

Brackett Independent School District
Board Minutes of Monthly Meeting
March 21, 2006

Members Present	-	Mark Frerich, Ronnie Hobbs, Sondra Meil, Jeffrey Duncan, Sara Terrazas
Member Absent	-	Henry Lutz, Tony Ashley
Administrators Present	-	Paula Renken, George Burks, Alma Gutierrez, Frank Taylor
Guests	-	Gloria Ortiz, Lorenzo Ortiz, Shatona Hicks, Terry Carcasi, John Graves, Jr., Bill Haenn, Bo Hagler, Gabriela Talamantes, Dora Talamantes, Pam Melancon, Kandace LaMascus, Leigh Volcsko, 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

Jeffrey Duncan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No guests were present for public forum participation.

3. RECOGNIZE TEACHERS & DISTRICT

Principal Frank Taylor introduced Vocational AG Teacher Shatona Hicks who gave the board a brief background of her education, and plans for the program. Her immediate goal is to get officers together to start holding regular meetings by August, and work on plans to participate in state and national livestock conventions.

Counselor Lorenzo Ortiz discussed the importance of parental involvement. Thirty parents attended a recent local Family Frameworks session. Session two will include Junior High and High School parents. The main goal of Family Frameworks is to establish communication between school and community. Mr. Ortiz commended Terry Carcasi, Gracie Mata, and Marci Resendez, for help in making the first presentation a success. Mr. Ortiz also discussed the Parental Involvement Conference held by the Del Rio San Felipe Consolidated School District. Brackett received a certificate for its attendance at the annual conference.

Principal Alma Gutierrez introduced Migrant Coordinator Terry Carcasi. Ms. Carcasi stated her main goal is to get more migrant students motivated into going to college. The University of Texas tracks an estimated 16,000 migrant students, offering distance and on-line learning classes for those in the program. Ms. Carcasi introduced 10th grader Gabriela Talamantes, who recently received the university's "Exemplary Student Award." Gabriela, a migrant student enrolled in the UT program, works with her parents in Montana part of the year, while at the same time, keeping up with her schooling. Since both of her parents did not finish school, Gabriela's goal is to not only finish school, but to go on to college. The university hopes that by acknowledging these exemplary students, their peers will be encouraged to continue their education. Gabriela is

one of thirty-seven students in the state of Texas to receive the award. Her picture will be included on a poster and in university brochures.

4. MINUTES

Minutes for February 13, 2006 Monthly Meeting

Vice President Sondra Meil noted Jeffrey Duncan is in compliance, having met, or exceeded required continuing education credit.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve the minutes for February 13, 2006, as presented. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried with Sara Terrazas and Mark Frerich abstaining.

5. BUSINESS & FINANCE

A. MONTHLY RECAP OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

The district has started to receive Alamo Heights payments. About \$49,000.00 of S.E.C.O. grant money went on lighting improvements for the district. A representative from the State Energy Conservation Office will be here tomorrow to conduct an inspection of how and where the money was spent.

B. CHECK RUN

Paula Renken highlighted several checks. Alamo Iron Works received a check (\$565.86) for AG shop supplies to build a trailer. Funds were transferred to the BISD Activity Fund to cover the Thanksgiving luncheon. TASB received a check (\$4,484.00) for pre-paid workers compensation. Paula Renken stated she and Marla Madrid met with a representative from TASB today who informed them district premiums will go down \$3,000.00 for next year.

6. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR FOR KINNEY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

Chief Appraiser Bill Haenn stated the appraisal district board works independent of the county and has nine members elected by the taxing units. The board meets every other month, and has four meetings left in the year. Due to several resignations, and now the passing of Mike Holley, Lynn McCarson has been appointed as an interim board member. Mr. Haenn stated they have a quorum of four, but would like a fifth member. He has spoken to Henry Lutz about his request. Paula Renken stated J.E. Meil is interested in the position.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to appoint J.E. Meil as Director for the Kinney County Appraisal District. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried with Sondra Meil abstaining.

7. 2006-2007 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Paula Renken conducted a review of calendar "A," submitted by the calendar committee for approval. The committee included a good mix of all campus teachers, and a coach. The calendar is a result of staff voting. Calendar "A" is traditional and similar to what we have now.

A motion was made by Mark Frerich to approve the 2006-2007 school calendar as presented. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. FINALIZE RANKING/AWARD BIDS FOR STORAGE FACILITY AND TRACK/ CONCESSION STAND

March 9th proposals were accepted and opened. The storage building received three bids. Mike Bizzell with Pioneer Concepts Inc. came out with the low bid \$79,000.00, then Jack Hill Construction \$89,200.00, followed by Dominion Engineering \$89,676.00. Henry Lutz, Sondra

Meil, Paula Renken, and John Graves, Jr., ranked the companies according to a score sheet. The bid amount is 40% of the ranking. Pioneer Concepts Inc. was ranked number 1, Jack Hill Construction number 2, and Dominion Engineering number 3. The low bid of \$79,000.00, when compared to the district estimate of \$72,000.00, will need to be cut some.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Duncan to accept the ranking as presented; Pioneer Concepts Inc. number 1, Jack Hill Construction number 2, and Dominion Engineering number 3. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

John Graves stated because of the completion date of August 1st, he will need to work with Pioneer Concepts to get it the days down to 110 to 120.

A motion was made by Sara Terrazas to award the storage facility bid to Pioneer Concepts for \$72,500, allowing Architect John Graves to negotiate on the number of days, with construction not to exceed the completion date of August 1st. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

No bids were received for the track renovation. Mr. Graves stated few companies do this type of project. Most belong to the State Buy Board and only do resurfacing. The few companies Mr. Graves did talk to are busy this summer. A recommendation was made by John Graves to re-bid the track renovation, giving companies the option to start in September. Bids will be due one week before the May meeting. The board agreed to re-bid as recommended by Mr. Graves.

One bid was received on the concession stand for \$80,502.00; budget is \$60,100.00. With negotiation, Mr. Graves stated we may be able to get down between \$62,000.00 to \$63,000.00. The city is working on the waterline. A recommendation was made by John Graves to re-bid the concession stand also, with no time constraint for building.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to reject the one concession stand bid received, to re-bid at a later date. Sara Terrazas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

John Graves will proceed with setting a date to re-bid and negotiate.

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION, MAY 13, 2006

A. RESOLUTION TO ADOPT D.R.E. VOTING SYSTEM FOR ELECTION USE

See resolution with agenda. Sondra Meil read aloud a proposed resolution to adopt a D.R.E. voting system for election use.

A motion was made by Sara Terrazas to adopt the resolution adopting a Direct Record Electronic Voting system for election use. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. PRECLEARANCE TO U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

The board reviewed a preclearance letter submitted January 9, 2006, to the Department of Justice, as required for compliance with the H.A.,V.A. Voting Rights Act.

10. TEXTBOOK ADOPTION, 2006-2007

Textbook Coordinator George Burks stated no new instructional materials were adopted by the State Board of Education in November 2005, and none will be available for requisitioning in the spring of 2006.

11. PRE-KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT PROPOSAL

Survey results were given to the board in January. The committee was asked to come back with a proposal. Alma Gutierrez stated the committee is recommending half-day open enrollment for pre-kinder students, 4 years old, for 2006-2007. The proposal includes needs, projected numbers (estimate 29), and options as to district financed or tuition. Paula Renken stated current staff and facilities could be used for two half-day sessions, a.m. and p.m. The district does not have to provide transportation. Will be allowed to purchase a meal, free and reduced if they qualify, or pack a lunch. No student would be turned away, but we will need paperwork to see who can be funded. Mrs. Renken recommended taking action in April.

Bo Hagler voiced concerns about curriculum and pre-K score information given to the board at a previous meeting. Mrs. Hagler stated after talking to TEA, the scores compared were not correct or fair, adding the correct guidelines could be found on the TEA website. She also voiced concerns about two different committees. Mrs. Hagler stated there is no TEKS for Pre-K. The board was invited to come by her room to view curriculum.

Alma Gutierrez stated the BISD Pre-K program uses state recommended curriculum.

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

Jones Elementary (Alma Gutierrez)

Refer to written report. Enrollment: 241, Discipline: 6 general, 5 bullying. The first "Family Frameworks" was a huge success. Staff and students celebrated Dr. Seuss Birthday. RTPE testing is next week. Kinder Round-up was also a success. 99% of 3rd Graders who took the TAKS test on February 21st passed it.

Intermediate / Junior High (George Burks)

Refer to written report. Enrollment: 5th - 6th, 87, 7th - 8th, 128. Discipline: 41; 34 general and 7 for fighting (food fight). The students were found guilty of disorderly conduct by the Justice of the Peace and given the option of paying \$148.25 in restitution costs or completing 16 hours of community service. Results of the 5th grade TAKS Reading test were sent to parents on March 17th. Last year 21 failed and 6 were retained in the 5th grade. This year 6 passed, 18 did not make the 1st administration. The students who did not pass have mandatory after school tutorials with regular classroom help and use of the Study Island Program to help ready them for the 2nd round. All but one special education student took the test. Six had never taken a TAKS test before.

Brackett High School / Educational Academy (Frank Taylor)

Refer to written report. Enrollment: 187 for HS and Academic Academy. Lots of staff development going on with teachers coming back with lots of new ideas. American Cancer Society is sponsoring the Relay for Life. Teams of staff and some students are busy with fundraisers. Fifty-six teams went to State debate, 40 were sent home on Monday, 16 teams stayed, Dana Bonner and John Moore made the finals in 9th place. One Act Play is impressive. Band Concert Contest is April 12th. Scheduling is coming up.

Special Education (Melanie Jones)

Numbers are going down. Students are being mainstreamed into the regular classroom. Total for district: 96, and 18 in Speech only.

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

George Burks reviewed the JP's decision on the food fight earlier.

TAKS - Cathy Lutz was commended for getting the staff and students ready. Ninety-eight percent passed in grade 3, state average is 89%, we are well above. Forty percent made

commended, 43% is the state average. In fifth grade, 67% passed, state average is 80%. Mrs. Melancon remains positive since many of these 5th graders have never taken the test before.

EPA – Gracie Mata and Marla Madrid have been working hard to bring the district into compliance. Two bids received for replacing the Cathodic Protection System. Had to have 200 gallons of fuel removed from underground tanks which are now locked. Trevino Electric wired the outside of the old storage building. Richard Terrazas is building a covering to house and protect the system. Once repairs are completed an inspection/survey will be conducted.

Track – Talked with the City Manager. The lines were completed on 3/9/06 and chlorine added to kill bacteria. The lines will be flushed this week and the pressure turned on. Working with TxDot on cost to drill under the highway.

CATE – One of the board's goals is to increase CATE offerings. Paula Renken commended Frank Taylor, Louisa Stone and CATE teachers Cindy Brandt, Yolanda Reuda, Jack Frerich, B. Schroeder, and Shatona Hicks for their work to expand program offerings next year.

Looking at an Optional Flexible School Year Program – Calendar committee came with information about this program, a result of Senate Bill 346, passed in 2003. Utopia is looking at using as an incentive for students who qualify, passed all required TAKS, 75 or better, and less than 10 days of absence. Qualifying students would go home 10 days earlier, leaving smaller classes and extra instructional time for students left. This would do away with the need for summer school. The flexible calendar has only 170 days of instruction, but the district would still be funded by the state for 187.

A short break was called for at 7:50 p.m., with the board convening into a Closed Session at 8:00 p.m., pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.074 Personnel.

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

- A. *CONSIDER RENEWAL/APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACTS**
- B. *CONSIDER RENEWAL/APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL TERM CONTRACTS, 2006-2007**
- C. *CONSIDER APPROVAL OF NON-CERTIFIED CONTRACT, 2006-2007**
- D. *CONSIDER RENEWAL/APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL PROBATIONARY CONTRACTS, 2006-2007**
- E. *LETTERS OF RETIREMENT**

The board convened into Open Session at 9:00 p.m., and took the following action:

Contracts for 2006-2007

A motion was made by Sara Terrazas to approve the renewal of administrative contracts for 2006-2007, and 2007-2008 school years, as recommended. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ronnie Hobbs to approve the renewal of Professional Term contracts for 2006-2007, as recommended. Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara Terrazas to approve Non-Certified contract for 2006-2007, as recommended. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to approve renewal of Professional Probationary contracts for 2006-2007, as recommended. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Letters of Retirement

A motion was made by Jeffrey Duncan to accept letters of retirement for Nurse Francine Collins and Band Director James DCamp. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Certified Agendas

A motion was made by Sara Terrazas to approve a certified agenda for January 30, 2006, as presented. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Duncan to approve a certified agenda for January 17, 2006, as presented. Ronnie Hobbs seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

No guests present for public forum participation.

With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sara Terrazas, Secretary

Date

Date