Nix replied. What I've just handed to you, Board, if you turn to page 13, this is just an example to answer Mr. McNeely's question about examples of other religious references. And for anyone that would like to follow, once again, I'm in Lesson 1 of Unit 7 for kindergarteners. This is just an example. But if you look at page 13, you'll see there where there are references, variations of the Golden Rule from several faiths. And if you see there, it lists Buddhism. It lists Christianity. It lists Hinduism. It lists Islam. It lists Judaism. And it lists Sikhism. I hope that I didn't say that wrong, but that's my pronunciation of it. And in essence, it's really just stating that the Golden Rule is found in multiple religious historical perspectives, and then they get to the business of teaching the standard of the Golden Rule.

Trustee McNeely stated. The part that gets me is, if it was what was high last year, now it's not. But now there's no change, but it's not.

Dr. Nix replied. Well, there are several changes to the content. You know Amplify and Eureka last year were more tied to the Common Core than to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. What they have done this year with Bluebonnet is take that same framework and align it to the Texas Knowledge and Skills.

Trustee McNeely asked. And when you say they, are you talking about the company?

Dr. Nix replied. TEA. Texas Education Agency.

Trustee McNeely stated. So, TEA is controlling the federal money coming through too. So, it's all the state doing it.

Dr. Nix replied. Yes, sir.

Trustee Culton asked. So, is this Bluebonnet Learning a totally new curriculum? I mean you mentioned Eureka and Amplify, but is Bluebonnet totally new, as far as the company or the curriculum?

Dr. Nix replied. The reason I'm hesitating is because it's the same format, it's the same everything. They just changed the name. It is a new version of what they released in years past. So, it's not necessarily a different company. And what they do is they go side by side to show that there's very little difference in the format. So that if a teacher were teaching this curriculum, they wouldn't notice any difference. How they would frame the lesson is still how they would frame the lesson. Where they go to look for guidance would still be ... Everything would look the exact same. It's a new name.

Dr. Goree commented. If I can help with that a little bit, if you don't mind, Trustee Culton, is that when you look at the implementation for a teacher, it is critical that we have high quality materials. It is what has supported our teachers where they are in the implementation. So, what they did that was smart was they gave it the same structure. So, for a teacher who may be working on their

certification, it's easier for them to implement that curriculum and see better success from students. Now, when you talk about context, some of the stories are different, but the format and the structure is the exact same as what the teachers have become accustomed to over the last two years.

Trustee Culton stated. But the content is different. That's what we're talking about tonight.

Dr. Goree replied. Right. Some of the stories may be different. The references may be different.

Trustee Culton asked. What is the term?

Dr. Nix replied. One year. Starting in the 25-26 school year.

Trustee Culton stated and asked. Okay, so the upcoming school year. And when do we have to decide on this?

Dr. Nix replied. Well, we're bringing it for your consideration tonight, because there is a deadline for the grant application. We would need to decide this evening if indeed we're going to qualify for the grant because the grant has a deadline of this semester.

Trustee Culton asked. What is the amount of the grant?

Dr. Nix replied. It's not necessarily the amount of the grant. The grant covers as many students as we have that need the material.

Trustee Culton asked. So, at \$60 per student, how many students are there? I mean, am I mixing them up?

Dr. Goree replied. No, you're correct in that.

Dr. Nix replied. We have 4,700 students from K-5 in Duncanville. 4,699, exactly.

Trustee Fahey commented. It's more than the five schools.

Dr. Goree replied and asked. Right. The curriculum will cover all our K-5 students throughout the district. What was the number? Say it again, Sam.

Dr. Nix replied. 4,699 rounded up to 4,700 students K-5. At 60 bucks per student, you're going to be looking at around 282,000.

Dr. Goree commented and asked. About 282,000. Dr. Nix as well, doesn't that cover some of the work with the professional development support that we'll get with that through [inaudible 00:45:00]?

Dr. Nix replied. So that is just what we get per student. We're going to get approximately \$75,000 per campus, per content. 50% of that would go to the service provider that helps with our training and

our implementation, and 50% of that would go to the district.

Dr. T. Lamar Goree commented. When you look at those, that's the professional support, and making sure that the implementation's done correctly is really critical with our current teaching base.

Trustee Culton stated. I believe in the past, we've had a curriculum review committee, if I recall. Did that happen, this go-around?

Dr. Goree replied and asked. Absolutely. You want to speak to how you evaluated these curriculums as we looked at what to bring forward?

Dr. Nix replied. We absolutely look at our curriculums, what adds the most value? Of course, those curriculums are internal with our teachers and our support staff, K, Early Literacy, Curriculum Instruction department. And we looked at what is it that we are trying to accomplish? What is going to help us accomplish that? And then what is the data trending and what is it showing us? Which is why I listed for you the three-party reasons that we were really looking at bringing this particular curriculum to you. Those are the things that came up.

Trustee Culton stated and asked. It seems like parents have participated in the past. Because of what we're talking about tonight, I think it would be helpful to get input from those outside of the staff regarding what their students are going to be confronted with, as far as the curriculum is concerned. Are you familiar with public reviews of the curriculum in the past, or at least parents participating as a part of the process?

Dr. Nix replied. Yes ma'am, I'm familiar with that. Historically, that has not been a part of the process when we are adopting the curriculum here. The process that we historically have used is a process that we used this time with the curriculum. But Board, we can adopt whatever process that you would like for us moving forward.

Trustee Culton asked. So, is it recorded? Did we receive a letter stating that if we don't go with Bluebonnet, that we'll lose all this funding? Is that recorded anywhere?

Dr. Nix replied. Yes ma'am.

Dr. T. Lamar Goree replied. Absolutely.

Trustee Culton stated and asked. I would like to have a copy of that, just so I can understand. Because if there are other, it was mentioned that if we go with i-Ready, it's considered a Highly Qualified Instructional Material. But if we go with that one, we'll miss out on the 60 per student. Correct?

Dr. Nix replied. That is correct. In addition to funding for our targeted federal accountability campuses.

Trustee Culton stated. Even though it's a Highly Qualified Instructional Material.

Dr. Nix replied. The state knows what they're doing.

Dr. Goree stated. I am so excited to have this conversation and to really speak to this too, because I have so many wonderful ideas about how we will, as we move forward, ensure that not only the board but the community is involved, and has the information that you need to make these decisions. I am really excited about the conversation.

Trustee Fahey stated. I'm trying to make this simple for me. It's less core, but more Texas with the teacher format being the same. But scoring for our kiddos would preferably go up because of the Texas touch.

Dr. Nix replied. Ideally, that is exactly correct, because it's better aligned to the standards and the TEKS. Then there's less work for us to try to make it aligned.

Trustee McNeely stated. It's the money. It's the money. I got a few words, but I'll keep my words to myself, because I like where I live, and my wife will get me. The state's made it clear that the federal money and the other money wouldn't go with if we didn't do anything but this one.

Dr. Nix replied. The reason that I appreciate this conversation is as Dr. Goree stated, as we look at districts all around, this conversation is being had in boardrooms all over the state for multiple reasons. Whether it's because of the money tied to it or because of the religious undertone or aspect, or because of other curriculums wanted to be used. So that's why it's so important for us to bring you a recommendation of how we feel we can best move forward for our district, for our children. But to your point, Mr. McNeely, they've been very clear about what they will and will not incentivize, and it's out there for everyone to see. It's a situation that here in Duncanville, we are committed to doing what's best for children and what's best for our teachers. So whatever direction you guys give us, we are going to take and we're going to execute. This recommendation is simply what we feel would help us to do that in the most expedite manner.

Trustee McNeely asked. Bluebonnet, is this a company?

Dr. Nix replied. Bluebonnet is not a company. That's just the name of the curriculum.

Trustee McNeely asked. Somebody's got to put the curriculum together. Is that a company?

Dr. Nix replied. Yeah, it's TEA. They own it. Yes, sir.

Trustee McNeely stated. We know who owns them.

Dr. Goree commented. I'm sure we can follow the money.

President Dr. Flowers stated. Well, I mean, we are just seeing the voucher thing duplicated. This isn't our first conversation. If then, if you do this, then you can have that. And this is another instance when if we do this, then they'll do this. I'm glad to know that we're not compromising student needs

for money. That's not what this conversation is about. It is just getting a clear understanding or making sure that we understand that our hands are really not necessarily tied, because we could not do it. But there's a direct correlation between providing the support that's needed to our students, and acquiescing to not really their recommendation, but this is the only thing that they'll endorse for us to receive the funding.

Dr. Nix replied. Yes ma'am. Well put.

Trustee Culton asked. Would you say that this is the best curriculum available?

Dr. Nix replied. Trustee Culton, I believe that from what we have reviewed and what we looked at and who we have spoken to, we have found that of all of the people I have spoken to and we've talked to, individuals who were using or just majority of this who are using Amplify and Eureka for the most part are staying with Bluebonnet, because of the consistency in the curriculum. Districts who were not using Amplify and not using Eureka in the past for the most part may be using something else, because it's not as disruptive to them.

So, for all of the things that we look at for where we are going and how we've positioned ourselves as a district, we have determined that this is the best curriculum for us moving forward, for what we have trained for, for what our curriculum documents are prepared to support teachers to do, and for what we need our students to learn. This is why we're bringing this recommendation to you.

Trustee McNeely made a motion to hold a vote now on our consent agenda; Trustee Fahey seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

A. MEETING MINUTES

Jody Lofton

B. BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Brandy Mayo

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Brandy Mayo

D. PURCHASE OVER \$50,000 - APPROVAL OF HELP DESK, FACILITIES, ASSET MANAGEMENT AND EVENT RESERVATION SOFTWARE

Dr. Brian Brown

E. HAMILTON COUNSELING AND CONSULTING MOU

Tellauance Graham

F. PURCHASE OVER \$50,000 - APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM SUPPORT SERVICES PACKAGE E CONTRACT FROM REGION 10

Dr. Sam Nix

G. APPROVAL OF TEXAS BLUEBONNET K-5 READING LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATH CURRICULUM THROUGH THE LEARNING ACCELERATION SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES (LASO) CYCLE 3 GRANT

Dr. Sam Nix

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

9. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION AGENDA

10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

President Dr. Flowers stated. We have received one communication card. Before you make your way to the front, please allow me to read the following. State law prohibits board members from responding to speakers in public forums, unless the topic regards a matter specifically posted on tonight's agenda. The board will carefully consider any concerns expressed and an administrator will investigate the matter. At your request, the administrator will contact you regarding your concern. Speakers will limit their comments to three minutes. If more than five speakers are present, speakers must limit their comments to two minutes. If delegations of more than five people plan to speak on the same topic, they should appoint one representative to speak on their behalf or be limited to five speakers. Any discussion concerning specific personnel is prohibited in open session. If you wish to address the board regarding a personnel matter, please contact the superintendent's office to schedule the matter for a future closed session meeting. Having stated that, when I call your name, please come forward, state your name and your address, and you have three minutes to address the board. Dale Kaiser.

Mr. Dale Kaiser addressed the board. Good evening, Trustees, Dr. Goree. Good to see you all again. My name is Dale Kaiser. I reside at 534 Frank Keasler Boulevard, Duncanville, Texas 75116. My appearance has changed a little bit since the last time I visited with y'all. I participated in No Shave November for Men's Health, trying to bring awareness to the issues that men in our society face on a daily basis. And now, I'm just trying to decide whether it's going to stay or whether it's going to go.

This evening, I'm here to talk to you about a couple of things. First of all, we still have employees bringing home less than they did last year, almost \$1,000 less, and I'm one of them, than we did last year. Those same employees are being asked to do more and more. I asked last time for a stipend, but this time, I'll ask for something that the cost should be very minimal. Give teachers one of the three PDCE days back. We used to have two of them. Now we have three, including January 3rd. On top of January 3rd that we have to take our time on our calendar to go and do professional development to get off, when we used to have it off, this last two weeks on December 4th and 11th, while we were in the middle of testing, we had to do an additional hour or so of professional development on those two Wednesdays. Now the professional development was quite informative. However, many of our teachers were tired because they had been testing all day.

So, Trustees and Dr. Goree, I have a suggestion for you. Pick a date, January 3rd, May 27th, May 28th. Give one of those days back to your teachers. Say, "Teachers, we appreciate you. We encourage you to go and do professional development. We know that you're doing the best that you can and the best for our students, and so we're going to give you a day back because we appreciate you."

The second thing does have a cost, however. We still need additional safety and security help at the high school. Mr. Byrd and the administration cannot be everywhere all the time. We don't know exactly who in the building should be there, because maybe 1% of our students actually wear their ID badges. I challenge you to come to Main Street on any given day between now and next Friday and see how many ID badges you see moving around the building. They don't have ID badges. Today, we had another school shooting. This should never happen. We have to have more security at our school to make sure that Duncanville High School is not on the news for all the wrong reasons.

I've also had faculty and staff tell me they're tired of coming to school and inhaling marijuana. They can't be everywhere all the time. So, we need additional safety and security help at the high school. We're not a college, we're not a university, even though we're just as big as some of the colleges and universities around. But we need the help. Dr. Goree, we need the help. Trustees, we need the help. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

11. ADJOURNMENT AT 8:00 PM

Trustee McNeely made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Trustee Culton seconded the motion.



Dr. T. Lamar Goree
Superintendent of Schools

Board President

Board Secretary