

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, September 26, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order by President Mia Price who announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Alexander, Burns, English, Price, and Sosa-Sanchez

Board Members Absent: Bundgus, Stafford

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Pierce, O’Bara, Parham, Rainey, Robinson, Russell, Stewart, Stevenson, and Zwahr

Others: Cindy Breeding, *Denton Record Chronicle*; Randy Stout, Attorney; citizens, staff, and students.

Pledges: The pledges to the flags were led by Blanton Elementary students.

Presentations/ Recognitions In collaboration with the city of Denton, 10 Denton ISD high school students’ artwork is now prominently displayed throughout the Original Denton District as vinyl wraps on various traffic boxes. Teachers from Braswell, Denton, Ryan and Guyer High Schools, and the LaGrone Academy provided student art to be considered for placement on the traffic boxes. A subcommittee of the City of Denton Public Art Committee – the advisory board that helps guide the city’s public art program – considered all submitted works and chose two winners from each campus.

Denton High senior Phoebe Richter received a perfect score on her ACT test, a college entrance exam used throughout the United States. Only 0.25 percent of all test takers receive a perfect score on the ACT, which is graded on a 36-point scale. Last year, more than 1.3 million students nationwide took the ACT exam, meaning Phoebe was one of less than 3,400 students to receive a perfect score. The average score in 2022 was 19.8.

Each year, the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) honors businesses and organizations for their support and exceptional advocacy of public schools. This statewide honor, as part of “Stand Up for Texas Public Schools,” recognizes local businesses and community organizations that partner with school districts, making a difference in the lives of public-school students.

Denton Barber Co. was instrumental in helping Denton ISD provide free haircuts to students during both of the district's annual Back-to-School Fairs. Denton Barber Co. provided multiple barbers at both Back-to-School fairs and also orchestrated other barber shops attending and participating, as well.

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

1st Open Forum The following community members addressed the Board: Melinda Preston, Donna Smith, Lenry Van Zyl, Lisa Vanwyngarder, Dorothy Kuhn

Public Hearing for Texas School FIRST Report Vicki Garcia, Executive Director for Financial Operations presented the District's School Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas "FIRST" Report for the year ending June 30, 2022. Denton ISD received an A-Superior Achievement Rating, which is the 21st consecutive year the district has received the highest possible rating.

During the 77th regular session of the Texas legislature (2001), Senate Bill 218 was passed, and Governor Perry signed it into law shortly thereafter. This law requires each school district to prepare an annual financial management report within two months of the date of issuance of the final School FIRST ratings. The district received official notification of the 2022-2023 Preliminary School FIRST rating on August 4, 2023. A district has the right to appeal within 30 days after TEA's release of the preliminary rating. If a district does not file an appeal, the preliminary rating becomes a final rating 31 days after the issuance of the preliminary rating. The district did not file an appeal therefore the preliminary rating became the Final on September 7, 2022. This rating is based upon analysis of school year data for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

The purpose of the financial accountability rating system is to ensure that school districts will be held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices and achieve improved performance in the management of their financial resources. The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to manage their financial resources better in order to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. The system also discloses the quality of local management and decision-making processes that impact the allocation of financial resources in Texas public schools.

President Price opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm and no one wished to speak, and the Hearing was closed at 7:03 pm

Discussion of Summer Learning Programs 2023 Robin Brownell, Area Superintendent provided an overview of the Denton ISD instructional program opportunities offered during Summer 2023. Summer programming is supported through the collaborative efforts of a

wide variety of district departments, including curriculum and instruction, staff development, academic programs, transportation, child nutrition, EIS/technology, digital learning, facilities, and more.

Summer Learning Programs provide impactful summer learning opportunities that allow students to stay engaged, avoid summer loss, prepare for the coming school year, accelerate learning, and/or re-learn essential concepts and standards. The programs offered during the summer are Elementary Jump Start; Middle School Jump Start; High School Algebra I Jump Start; HS Summer Credit Recovery; ESL High School Summer Credit Recovery; High School Original Credit; Bilingual/ESL PreK-K Summer School and TWU Dual Credit. 3,800+ students received accelerated instruction, maintained skills, and/or retrieved credit through successful attendance at the summer instructional.

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

Discussion of
Annual
Bilingual/Dual
Language & ESL
Programs Report

Teresa Luna-Taylor, Director of Bilingual/ESL presented the annual report. This report consists of Bilingual/ESL program data from the 2022-2023 school year which addresses program participation of emergent bilingual students, academic performance, staffing of bilingual and ESL certified teachers, and professional development and other support services funded through bilingual allotment/local budget and Title III funds. Denton ISD continues to serve 5879 emergent bilingual students participating in Bilingual/Dual Language & ESL programs. This growing population brings a rich variety of 60 different languages spoken by the students and their families. The district had 487 additional students as compared to last year.

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

Discussion of
District of
Innovation
Amendment

Deron Robinson, General Council provided information regarding the amendment to the District of Innovation.

Prior to HB114, disciplinary action for vaping was determined locally by the district. Denton ISD procedures were as follows:

- Assignment of 1-3 Days of ISS
- Wilson Restorative Action Plan (WRAP) Services for students and families to address addiction issues.
 - This program is used as a family counseling program for students and families for a variety of issues including school behavioral issues and addiction.
 - WRAP Services are provided at Braswell High School and Fred Moore High School.
 - Recommended to DAEP for third offense.

Last year the district had 310 mandatory placements from controlled substances related to vaping devices, THC and Non-THC. At the current rate, our district

would increase mandatory placements by 250 students for the year. The commissioner rules on DOI permit exemptions under 37.006 which covers DAEP placement. The only part that cannot be exempted is that the student under the age of 6 cannot be placed in DAEP. This District of Innovation Committee and the Board of Trustees can approve an amendment to the DOI to exempt the district from HB 114. Deron Robinson recommends the following:

- Exempt Denton ISD from the requirements of HB 114 as it applies to e-cigarette offenses that do not involve prohibited drugs.
- The use of e-cigarettes or vaping that are not controlled substances will receive consequences as outlined in the code of conduct and the district WRAP program will be encouraged to address addiction issues.
- All violations involving controlled substances will receive a Davis placement as is required by law.

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

Discussion of
Denton Central
Appraisal District
Board of Directors
Nomination

The Denton Central Appraisal District (DCAD) has requested its taxing jurisdictions to nominate by Resolution up to five people to be considered for their Board of Directors. The Resolution must include the name and address of each candidate nominated. To be eligible to serve on the board, an individual must be a resident of the district (Denton County) and must have resided in the district for at least two years immediately preceding the date they take office. According to Section 6.03 of the Property Tax Code, it is the chief appraiser's responsibility to initiate this process. The chief appraiser does not have the authority, or duty to investigate, or judge, the qualifications of the nominees. The nominations must be returned to the Denton Appraisal District by October 15, 2023.

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

Discussion and
Review of Board
Goals

The Trustees will discuss their goals and be provided with an overview of resources utilized to monitor these goals.

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

Bond Progress
Report

Nancy Murphy-Chadwick and LaQuita Harmon Bond Progress Committee members presented the Board with information from the recent Bond Progress meeting held at LaGrone Academy.

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

Construction
Report

Brandon Boyter, Executive Director of Construction, Planning and Growth provided the Board with an overview of three construction projects, Calhoun Middle School replacement campus, Newton Rayzor Elementary replacement campus and LaGrone Academy Advanced Technology. These are the last projects of the 2018 Bond Referendum.

This is for information only. No action is required.

Quarterly Growth
Report 2nd Quarter
2023

Rocky Gardner, Zonda Education presented the 2nd quarter demographic report to the Board of Trustees. The DFW area ranks first nationally in terms of the most active new home market. Home closings exceeded housing starts by 7,850 homes. Median home prices declined in the first half of 2023 in response to reduced demand incurred by mortgage rate hikes and historically high home prices in 2022. Home inventory is increasing as sales slowed in response to interest rate increases and inflation costs throughout the state. Through the first six months of 2023, total monthly home sales are down from the same period in 2022 in Austin (-15.2%), DFW (-6.6%), Houston (-20.5%) and San Antonio (-13.5%). The district has 61 actively building subdivisions. Within DISD there are 32 future subdivisions of these, groundwork is underway on 2,456 lots within 12 subdivisions.

Multi-Family House overview - There are currently 4,223 units under construction in the district. Within Denton ISD there are roughly 6,549 future multi-family units in the planning stages. Roughly 1,140 units have been completed in the last 12 months.

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

Career &
Technology (CTE)
Education Annual
Report

Carla Ruge-Fritz, Director of Career & Technology, Will Milne, Career & Technology Coordinator and Marcus Bourland, LaGrone Academy Principal presented an overview regarding Denton ISD Career and Technical Programs, including legislative highlights, funding, CTE Renovation programs, demographic information and program performance which will include the LaGrone Academy. The district saw a large increase in the total number of earned certifications by students this school year. This is partly due to a change in Industry Based Certifications at the state level. An additional change in CTE coding of students that is in process will directly impact funding. Legislative impact for accountability will possibly decrease the certification numbers for CCMR in the future.

CTE continues to offer 52 Programs of Studies that are tied to high demand occupations and student interest with 63 certifications offered. LaGrone Academy has 179 full-time students and 1962 part-time students.

This item is for information only. No action is required

2nd Open Forum

The following community member addressed the Board: Melissa Gerdes

Consent Agenda

Items P, Q and R, SRO Amendments have been pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Barbara Burns and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To approve Consent Items A-O and (the minutes of the August 22, 2023 board meeting, September 12, 2023 Team of 8 Training and the September 21, 2023 Special Meeting, personnel matters, leaves, and absences; Budget Amendments as of August 31, 2023, TEA Class Size Waiver as presented; approval of the proposed 2023 Denton ISD Public Information Request Calendar; approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between UNT and Denton ISD for Teacher Residencies; approval of Change Order to the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) submitted by Northstar Builders Group, LLC. by the amount of \$102,220.00 for the additions and renovation of Ryan High School; approval of Change Order to the Contract Price for CSP# 2303-06 2023 Summer Roofing Replacement Projects; approval of RFP #2209-14 Fundraising Supplies and Services Addendum 1 awarded to all responding vendors on the bid tabulation list; approval of RFP #2209-15 Food, General Grocery, Catering and Services; approval of proposal be awarded to all responding vendors on the bid tabulation for RFP #2306-08 Miscellaneous Services and Supplies approval of RFP #2309-CNS0241 Child Nutrition Small-wares; approval of a Remote Homebound Instruction Waiver to provide general education homebound (GEH) services virtually to a Denton ISD Student; and approval of the quote from Lone Star Furnishings in the amount of \$885,220.85 for the campuswide furniture at Newton Rayzor Elementary).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of Certification of
Appraisal Roll,
Collection Rate and
Voter Approval
Tax Rates

Motion by Barbara Burns and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To approve the 2023 Certified Appraisal Roll, tax collection rate at 100%, and confirm the voter approval tax rate of \$1.1592.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of Tax Rate
Ordinance

Motion by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez and seconded by Barbara Burns

To approve the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$1.1592, which is effectively a 6.79% percent increase in the tax rate.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of Order
Authorizing
Redemption of a
Portion of Denton
ISD Variable Rate

Motion by Barbara Burns and seconded by Sheryl English

To approve of the Order Authorizing Redemption of a Portion of Denton Independent School District Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2014-B.

Unlimited Tax
School Building
Bonds, Series 2014-
B

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of District of
Innovation
Amendment

Motion by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez and seconded Lori Tays

To approve the proposal for an Amendment to the current local innovation plan, which would allow exemption to Texas Education Code: §37.006. Texas Education Code §37.006 applies to the placement of a student in a disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) if the student is found to possess, use, sell, give, or deliver to another person an e-cigarette device.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of Denton Central
Appraisal District
Board of Directors
Nominee
Resolution

Motion by Lori Tays and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To nominate Charles Stafford for the Denton Central Appraisal District Board of Directors.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider Approval
of Board Goals

Motion by Barbara Burns and seconded Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To approve the Board Goals as discussed

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

3rd Open Forum

The following community members addressed the Board: Gina Daly, Becky Bertoni, Dr. Jennifer Okumu

Closed Meeting

The Board convened into Closed Session at 10:02 pm

Open Meeting

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 10:54 pm

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm

President

Secretary