

The Board of Trustees of Denton Independent School District, State of Texas, met in a regular meeting at the Denton ISD Central Services building, 1307 N. Locust St., Denton, Texas, on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 6:01 PM.

Pursuant to the Governor Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, this meeting will be conducted via videoconference, which will be audible to the Board and public and allow for two-way communication. The Board President, presiding officer of trustees were physically present at one location, a quorum will be required for the meeting on the videoconference or phone. The public may access this meeting or obtain an electronic copy of the agenda packet at <https://www.dentonisd.org/trustees>.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Burns who announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Alexander, Burns, Chadwick, Martinez, Price, Smith and Stafford

Board Members Absent:

Arrived Late: Smith

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Wilson, Mattingly, Stripling, Valenta, Lopez, Perkins, O'Bara, Stevenson and Zwahr ??

Others: Marshall Reid, *Denton Record Chronicle*; DEA; Randy Stout, Attorney; citizens, staff, and students.

Pledges: The pledges to the flags were led by staff

Presentations/ Recognitions Guyer High School Theater Director Eleshia Crotwell and Technical Director Chris Crotwell were recently named best directors for their production of "*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*" during the 2020 Dallas Summer Musical Awards event held on May 14. One week later, the pair were honored again as the same production was named Best Musical at the Betty Buckley Awards held annually at the Casa Manana Theater in downtown Fort Worth.

Overall, Guyer High School brought home five different awards at the DSM awards banquet including best leading actress, best musical, best musical direction, and best directors. Meanwhile at the Buckley awards, in addition to the previously mentioned Best Musical honor, Guyer lead performers also won Best Male Actor and Best Female Supporting Actor.

Review of Preliminary Financing Plan for 2020 Bond Program Remaining \$308,070,000 from the Bond Program

Dr. Scott Niven and Josh from BOK Financial Services presented the preliminary financing plan. Denton ISD has actively deployed various debt management practices to lower the borrowing costs of taxpayers. Such actions have reduced the cost of voter-approved bonds and provided District taxpayers with more than \$204.3 million of direct savings since year 2005! The District has implemented 9 refunding programs and prepaid \$58.14 million of existing bonds, generating more than \$161.6 million of savings. The District has implemented two “synthetic fixed rate debt structures” (i.e. Series 2005-A and 2006-B Bonds) to potentially reduce the District’s interest cost. As of May 31, 2020, these structures have reduced the District’s interest cost by more than \$9.45 million. DISD has \$308,070,000 of unissued bonds remaining from the May 2018 election.

Denton ISD’s Board of Trustees may adopt a “Parameters Bond Order” designating the ability to approve the issuance of the Series 2020 Bonds to the District’s Administration. The primary parameters recommend for the Series 2020 Bonds are as follows:

- 1) Maximum principal amount to be issued – \$308,070,000;
- 2) Maximum “All-In” True Interest Rate (must not exceed) – 4.00%;
- 3) Final maturity of the Series 2020 Bonds – August 15, 2048; and
- 4) Sale must be completed prior to December 20, 2020 (i.e. 180 days).

Unless each parameter listed above can be achieved, the Series 2020 Bonds will not be issued until additional direction is received from the District.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion & Review of Student Parent Handbook 2020-2021

Angela Ricks, Director of Student Support Services provided the Board with a review of the Student/Parent Handbook for 2020-2021. The objectives of the handbook provide students and their parents with a resource that will guide their understanding of general rules and guidelines for attending and receiving an education in our district. It will also communicate behavioral expectations that reflect our community’s values and standards. Ms. Ricks provided the Board with a list of proposed changes to the Handbook.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion & Review of Student Code of Conduct 2020-2021

Dr. Jeff Russell, Area Superintendent provided the Board with a review of the Student Code of Conduct for 2020-2021. The Code of Conduct provides students and parents at the beginning of the school year an information resource describing expectations for academic and personal excellence and guidelines for personal and professional conduct. Dr. Russell reviewed the proposed changes to the SCOC.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Discussion of Survey Feedback on 2019-2020 and Planning for 2020-2021

Dr. Wilson provided the trustees with feedback from our parents and families regarding their perceptions of the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year and gather their feedback for the 2020-2021 re-entry plan and protocol for the 2020-2021 school year. The information presented will guide the plan development for returning to school after the COVID-19 pandemic. Future considerations for plexiglass dividers, personal protective equipment, hand washing stations, hand sanitizers, building cleanliness and sanitation, as well as dismissal and arrival protocols, social distancing strategies, and other training, procedures, or equipment may be impacted by the survey results.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Professional Staff Appointments, Resignations & Employment

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Board of Trustees gave Dr. Wilson the authority to hire any contractual personnel including classroom teachers and administrators. The Board was provided a list of those approved transactions.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

2029-2020 End of Year Attendance Report

Angela Ricks, Director of Student Support Services provided campus and district ADA percentages for the 2019-2020 school year (August 14, 2019 through May 21, 2020) and to compare this data to prior years. This year's data will not be complete due to the interruption caused by COVID-19. Due to this pandemic, 47 instructional days were completed, however TEA will not utilize attendance data for this period of time. There are 173 instructional days in this school year. The district ADA% for the 2019-2020 school year is 96.3%, this is an increase from last school year when the ADA% was 96.24%. There are 2 factors that may influence the final ADA % for this school year.

This item is for information only. No action is required.

Open Forum

The following community members submitted comment cards virtually.

**Jennifer Dexter-** Please send children back to school full time or provide an option to do so full time. I am single parent of 2 children, I understand the risks and accept responsibility. I will not be able to homeschool (online or otherwise) and maintain employment. Please consider options for those that are willing to come back to in person classes and those that do wish to consider continuing online classes.

**Jeremy Lukas –**

Question #1: When shall the parents of Denton County ISD students expect the official 2020-21 Academic Calendar?

Question #2: Once the learning plans have been sent to the parents, what is the deadline to decide?

Question #3: If there are COVID-19 measures in place in the schools, has research/outside council been considered as it relates to adolescent behavioral development and any issues that could arise from an abnormal public-school setting?

Question #4: How will administrators take the learning from Spring 2019 and apply improvements with staff, resources, and students in 2020-21?

Question #5: If students are required to be in a physical classroom setting, how will school officials enforce PPE guidelines?

**Jonathan Luke White –**

To Dr. Wilson and the esteemed members of the Denton ISD School Board, Let me start by stating that I have greatly appreciated, and approved of, your leadership during this uniquely challenging time in modern history. I trust that the board will continue to make wise and evidence-based decisions moving forward.

That said, I would be remiss if I did not urge you, as you plan and make decisions, to continue to prioritize the health and safety of the students, families, staff, and ultimately, the entire Denton community. I am a Denton ISD Elementary teacher and parent of a Denton ISD Elementary student. Social distancing has been the number one public health recommendation for months, and young children do not social distance well. This is true even before you place twenty plus of them in a room together for the day, breathing the same air. Ultimately, my question is how social distancing will be accomplished. Covid 19 cases are increasing in our county, and I fear our schools are going to become an explosive epicenter of the virus come August. Related to that are these questions I would like to see the board address thoroughly:

- 1) In keeping with 6-feet distancing guidelines, can we shrink class sizes? With twenty-odd students in a classroom, keeping 6-feet distancing is not physically possible. Could we move to an A-B schedule where students split their time between school and online at home?
- 2) How will students safely use materials such as pencils, glue, or classroom Math manipulatives?
- 3) Will teachers and staff be required to wear masks, as is recommended to help protect others? Will physical barriers of some kind be set up between student desks?
- 4) Will we be able to utilize outdoor spaces more, to limit indoor spread?
- 5) What happens to pull-out services such as SpEd and Speech, which could cross-contaminate between classrooms?

6) What happens to Special Areas such as Art, Music, and PE, which can cause more cross-contamination.

Again, I do trust the board. My purpose in writing is to let you know my concerns in returning to school. I have an immune compromised wife. I have coworkers who fit several high-risk categories. I have students with family members who share in these risk factors. We are no more in control of the virus now than we were in March, in fact, we hit several record highs for positive Covid 19 tests recently. I want our return to be based on best practices and with a prioritization of safety, above all. I desperately want to return to business as usual, to see my students and give them a high-five. For my son to be able to play with all his school buddies. Many of my students are of low socioeconomic status, and are being hit the hardest by our battered economy. It was so hard to even hear a second-hand account of some of their stories back in the spring, and my heart hurt so much for them. However, they are the ones who would be hit hardest by a massive outbreak of the virus, as has been statistically shown over and over throughout the country. I want so much for our current situation to not be so. But it is. So, I urge you to continue to look out for the well-being of our family at Denton ISD, as you have been. I was so proud to see how quickly and decisively everyone pulled together in March. To see the creativity of my peers, the resiliency of my students, the strength of our community. School has been opened back up by Governor Abbott. The Coronavirus is still at large. You have difficult decisions to make, but I know I speak for scores of my colleagues when I say I believe in you, am praying for you, and stand behind you. Covid 19 cases are increasing in our county, and I fear our schools are going to become an explosive epicenter of the virus come August if we do not put into place bold and decisive systems to protect our Denton ISD community

**Mary Dinger-** PLEASE PLEASE allow our kids to go back to regular school in the fall. Children are not at high risk for COVID, nor is it extremely virulent when it does affect them. It is in fact much less virulent in children than the flu. I am more concerned about the LEARNING and the SOCIAL interaction that they are missing by doing work from home. It also assumes a lot with regard to availability and access to the internet and home computers. Our kids have enough mental struggles and the depression that being isolated has caused is a bigger concern than just having COVID and recovering. Please be mindful of this when making policy for the upcoming school year.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Mia Price and seconded by Charles Stafford

To approve(the minutes for the June 9, 2020 Board meeting; Investment Report as of May 31 2020; Final Budget Amendments as of June 23, 2020; approve the TEA Expedited and General State Waivers (Staff Development,

Modified Schedule/Sate Assessment Testing Days, Teacher Data Portal of the Texas Assessment Management System, Timeline for Accelerated Instruction) for submission to the Texas Education Agency; approval of RFP #2006-12 Grounds Maintenance – Ag Facility in the amount of \$31,200.00 to Classic Landscapes Inc. for the period beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. This recommendation for award is contingent upon the adoption of the fiscal year 2020 – 2021 budget; approval to amend our first amendment to exchange agreement dated June 25, 2019 between Denton ISD, County of Denton and Zayo Group, LLC; approval of the rollover of non-duty days above the maximum of 10 days for exempt staff into the 2020-21 fiscal year. This will provide employees the opportunity to roll days from the 2019-20 fiscal year they were unable to use due to the COVID-19 pandemic; approval of the invoice from Pasco Brokerage Inc., in the amount of \$62,115.03 for the purchase of additional equipment removal, back counter additions, countertop feature modification and traffic guide rails for Braswell High School; approval of the contract for Stantec Architecture to provide architectural services for the 2018 Bond Elementary Campuses noted Borman Elementary, E.P. Rayzor Elementary, Sam Houston Elementary, McNair Elementary, and WS Ryan Elementary; approval to grant the City of Denton the use of a 25 foot public utility easement (0.426 of an acre) along the Ryan High School property for the sum of \$1.00; approval to grant the City of Denton the use of a 20 foot water easement (0.430 of an acre) along the Ryan High School property line at Mills Road for the sum of \$1.00 and approval of Pfluger Architects for architectural services for Denton ISD).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval of  
State Compensatory  
Education 2020-2021  
Budget for  
Accelerated  
Instruction

Motion by Doug Chadwick and seconded by Charles Stafford

To approve the 2020-2021 Budget for Accelerated Instruction

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval of  
Budget 2020-2021

Motion by Jim Alexander and seconded by Charles Stafford

To approve the proposed Budget for the 2020-2021 school year as presented in the budget book:

	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
General Fund	\$299,588,305	\$299,588,305
Debt Service Fund	\$106,620,917	\$106,619,635
Child Nutrition Fund	\$ 14,221,850	\$ 14,221,850

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Order Authorizing the Remarketing of Outstanding Series 2013 Bonds of the Denton Independent School District; Delegating to an Authorized Officer the Authority to Approve the Remarketing of the Bonds, Including Approving a Remarketing Agreement and Reoffering Memorandum and Establishing Certain Parameters for the Approval of Such Matters

Motion by Charles Stafford and seconded by Jim Alexander

To approve and act upon adoption of an order authorizing the remarketing of outstanding Series 2013 Bonds of the Denton Independent School District; delegating to an authorized officer the authority to approve the remarketing of the bonds, including approving a remarketing agreement and reoffering memorandum and establishing certain parameters for the approval of such matters:

1. The new interest rate (i.e. “yield”) may not exceed 2.50%; and
2. The new interest rate period must be at least 1 year (i.e. July 31, 2021) and may not exceed a period of 5 years (i.e. July 31, 2025) – Although a new term rate period of 3 years is currently recommended, a range is provided to allow additional flexibility at the time the new interest rate is set; and
3. The final maturity of the Series 2013 Bonds may not be extended.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider and Act Upon Adoption of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds of the Denton Independent School District; Establishing Procedures and Delegating Authority for the Sale and Delivery of the Bonds; Levying an Annual Ad Valorem Tax for the Payment of Said Bonds; Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with a Paying Agent/Registrar for the Bonds; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating to the Subject

Motion by Doug Chadwick and seconded by Mia Price

To approve and act upon adoption of an order authorizing the issuance of unlimited tax school building bonds of the Denton Independent School District; establishing procedures and delegating authority for the sale and delivery of the bonds; levying an annual ad valorem tax for the payment of said bonds; authorizing the execution of an agreement with a paying agent/registrar for the bonds; and enacting other provisions relating to the subject, within the following parameters:

1. The aggregate original principal amount of the Bonds shall not exceed \$308,070,000.
2. The final maturity of the Bonds shall not be later than August 15, 2048.
3. The true interest rate of the Bonds shall not exceed 4.00%; and
4. The delegation shall expire if not exercised by the Pricing Officer on or before December 20, 2020.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Closed Meeting

The Board convened into Closed Session at 8:24 pm

Open Meeting                      The Board reconvened into Open Session at 10:55 pm

Adjournment:                      The meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm

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President

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Secretary