

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Brackett ISD

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Brackett ISD was held August 13, 2007, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Central Office, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville.

Members Present: Henry Lutz, Tony Ashley, Mark Frerich, Sondra Meil, John Paul Schuster, Tony Molinar

Members Absent: Ronnie Hobbs

Administrators: Paula Renken, Alma Gutierrez, Frank Taylor

Guests: Marla Madrid, Kacie Williams, Karron Childress, John McKaskle, Gloria Flores, Aracelie Wiebush, Allison Taylor, Leigh Volcsko, Christy Price, April Blake, Lisa Conoly, Sara Terrazas, Maxine Bonner, April Rogers, Amy Hammerle, Christie Palmer, Eileen Allen, Gabby Schroeder, Melanie Jones, B. Schroeder, Susan Esparza

1. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

A. MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m., with a quorum present. Following a moment of silence, Tony Ashley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. RECOGNITION

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

A. SARA TERRAZAS

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

Past member Sara Terrazas was recognized for eleven years of service on the Board of Trustees.

B. LEIGH VOLCSKO & ALLISON TAYLOR

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

Brackett News reporters Leigh Volcsko and Allison Taylor were recognized as Media Honor Roll recipients, a program sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards.

C. DEE CURRY, BO HAGLER, & JACK FRERICH

Resigned/retired teachers Dee Curry, Bo Hagler, and Jack Frerich were recognized, though none were in attendance.

- Presenter: HENRY LUTZ
- D. NEW STAFF MEMBERS
Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ / FRANK TAYLOR
New teachers and staff members were introduced and welcomed by campus administrators. Elementary staff introduced to the Board include Secretary Gloria Flores, returning teacher Eileen Allen, and teachers April Rogers, Amy Hammerle, and Christie Palmer. Frank Taylor introduced new campus secretary Kacie Williams. New teachers at the secondary level were introduced throughout the meeting.
- E. SANDRA TATE & ART STUDENTS
"Welcome to the Jungle" art work.
Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ
Art students Clarissa Valdez, Dan Ortega, and Hernan Talamantez were commended for their art work "Welcome to the Jungle" adorning the Elementary and Intermediate hallways. Educational Aide/Artist Sandra Tate was unable to attend.

A short break for refreshments followed the presentations at 6:53 p.m. The open meeting reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

3. WELCH SUMMER SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Presenter: GABBY SCHROEDER

Student Gabby Schroeder shared findings from a research project conducted while attending a five-week chemical engineering program at the University of Houston. The program is designed around students with a strong interest in Math and Science. Founder Robert Alonzo Welch left money to fund one of the oldest and largest chemical research programs, the Welch Summer Scholar Program, which was an interest of his. Gabby Schroeder was one of ten selected from across the state for participation. Miss Schroeder's project was to find the best place for Metroridazole, a drug, to bind with protein within Trichomoniasis, a non-viral sexually transmitted disease. A computer was used for modeling to simulate over 200 different electrostatic calculations to bind with protein. Miss Schroeder's project was a success in finding the best location for the drug to attach to protein in the disease. Gabby's fifteen- page research paper will be published by the University of Houston this fall.

Principal Frank Taylor introduced Vocational Agriculture Teacher David Edwards.

4. OPEN FORUM

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

Leigh Volcsko (The Brackett News) – Shared information regarding a newspaper program which targets students in the fifth and sixth grade. The program is backed by the Texas Press Association. Ms. Volcsko would like to develop a program for all elementary students to encourage reading. Secondary students would also be encouraged to become involved by writing and having their articles published.

Principal Frank Taylor introduced teacher Lindsey Kunz.

5. MINUTES

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to approve minutes for the July 5, 2007, regular meeting as presented. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried with John Paul Schuster abstaining.

A motion was made by Henry Lutz to approve minutes for the July 26, 2007 special meeting as presented. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried with Mark Frerich and John Paul Schuster abstaining.

6. BUSINESS & FINANCE

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN / MARLA MADRID

A. QUARTERLY & ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

Business Manager Marla Madrid reviewed fourth quarter earned interest of \$51,631.04 for the 2006-2007 school year. Total interest earned year-to-date is \$228,202.56. Investments for the district total \$3,814,454.51. Auditors will be here tomorrow through Wednesday. [See report with agenda.]

B. MONTHLY RECAP OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

Presenter: MARLA MADRID

A comparison of expenditures and encumbrances, and revenue to the budget was conducted by the board for the month of July. The new budget is in place.

C. CHECK RUN

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

FICA refund checks have been released. [See list for names.] A representative from Region 20 was here today to work on getting a refund for the district. .

Marsha & Scott Swilley were introduced to the board. Both are secondary teachers. Mr. Swilley is also a coach.

7. TEXAS EDUCATORS EXCELLENCE GRANT

Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ / GRANT TEAM

Jones Elementary has been given the opportunity to participate in cycle two of the Texas Educators Excellence grant program. Grant money received is awarded by the state to increase student achievement, etc. Amy Hammerlye spoke on behalf of the grant team, outlining goals, one is to start weekly after school tutoring sessions using Study Island. The program will be a collaboration between teachers and students. Grant money received will be paid in June of 2008.

8. JONES ELEMENTARY CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN, 2007-08

Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ / CAMPUS ADVISORY TEAM

Members of the Jones Elementary Campus Advisory team reviewed goals and objectives outlined in the 2007-2008 Campus Improvement Plan. Highlights discussed include:

- Technology - provide each classroom with two printers and laptops
- New P.A. system – waiting for bid on estimate for a district wide P.A. system
- Math, Reading and Writing – check on minimum percentages, all students and subgroups
- Physical Education – will need to amend once state develops new assessments.

This agenda item was given as information only until Alma Gutierrez can check on requested percentages. The Campus Advisory Team was commended for their work on the plan.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to table approval of the Jones Elementary Campus Improvement Plan until the September meeting. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A short break was called for at 8:39 p.m., with the meeting reconvening at 8:45 p.m.

9. 2007 DISTRICT & CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

Overall the district received an Academically Acceptable rating for 2007 from the Texas Education Agency. Students tested lowest in mathematics and science. On an individual basis, a total of four campuses were rated.

A. JONES ELEMENTARY

Due to very low subgroup 5th grade science scores, Jones Elementary received a rating of Academically Unacceptable. Grant money will be used to shore up the gaps in science and also math. Mrs. Renken stated administrators will be held accountable for improvements in scores this coming school year. A recommendation was made to look into separating elementary and intermediate into separate campuses for the 07-08 school year, which should help with ratings.

B. BRACKETT JUNIOR HIGH

Received a rating of Academically Acceptable. Students scored highest in reading, writing and social studies, scoring the lowest in mathematics. Junior High is being monitored in hopes that it does not get pulled down to Stage I on the district Adequate Yearly Progress report in September.

C. BRACKETT HIGH

Received a rating of Academically Acceptable. Students scored highest in english and social studies, the lowest in mathematics and science.

- D. BRACKETT EDUCATIONAL ACADEMY/ALTERNATIVE
Received a rating of Academically Acceptable.

10. STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: STUDENT
EXPRESSION, LOCAL POLICY FNA

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ / PAULA RENKEN

Texas legislature House Bill 3678 requires school districts to have a local policy on student expressions adopted and in place before the start of the 2007-2008 school year. HB 3678 is also called the Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act which addresses freedom of religious expression, student speakers, religious expression in classroom assignments, and freedom of association. This is the first time legislature has written a policy along with the law. The Texas Association of Schools Boards also wrote a model policy. After researching both, Paula Renken recommended going with the state model.

A motion was made by John Paul Schuster to adopt local policy FNA as presented, based on the state model. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ / PAULA RENKEN

A. CENTRAL OFFICE / BOARDROOM

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

John Graves should be ready to go out for bids/RFP's. Once in, the bids will be ranked and awarded. The press box will be all new metal and should be ready for first football game. The total cost is \$11,300. New parking spaces and ticket booth will not be ready. Paula Renken stated she is in the process of purchasing a lot from a Mr. & Mrs. Flores. Mrs. Saladay requested the districts help in keeping vehicles from parking on her property. Ribbon was put up to include her driveway.

The Central Office and Boardroom expansion is a continuation of a tabled agenda item from the June 11, 2007 meeting.

Sondra Meil referred to a letter to the Board from Ms. Esparza, stating the need to make a change by expanding for the convenience of the public and privacy for the Superintendent and closed meetings. The Central Office was included in the 2003 Long Range Building Plan. A recommendation was made by Henry Lutz to include several rooms which could later be used for classrooms. In the meantime, the rooms could possibly be used to move the Nurse and Migrant out of the two worst portables. Mrs. Renken will get with Architect John Graves for additional information about adding several

class size rooms to the backside of the boardroom floor plan. Additional information and possible proposal will be included on the next board meeting agenda. Alma Gutierrez requested the board look into additional office space for Jones Elementary.

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to authorize the Superintendent to work with John Graves in developing a plan for a new boardroom with the addition of several classrooms, along with plans for the elementary office. Tony Molinar seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Enrollment, discipline reports, and current events.

Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ / FRANK TAYLOR

Jones Elementary/Intermediate (Alma Gutierrez)

Enrollment: 316 Discipline: 0

Refer to written report. CHEER will be sponsoring a Health Fair during Back to School Night on August 23rd. The board was invited to see view artwork in the halls. Secretary duties will be shared, Sandra Davis will do the student side, attendance, report cards etc. Gloria Flores will do the teacher side, Purchase Orders, etc. Ms. Flores will have access to RSCCC.

Junior High/High School/Educational Academy (Frank Taylor)

Enrollment: 265 BEA: 12 Discipline: 0

Refer to written report. A bigger 7th grade class is coming up. Football & volleyball practice has begun. Student schedules are ready. Coach Henson's position is still open. One applicant was interviewed and then declined, another is not interested in the coaching part. Mr. Taylor is still looking at two other applicants.

A. CHANGES TO 2007-2008 STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Presenter: ALMA GUTIERREZ / FRANK TAYLOR

Secondary Handbook

Frank Taylor stated the majority of the changes are mandated by law. Discussion on attendance (definition of "perfect" attendance), extra credit, and exemption from semester tests. Also discussed clarifying hair covering the ear, want to see the whole ear.

Jones Elementary & Intermediate Handbook

In addition to changes mandated by law, Alma Gutierrez commented on a change to the Texas Pledge of Allegiance, which now includes "one state under God." Discussion included absences and student drop off and pick up procedures.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Information & updates on projects and events.

Presenter: PAULA RENKEN

A. CHANGES TO 2007-2008 EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

The majority of the changes are TASB legal. Employees will be given the opportunity to receive the handbook by paper or access online.

A couple of changes affecting Football. Batesville students are being bussed to Uvalde. Sonora cancelled the Sept. 6th game due to a late start of the season and UIL rules. Menard and Leakey will be bringing just their varsity players to scrimmage.

The Internal Revenue Service is now picking how teachers will to be paid, over 10 or 12 months. This change on August 8th is not required for districts right now. Teachers will not be given the option until 2008. Everyone is currently 12 months.

There is still the one opening mentioned by Frank Taylor. One applicant if recommended would bring up a nepotism issue with the board. Right now there is no recommendation to fill the position.

Central Office Open House is on Friday the 24th from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Baptist Church will be hosting a luncheon for staff on the 21st at the Baptist Fellowship Hall.

14. PERSONNEL MATTERS, PURSUANT TO GOV'T CODE 551.074

Closed Session.

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

There is no recommendation for hire at this time.

15. OPEN FORUM

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

No guests were present for participation in open forum.

16. ADJOURN

Presenter: HENRY LUTZ

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sondra Meil, Secretary

Date

Date