

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, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 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, Price, Smith, and Stafford

Board Members Present:

Board Members Present: Sosa-Sanchez

Absent:

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Wilson, Niven, Mattingly, Pierce, Stripling, Perkins, O’Bara, Rainey, Robinson, Russell, Stewart, Stevenson, Valenta and Zwahr

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

Pledges: The pledges to the flags were led virtually by Nelson Elementary School students.

Presentations/ Recognitions Five public school administrators from across Texas were selected as state finalists for the annual Superintendent of the Year (SOTY) award. Sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), the SOTY program has recognized exemplary superintendents for excellence and achievement in educational leadership since 1984.

Dr. Jamie Wilson was selected as one of the state’s five finalists representing Region 11.

Dr. Wilson was recognized for serving a diverse population of about 32,000 students. He has been in education administration for 19 years, serving as superintendent of Denton ISD for eight of those. The committee noted that Wilson leads this fast-growth district with a “can-do” attitude and a data-driven approach. Wilson places a priority on social and emotional learning and considers it an essential ingredient for academic success.

The selection committee stated his focus on the whole student was evident during the pandemic, when the district worked first to meet the basic and emotional needs of students before addressing their learning needs. Wilson is

an avid advocate for public education and ties district outcomes to legislative priorities. Wilson earned his bachelor's degree, master's degree, and doctorate from the University of North Texas.

Candidates are chosen for their strong leadership skills, dedication to improving educational quality, ability to build effective employee relations, student performance, and commitment to public involvement in

#### COVID-19 Update

Dr. Matt Richardson, Denton County Health Department stated the Covid-19 surge has arrived. Hospital capacity is declining and there were only 10 ICU beds available and it is very concerning. In July, our 7-day rolling average of percentage of total inpatient beds was at 10.9% now on November 15<sup>th</sup> the rolling average is at 14.3%. If this persists for 7 consecutive days or more the Governor could allow the County Judge to rollback openings of businesses and limit group gatherings, bars, restaurants and limiting possible elective surgeries.

Susannah O'Bara provided an update for the Connected Learning enrollment and the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter timeline for Elementary campuses and how the District is continuing to support the needs of CL by campus.

Dr. Gwen Perkins provided an update for the secondary Connected Learning and the plan to hire new CL teachers to assist for the remainder of the school year.

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

#### Discussion of School Calendars

Susannah O'Bara, Area Superintendent presented possible calendar revisions for spring 2021, propose a traditional calendar for 21-22 and propose an "Additional Days School Year" calendar for consideration for targeted elementary campuses for 21-22 as provided through HB3. The modifications to these calendars would:

- Enable four days for professional development in spring 2021 to support staff in providing virtual and in person instructional settings.
- HB 3 provides ½ day funding for up to 30 additional school days, beyond 180 minimum days on approved calendar.
- To achieve 180 days on the approved calendar, 8 additional days would be necessary at ADSY campuses. Non ADSY campuses could add an additional 8 days for targeted instruction to identified groups of students (Jump Start).
- To allow for alignment in holidays and breaks throughout the year on both traditional and ADSY calendars.
- Teacher contracts would allow for an additional 25 days on any targeted ADSY campus.
- ADSY could provide extended services to students and increased pay to teachers at no additional cost to district.

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

#### Discussion of Elementary & Secondary

Dr. Dan Ford, Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction  
The Campus Improvement Planning is compiled after each district campus leadership team completes a campus comprehensive needs assessment. The

Campus Improvement Plans for 2020-2021

purpose of this report is to share each campus improvement plan with the board to show how our goals and action steps are aligned to board goals, district goals, and campus goals. The plans are a working, living document that provides each campus a pathway for student success. This report will show each campus goal(s), action steps to reach that goal, any financial implications, persons responsible, and a timeline for achieving the goal. The CIP's will highlight the great work our district is doing to support student achievement, student engagement, and social/emotional learning.

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

Classroom Display and AV Refresh Update for Gonzalez School For Young Children

Robert Pierce updated the Board of Trustees on the Gonzalez School for Young Children's portion of the Classroom Display and A/V Refresh Project that was approved at the December 10, 2019 Board meeting. The funding for this project is from the 2018 bond package.

During the investigations for this project, the Gonzalez SYC had non-interactive projectors in each classroom with an interactive touch panel on a rolling cart shared per pod. At the time, the most cost-efficient solution seemed to be to replace the non-interactive projectors with new projectors and keep the shared interactive, cart-based solution per pod. While preparing for the Promethean deployment for Gonzalez SYC, based on lessons learned in the deployments at other campuses, it became apparent that an interactive solution per classroom was really the best option.

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

Open Forum

These comments were provided virtually, and all Trustees were given copies of the submitted comments. Written comments were received from the following individuals:

Chris Goodridge  
Tammy Sweeney

Kerri Kennedy requested her comment to be read aloud.

I am here tonight as a concerned parent and healthcare worker to request a harder look at the current COVID prevention practices in place at our schools. I have reached out twice at the school level and feel as though it has fallen on deaf ears. These recommendations do not increase the budget, do not require additional staff, and would decrease the likelihood of transmission of COVID.

There are certain activities that fall into a "high risk" category to increase the transmission. These activities include people who are not socially distanced (less than 6 feet apart), activities where people have to speak louder/project their voice, and increased respiratory output that could cause small particles of a person's breath to become airborne. All of our sporting events that I attend or see photos of show that DISD students are not appropriately masked or maintaining 6-foot distance during activities. Wearing a mask

when not able to be socially distanced can decrease the risk. Please consider the following:

1. Requiring our student-athletes to wear a mask in the weight rooms at all times. Students are exhaling forcefully with lifting weights and large groups are in there at once. Community gyms are currently mandated to require people to wear masks while working out. DISD does not meet the current standards set for by the Governor.
2. Requiring our cheerleaders to wear a mask while cheering. Remove megaphones. Cheerleaders are cheering without masks at games. MANY schools require cheerleaders to cheer the entire time with a mask on. They are projecting their voice with their cheers and are not socially distanced the entire time.
3. Requiring gators or masks on the sidelines of football, volleyball, and basketball games. I recognize that people have reservations while players are out on the field/court, however, a gator would be easy to wear and pull up on the sidelines and remove if needed to join the game quickly. Coaches are not consistently masked.
4. Require all teachers, office staff, coaches, and students to wear a facemask that conforms to their face. I have observed office staff with no masks, teachers and coaches wearing the clear mask that does not come over the nose or below the chin. (I recognize that the deaf Ed students need special accommodations, but this has been witnessed in non-Special Ed areas.
5. Increase communication to parents and students on the steps that DISD is taking to modify their current COVID plan as numbers of positive students increase across the district.

Thank you for taking this into consideration. I encourage DISD to reach out and get further assistance with risk assessments at your schools. We have many great resources here in Denton County that would be happy to assist in making our schools safer.

Consent Agenda Motion by Doug Chadwick and seconded by Jim Alexander

To approve (the minutes of the October 27, 2020, 2020 Board meeting; personnel matters, leaves and absences; Budget Amendments as of October 31, 2020; approval of RFP #2010-16 Furniture be awarded to all responding vendors that submitted a complete RFP response. The term of this contract, upon governing body approval, shall be for a period from date of award through October 31, 2023 with an option to auto-renew for two (2) one-year extensions. The final expiration date would be October 31, 2025; approval of the quote from J&S Equipment Co. in the amount of \$347,559.00 for classroom and common area furniture for phase two at Strickland Middle School; approval of the quote from J&S Equipment Co. in the amount of

\$340,356.00 for classroom and common area furniture for Wilson Elementary School; approval for the quote received for the Cross Oaks ActivPanel & Extron WallVault purchase in the amount of \$197,185.00 and approval of Surplus Property as submitted).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider  
Approval of the  
2020 Certified  
Tax Roll

Motion by Charles Stafford and seconded by Jim Alexander

To approve the 2020 Certified Tax Roll with a combined levy of \$289,509,344.5.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider  
Approval of  
Legislative  
Priorities in  
Preparation of  
the 87<sup>th</sup>  
Legislative  
Session

Motion by Mia Price and seconded by Charles Stafford

To approve the Legislative Priorities in Preparation of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session with minor editorial changes.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Closed Meeting

The Board convened into Closed Session at 9:37 pm

Open Meeting

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 11:52 pm

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 am

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President

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Secretary