

Brackett Independent School District
Board Minutes of Monthly Meeting
February 13, 2006

Members Present	-	Sondra Meil, Ronnie Hobbs, Jeffrey Duncan, Tony Ashley
Member Absent	-	Henry Lutz, Sara Terrazas, Mark Frerich
Administrators Present	-	Paula Renken, Alma Gutierrez, Frank Taylor, George Burks
Guests	-	Francine Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Todd Schroeder, Jacob Schroeder, Gabby Schroeder, Diana Ward, Leigh Volcsko, Veronica Swinson, Rachel Swinson, Michael Flores, Glenora Flores, Mike Fores, Marla Madrid, Susan Esparza

1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISH QUORUM

Sondra Meil, Vice-President, called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE

Ronnie Hobbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. RECOGNIZE STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The board and Principal George Burks recognized student Michael Flores for his honesty in returning some found money to its rightful owner. Michael was presented with a certificate.

Also recognized by the board, along with Principal Frank Taylor, were students; Michael Stephenson – Nominated by State Senator Madla for the NASA “High School Aerospace Scholar” program, Gabriella Schroeder – chosen for the Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership Award, and Rachel Swinson – recipient of the Border Patrol “Outstanding Student” Award.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No guests were present for public forum participation.

4. MINUTES

Minutes for January 17, 2006 Monthly Meeting

Correction to item #12, Superintendent’s Report, added words in bold: *Alamo Heights payments will start in February, and run through August.*

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve the minutes for January 17, 2006, with one correction to item #12. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried with Tony Ashley abstaining.

5. BUSINESS & FINANCE

A. MONTHLY RECAP OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

Marla Madrid explained the regular recap includes revenue and some federal programs. Expenditures are normal for this time of year. April 3rd is the cut-off day for purchase orders.

Richard Terrazas was given an end of February deadline to spend the \$50,000.00 SECO grant money.

B. QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT

We are into the last 3rd quarter of the year. Year to Date total interest earned is \$78,397.07.

C. CHECK RUN

A check to Audio Optical System (\$4,535.00) is flow-through one-time only money for Special Ed. materials. Quality Hardwood Floors (\$4,393.28) redid both gym floors. A large check (\$34,134.17) to Reliant Energy Solutions covers three months of electricity, September through December. Part of the money to Trevino Electric (\$13,0009.27) we will get back through the SECO grant.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: ENROLLMENT, DISCIPLINE REPORT, & CURRENT EVENTS

Jones Elementary (Alma Gutierrez)

Refer to written report. Enrollment is 241. Enrolled two this morning. Mr. LaFrenz's music program is a success and they hope to continue this next year. The second St Henry De Osso parenting session is tonight. A Math-a-Thon will be held the last week in February to practice math skills and also help the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. First TAKS test is February 21st, because of this a request has been made to have the new lighting installed in the testing rooms first. A transportation meeting has been scheduled. As an incentive for the reading program, students will go to Six Flags. Teachers received a surprise today, parents arranged for them to get a massage; head, shoulders, no knees and toes.

Jones Intermediate & Junior High School (George Burks)

Refer to written report. Intermediate enrollment is 87. Junior High enrollment is 125. Fourteen students and parents attended a GEOFORCE meeting. Some of the students were from last year. Program developed to motivate students of color and females in Geology, with summer academies, field trips and research projects. Students not chosen will still go on day field trips. The program is being promoted by Cathy Lutz. One student was reaccepted into the Medina Children's Home today. Principal Burks will have a card ready for the Board to sign for student Edward Solis who is back in the hospital. Six girls were caught fighting and have been dealt with accordingly. This has been brewing over a period of years. One student is still in Alternative. Principal Frank Taylor handled the fight in Mr. Burks absence. Teacher Mary Petrosky received bruises to both upper arms trying to keep one student from getting to the other. No one was seriously injured. The district took a positive stand and filed charges. A court date will be set at a later time.

High School (Frank Taylor)

Refer to written report. High School enrollment is 168, dropped two and enrolled one this morning. Educational Academy is 17, and staying about the same. Seven students are going to an engineering conference put on by the Texas A&M Women's Math & Science in Austin. Have lots of teachers attending trainings. Louisa Stone attended a training last week at Region 20 for updates on how to properly code transcripts. Basketball is winding down, the girls just barely missed the playoffs. Track season will be starting on the 25th and tennis is coming up. Second of a four part parenting session is tonight.

At this time, administrators were excused so they could attend the parent meeting.

7. **S.H.A.C. WELLNESS POLICY**

Nurse Francine Collins reviewed the new local wellness policy, FFA, developed by the School Health Advisory Committee. Many of the policies associated with FFA are already in place. Additional policies were selected because the committee felt the district could handle and do them well. Policies were developed to combat obesity. Nurse Collins commended the Cafeteria for introducing more fruit and healthier choices for students. The committee will meet again in March to address bullying, and again obesity and how student wellness affects the whole community. Paula Renken commended Nurse Collins and her committee for developing a policy the district can work with.

A motion was made by Jeff Duncan to adopt local wellness policy FFA as recommended by the School Health Advisory Committee. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION, MAY 13, 2006**

A. ORDER OF ELECTION

Two terms expire in May, those of Mark Frerich and Sondra Meil. If unopposed, March 21st is the last day to cancel an election. Tony Ashley questioned the expiration date of Jeff Duncan's term. Susan Esparza will check on his term.

A motion and Order of Election to be held May 13, 2006, was made by Tony Ashley and seconded by Ronnie Hobbs. The motion carried unanimously.

B. APPOINT ELECTION OFFICIALS

Connie Coronado has agreed to preside as Judge over the May 13, 2006, election, with Cynthia Gose as Alternate Judge, Susan Esparza as Early Voting Clerk, Gracie Mata and Sue Castro as Deputy Clerks. Due to her mother running as a candidate, Marla Madrid is unable to serve as a clerk this year.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve the list of election officials as presented. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. BOARD MEMBER CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

Sondra Meil conducted a reading of CEI hours for individual board members in accordance with legal policy BBD. Continuing education hours for the 05/07/05 – 02/13/06 reporting period were read as follows:

Tony Ashley	22.50	exceeded	Henry Lutz	14.00	exceeded
Jeffrey Duncan	14.00	deficient *3 hrs.	Sondra Meil	15.00	exceeded
Mark Frerich	17.50	exceeded	Sara Terrazas	15.25	exceeded
Ronnie Hobbs	12.75	exceeded			

A request was made by Ronnie Hobbs to check both his and Henry Lutz's hours. Also, check Jeffrey Duncan's hours for *3 hours of Tier I Local District Orientation. Paula Renken stated the orientation was done with both Jeffrey Duncan and Henry Lutz in attendance. A request was made by Sondra Meil for the minutes to reflect **Jeffrey Duncan does meet or exceed the required CEI hours.**

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to accept the board members continuing education hours. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. PARAPROFESSIONAL/AUXILIARY PAY STEP INCREASE

Paula Renken stated the actual policy was adopted last year in April, now proposing the entry-level table for paraprofessionals and auxiliary personnel be moved up one step all the way down, at the same rate of 4%. This would make the starting rate a little bit more. A "row 25" was also added for longevity employees. Teachers recently received a state raise, moving up one step. Paula Renken recommended the same be done for the paraprofessionals.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to approve a pay step increase for paraprofessional and auxiliary personnel as presented. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. MULTI-HAZARD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Paula Renken gave a brief history of Senate Bill 11, introduced by Senator Todd Staples in the 79th legislative session, signed by Governor Perry in June, and effective September 1, 2005. SB11 mandates were brought about to ensure the safety of students and employees by developing security criteria for the design of school facilities, security audits every 3 years, and a multi-hazard emergency operations plan (EOP). Mrs. Renken stated the emergency operations plan concentrates on four main areas; mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The plan will never be completed. It will be continually updated. Major point will be employee training and recommended "table top maneuvers," simply sitting down and discussing if this happens what would you do. The plan must be adopted by March 1st. Out of 21 annexes, a brief review was conducted of the 14 that pertain to our district. Paula Renken recommended adoption of the basic plan with the holes to be filled in as we go.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to adopt the BISD Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan as presented. Tony Ashley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

11. LOCAL POLICY UPDATE 77, SECOND READING

The board conducted a second reading of local policy Update 77. Policies BBFA, DBD, and CHE all deal with Conflict of Interest, which will be discussed during the Superintendent's report. Paula Renken touched on BBD, now requiring board members to receive training on the Texas Open Meetings Act and Texas Public Information Act. Other policies reviewed include DBA which keeps the teacher "the teacher of record" if they go to help out at the Academy / Alternative School, and FFA wellness policy which was addressed tonight.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Duncan to adopt Update 77 as recommended by TASB. Sondra Meil seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12. BOARD POLICY CCG (LOCAL), HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

As discussed at the last meeting, local policy CCG was revised to include the word "minimum," giving flexibility to increase the percent of a property owners tax exemption if the board feels it is warranted. The revision pertains to residential property. Current policy allows a 25% tax exemption.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to adopt local policy CCG as revised, and waiving a second reading. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

13. PURCHASE A SUBURBAN

This will be the second suburban purchased. We have the money, but as the cost is over \$10,000.00, the Superintendent needs approval to move funds for the purchase. Paula Renken gave an example of why it is needed. Recently, a route vehicle had a motor problem, putting it

out of commission. We did not have a back-up vehicle and could not use the vans, so Richard had to combine two routes making them longer. This meant parents had to be called, etc. By purchasing a suburban we will alleviate the problem of no back-up, and it could also be used for activities. It will have a BISD sticker and a deer guard will be added. This will be a used vehicle. The last suburban purchased was in '03 for \$18,000.00.

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to allow the Superintendent to proceed with the purchase of a Suburban. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No Parking Signs

TX-DOT was here today and marked where the signs will go. They were going to install the signs but came back and said the signs will be in by Friday. There is some confusion over who will paint the stripes, it will probably be the state. It is "No Parking" at anytime.

In March, the committee will look at the parking lot area across the street to decide what needs to be done to get it ready. By accident, an 8' deep cistern was found on the property, a leftover from an old septic system. It has been covered with plywood and crossties. Richard Terrazas will fill it up with debris from the track field.

Track Field

John Graves is 99% finished with the drawings and specs., he will take bids for a few days and then would like to come to the March meeting to open them. We will have two bids; the storage warehouse, and track/concession stand.

Because the March 13th meeting falls during Spring Break, a recommendation was made by Paula Renken to move it to March 20th. Following a brief discussion, the board agreed to March 20th at 6:00 p.m.

John Graves would like the water line to come back about a 100' from where they stopped. The city is looking at the cost to bore under the highway. Mr. Graves said to let them go as far as they want when they go under.

Richard Terrazas has been given a May 1st deadline to have debris and trash removed from the track area behind the concession stand. There is a problem getting to the debris because of bees, which have been there for two years. The bee problem is too big for Richard to handle so Corey's Pest Control has been contacted to remove them. Bonfire debris will also be cleaned up. There will be no more saving "stuff" for a rainy day or the bonfire. Another location may need to be found for the bonfire as the shot ring and discus will be going in.

Ronnie Hobbs stated Sheriff Burgess is willing to let the school use the property by the water tower, north of the track, for parking. The lot, about 10 acres, is owned by the Sheriff's department and would need to be cleaned up. We would also need to put something around their building and come up with an inter-agency agreement.

Conflict of Interest

The district purchase order was revised to comply with HS 914, by inserting a paragraph informing vendors where to go on our website to obtain everything they need to know about us and Conflict of Interest and download a questionnaire. The vendor has seven days to file the questionnaire with the district. On Friday, 78 packets were mailed to vendors that normally do not use purchase orders. Once a Conflict of Interest questionnaire is returned by fax or mail, it is scanned and posted on our website. The questionnaire has to be scanned because of the required signature. It cannot be emailed. Our district is in compliance. As government officers for the

district, the Superintendent and Board must also fill out a questionnaire. Technology Coordinator Noe Maldonado deserves credit for setting this up. Taylor Stephenson is using our website as an example for other districts since no one else in the Region 20 area have done this yet.

At the request of a parent and agreed to by the board, item 16, Public Forum was moved up.

PUBLIC FORUM

Parent Leah Volcsko voiced concerns over a great dane which chases her daughter to school on a weekly basis. There has been more than one or two incidents involving this dog and other children. He also bit a child. When approached, the county and city have been unwilling or unable to do anything about the problem. There is a state law that relates to animals and being a public nuisance. Mrs. Volcsko appealed to the board for help.

Susan Esparza voiced her concerns over the same issue of dogs running freely. She is afraid to walk to school because of six to seven dogs that run together in back of the school. Several months ago, a parent voiced his concerns about the same problem. A dog had chased his daughter on the playground before school. He had also gone to the city and they refused to do anything. Mrs. Esparza is afraid that one day a child will be attacked and it could have been prevented.

Leah Volcsko had several additional questions. Paula Renken directed Mrs. Volcsko to the Texas ISD.com website for information on the laws relating to van use. Sondra Meil verified that upon further review, all board members meet or exceed the required continuing education hours. Paula Renken stated the No Parking signs were a safety issue.

A short break was called for at 7:50 p.m., with the board convening into a Closed Session at 7:55 p.m., pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.074 Personnel.

15. *PERSONNEL, PURSUANT TO GOV'T CODE 551.074

A. POSSIBLE HIRE FOR VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHER POSITION

The board convened into Open Session at 8:17 p.m., and took the following action:

A motion was made by Tony Ashley to approve the hiring of Vocational AG teacher Shatona Hicks. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sara Terrazas, Secretary

Date

Date