



BRACKETT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 586  
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REQUEST TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
and / or  
REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT OF AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA

I wish to address the Board of Trustees at the scheduled meeting on August 14, 2006  
Date

SUBJECT OF ITEM; GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Trends found in survey conducted by  
Concerned Parents will be distributed to Board  
Administration. Concerned Parents will make  
recommendations

ACTION REQUESTED

Response to recommendations;  
We would like a written response detailing  
the current and/or future plan of action.

The address will include discussion of specific District personnel

☐ YES

☒ NO

The address will include discussion of discipline of a specific student

☐ YES

☒ NO

I understand that the following rules apply:

1. All presentations will be limited to five (5) minutes unless additional time is allotted by the presiding officer. (Applies to Open Forum.)
2. Matters involving specific employees or discipline of a specific student will be discussed in a closed meeting unless the right to a closed meeting is waived by the employee or by the student or his or her parent or guardian.
3. All appropriate administrative remedies must be exhausted before any complaint is brought before the Board (If feasible See board policy GF LOCAL )
4. Only the items listed may be discussed with the Board.
5. The Board may choose to put an item on future agendas for official action.

6. The deadline for submitting items for inclusion on the agenda is noon of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) day before regular meetings and noon of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) day before special meetings, in accordance with policy BE (LOCAL)

Name(s) of person(s) making request Melissa Koantz / Concerned Parents  
Christie Palmer

78832

Zip Code

Mel Koantz

Signature

Christie Palmer

7-25-06

Date

## Summary of Concerned Parents Survey Results

As partners in our children's education, we conducted a survey on our school's strengths and areas of need. We were encouraged by the strengths, and we realize that our areas of need were not necessarily created over night, or even within the past year.

Some of the strengths of our school are listed below:

- Our teachers rate each other highly as educators and professionals.
- We have dedicated teachers and staff.
- Our teachers believe they are kept abreast of the latest technology and are made aware of the latest creative and innovative techniques in education.

Additional strengths will be mentioned in the "areas that need improvement".

Areas that need improvement:

Curriculum at the elementary and middle school level:

First, the teachers found the administration to be open to purchasing curriculum when asked. However, most teachers are responsible for writing, modifying and supplementing curriculum for all types of students. This includes, GT, Special Education, 504 and LEP. They stated they are drowning in paperwork and this takes away from their "teaching". The re-creation of

curriculum, though not uncommon in the state of Texas, is laborious and redundant. They stated they would like to purchase curriculum that covers many grade levels (especially in Math) so that there are fewer gaps from grade to grade. This was done this past year in the elementary school with Saxon Phonics.

As a side note to curriculum, many teachers voiced concerns regarding the year-to-year movement of teachers. They believe this to be counter-productive for three reasons; they found this practice to be in conflict with the idea of having a “Master Content” teacher as they cannot become as proficient in a certain grade and subject if they are moved constantly; secondly, the fear of an unsolicited move creates an environment of uncertainty that negatively affects morale; and lastly and most importantly, they believe the students’ experience is negatively affected as a result of the first two issues.

#### Discipline:

When considering the feedback on discipline, realize that we are relaying the information provided by the teachers. We have not studied the discipline policy extensively, but feel that the teacher’s input is critical as they are on the front lines.

Many teachers stated that the current discipline policy seems to have loopholes that the students realize and

exploit. They do not support the “3 strikes for the same behavior and you are out” plan (Elementary).

Middle and High school teachers stated that they did not feel detention and ISS to be deterrents to unwanted behavior. They are in support of a stricter, zero-tolerance type policy.

#### **Parent Involvement:**

In the category of parent involvement, we were not highly rated. We would like to see improvement in this area.

#### **Communication:**

Our goal is open, honest communication and a supportive environment throughout all of the school communities. Our experience in performing this survey and compiling the results show us that there are areas where communication seems to break down. There also seems to be an attitude of mistrust. For example, several teachers voiced being reluctant to speak up regarding issues pertaining to them. They were concerned that some type of retaliation would occur. Whether this is a concern that would truly bear itself out, almost doesn't matter as long as that perception is there.

#### **Recommendations:**

## 1. Curriculum:

We would like the school to set a goal of purchasing curriculum in the elementary and middle school that covers several grades to ensure there are no gaps in learning. This would alleviate the extra work now required of teachers and allow them to “teach” to the many types of students at our school.

We would like the school to consider:

- A compensated position of Curriculum Coordinator, to review and purchase this curriculum.

- 1 Funding for three elementary teachers per grade level every year regardless of class size.
- 2 Evaluate need for additional teachers in middle school.

## 2. Discipline

Our goal is to have an environment that is conducive to student learning. We would like to see a site-based committee re-examine current discipline plans. One idea is to contact similar schools that have effective plans and look at alternate ways of disciplining (especially for repeat offenders). The consequences should be reflective of the offense.

## 3. Parent Involvement:

As there are avenues in place for parental

involvement such as the Parent Advisory and District Advisory boards, we would like to see these better advertised. We would also like support in reevaluating the PTO as not only a fundraising vehicle, but also a voice for teachers and parents. Possibly PTO training could be ascertained.

We would like the administration to look into some policies that would promote parent involvement in and out of the classroom. Some schools have "Donuts with Dad" or "Muffins with Mom" days.

#### 4. Communication:

Our goal in this area is open and honest communication. We would like to see our school continuously strive toward improvement in this area.

We would like the school (possibly the District Advisory Board) to perform an annual, anonymous survey of parents, and teachers to assess our school's strengths and needs. Feedback was received on the survey that May is not the best time. We suggest March but are open to other times as well.

We would like to see the issue of staff /administration and school/parent team building addressed.

We know that in our effort to improve, there will be mistakes. We have experienced the learning curve already in this process and are open to taking those risks for the sake of student success. It has been said

that "risk takers are the best learners". We agree.