

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, February 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

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

Board Members Present: Bundgus, Burns, English, Price, Sosa-Sanchez, Stafford, and Tays

Board Members

Absent:

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present:

Brown, O’Bara, Parham, Pierce, Rainey, Robinson, Russell, Schulz, Stevenson, Stewart, Thompson, and Wilson

Others:

Cindy Breeding, *Denton Record-Chronicle*; citizens, staff, and students

Pledges

The Pledges to the Flags were led by Pecan Creek Elementary School students.

Presentations/
Recognitions

Denton ISD’s Purchasing Department has been recognized by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) with a 2024 Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations. The Award of Merit was established in 2009 to recognize Texas school districts that are committed to following professional standards in the acquisition of goods and services. For 2024, Denton ISD was one of only 77 recipients that met the stringent criteria to qualify for the award. Members of Denton ISD’s Purchasing Department were honored at an awards reception on Feb. 21 in Houston during the 2024 TASBO annual conference.

Denton ISD has received a \$46,423 rebate from BuyBoard for purchases made in 2022-2023. The BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative is a cooperative formed by governmental entities to streamline the buying process for public schools, municipalities, and other governmental entities. For purchases to qualify for potential rebates, members must indicate on the purchase order that a BuyBoard contract was used, and then send the purchase order to BuyBoard. In 2020-21, BuyBoard returned its largest rebate to date – more than \$10.7 million – to 987 Cooperative members across Texas, including public schools, colleges and universities, and local governmental entities. Since 2006, more than \$80 million has been rebated to eligible members.

The Denton Public School Foundation (DPSF) has received a \$35,000 donation from CoServ that will be used for student scholarships and teacher

grants. CoServ is a longtime supporter of Denton ISD, and its latest donation will continue to impact classrooms.

Last fall, DPSF awarded \$142,869 across 139 different scholarships and classroom grants during its annual prize pep rally. 139 scholarships and grants were awarded to 165 Denton ISD teachers and staff members across 42 campuses.

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

Public Hearings for Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR)

Dr. Lacey Rainey, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Programs shared the annual 2022-2023 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) which is provided to each public school district from the Texas Education Agency. The **Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR)** pulls together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. Performance is shown disaggregated by student groups, including ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The reports also provide extensive information on school and district staff, programs, and student demographics.

The TAPR report includes the following:

- Attendance
- Graduation
- Dropout
- Graduation Profile
- College, Career, and Military Readiness
- STAAR and EOC Performance
- Student Demographics
- Teacher Demographics and,
- Staff Information.

The overview of student performance for Denton ISD, the class of 2022-2023 school year had a total of 2154 graduates and the credit for College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR) credit was 72.2%. The District's graduation rate for 2022 was 100% and the attendance rate for 2022 was 97%.

President Price opened the public hearing at 6:21 pm and asked for comments and no one wished to speak.

Discussion of 2024-2025 Budget

Jennifer Stewart, Executive Director of Budget reviewed the district's 2023-2024 Debt Service and the 2024-2025 budget planning. The Homestead exemption was increased on September 1, 2023, from \$40,000 to \$100,000 and the district lost value on their tax roll. The legislature has a Hold Harmless Provision that provides relief to school districts. According to MoakCasey this increase in the Homestead exemption (SB2) took about \$300 billion off the tax rolls across the state. The initial budget was built on

an 18% growth projection but after the district received its Certified Values with the \$100K homestead exemption and the Supplemental roll which include the over 65 and disabled exemptions the growth was 12.12%.

The district was able to make a prepayment to escrow of \$7,535,000 which provided taxpayers a total savings since 2005 of \$315,899,975. Due to market conditions the district was able to restructure the 2020-A Bond Series and provided the district with an additional \$1,000,000.

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

Discussion of 2024-2025 Open & Closed Campuses to Transfers

Leslie Guajardo, Director of Student Support Services provided the Board of Trustees with a summary of Denton ISD's functional capacity and projected enrollment data for the 2024-2025 school year. This report will also identify current Denton ISD campuses that are open or closed to intra-district and inter-district transfers. The analysis and monitoring of Denton ISD's functional capacity, projected enrollment data, staffing ratios, programming needs and other critical factors that may arise will ensure that our current practices address the rapid growth of the district while ensuring that we remain committed to providing equitable and balanced opportunities for every student in Denton ISD. The current designed capacity number is 740 for elementary schools, 1000 for middle schools, 2400 for DHS and RHS, and 2800 for BHS and GHS. According to board policy, elementary buildings shall be closed to transfers when campus enrollment reaches 85% of the calculated maximum capacity. A secondary building shall be closed to transfers when campus enrollment reaches 90% of the calculated maximum capacity.

Based on these projected numbers, the following elementary schools will be open for transfers:

Braswell Zone- Bell, Martinez, and Paloma Creek;
Denton Zone- Alexander, Borman, Houston, and WS Ryan;
Guyer Zone- Adkins, Blanton, EP Rayzor, Hawk, McNair, and Nelson;
Ryan Zone- Stephens.

The following middle schools will be open for transfers:

Braswell Zone- Cheek, Navo, and Rodriguez;
Denton Zone- Calhoun and McMath;
Guyer Zone- Crownover, Harpool;
Ryan Zone- Myers.

At the high school level, Denton High School will be open to transfers.

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

Intruder Detection Audit Report

Region 11 is conducting Intruder Detection Audits pursuant to updated legal requirements. To date 29 Denton ISD schools have been reviewed. Corrective actions, if any, have been completed at this time. Further details have been provided to the Board in executive session and will be provided to

the district's Safety and Security Committee in an upcoming meeting for the purpose of safety and security.

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

1st Open Forum No one wished to speak.

Consent Agenda Motion by Sheryl English and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To Approve (the minutes of the February 13, 2024, board meeting, personnel matters, leaves, and absences; Naming of Karsten Hatcher as Martinez Elementary School Principal; Naming of Nicole Poole as Alexander Elementary School Principal; Naming of Lori Robertson as Paloma Creek Principal; Budget Amendment as of February 20, 2024; approval of RFP #2402-02 Consultant Services for Primary Insurance be awarded to Roach Howard Smith & Barton (RHSB); approval of Memorandum of Agreement by and between University of North Texas and Denton ISD for Teacher Residencies; approval of Change Order to decrease the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) by \$557,164.80 submitted by Steele & Freeman for the Summer Renovations Project on Evers Park, Hodge and Pecan Creek Elementary Schools; approval of the Joint Election Agreement and Contract for Election Services between the Denton County Elections Administrator and Denton ISD for the May 4, 2024 Trustee Election; approval of Ann Windle School for Young Children (AWSYC) January Head Start compliance report and Monthly Information Report, Enrollment and Attendance, Meal Count/Volunteer Hours and Financials; approval of service agreement between the Denton ISD Board of Trustees and Right at School, LLC to provide after school enrichment programs at the following elementary schools: Bell, Cross Oaks, Martinez, Paloma Creek, Providence, Sandbrock Ranch, Savannah, and Union Park, Right at School to provide summer enrichment programs at the following elementary schools: Ginnings, Paloma Creek, Providence, and Stephens; approval of Resolution authorizing the Superintendent to have the authority to hire contractual personnel from March 1 through September 30, 2024).

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

2nd Open Forum The following community members addressed the Board of Trustees: Lizzy Johnson, Paul Jessen, Kerol Harrod, Dr. Terry Senne, Mary Kuhfelot, Donna Smith, Marian Levinstein, Rebecca Bertoni, Derek Van Wyngarden, Peyton Inge, Terry Gooch, Melinda Preston, Kristine Bray, Carol Ann Soph, Ed Soph, Adam Briggie, Kelly Born, Valerie Garcia and Ophelia Hamen

Level 3 Grievance Hearing Under Board Policy GF Mia Price, Board President called the Level III Grievance Hearing from a member of the public requesting removal of the books, *Jacob's New Dress and Jacob's Room to Choose* to order.

The grievant Ms. Debi Scaggs was represented by Mr. Mitch Little, who presented the information requesting the removal of the books listed above.

Dr. Lisa Thibodeaux presented her response from the administration regarding the request for the removal of the books listed above.

Motion by Lori Tays and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To grant our parents the right to determine the educational material available to their children, uphold Board Policy, comply with state and federal law, and affirm the Administration's response to the Level 2 Grievance on these titles.

The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 1

Closed Meeting The Board convened into Closed Session at 8:30 pm

Open Meeting The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:35 pm

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm

President

Secretary