

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Henderson ISD met Tuesday, January 14, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Henderson ISD Administration Boardroom, 300 Crosby Drive, Henderson, TX 75652 with the following members present:

Russell Brown
Shannon Coats
Loy Dorsey
Justin Scarborough
Sonny Simmons
Dr. John Taylor
Jean Williams

1. **Call to Order at 6:30 PM** – Board President Russell Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
 - A. Invocation (6:30 pm) - The invocation was led by Victor Rodriguez from Southside Baptist Church.
 - B. Pledge to the US Flag and Texas Flag (6:33 pm) – The pledges were led by WES students Ethan Anastas, Jax Foster, and Cora Maddox.
2. **Recognition of guests** (6:34 pm) – President Brown welcomed guests in attendance.
3. **Campus/Staff recognition** (6:34 pm) – The following four teachers were recognized for earning the prestigious National Board Certification: Penni Cross, Sarah Hunnicutt, Lauren Kirk, and Sonya Lee. The following members of the 7th grade A football team were recognized for their accomplishment of having an undefeated season: Kyle Davlin, Mel Reed, Jailyn Coleman, Tailyn Marsh, Kade Jackson, Russell Rains, Caleb Hutto, Maddox Sparks, Harold Jordan, Kaicen Carey, Kevin Garza, Kamarcus Pellum, Teal Goode, Cason Pellum, Day'lyn Montana, Campton McCalister, Carlos Guevara, Oscar Lopez, Lacarl Montgomery, Elijah Arnold, and Beau Frost. The Henderson ISD Board of Trustees were also recognized in honor of Board Appreciation Month for their service to the students of HISD.
4. **Open Forum** (6:53 pm) – Pedro Juarez addressed the board in Open Forum regarding information he received from a Public Information Act request for communications received between board members before school started. He extended his willingness to discuss concerns and help.
5. **Communication from citizens to discuss pending agenda items before the Board** (6:59 pm) – No citizens addressed the board regarding a pending agenda item.
6. **Information/Discussion Agenda Items**
 - A. Hear a report on investment transactions for all funds covered by the Public Funds Investment Act as of November 30, 2024 (6:59 pm) – Kristin Byrd presented the quarterly investment report for all funds covered by the Public Funds Investment Act for the period ending November 30, 2024. The total market value of our investments total \$27,958,031.54. Operating funds make up \$20,870,975.07 of our total investments and are broken down as follows: 63% commercial paper, 5% agencies, 0%

municipal securities, 13% treasuries, and 19% held in our Money Market at Texas Bank. The market value of our debt service investments as of November 30, 2024, was \$7,087,056.47. The district realized \$150,847 of interest as of November 30, 2024, for FY 2025.

B. Financial Report (7:00 pm) - November 2024 – Kristin Byrd presented the reconciled financial report for November 2024.

7. Consider approval of Consent Agenda items (7:01 pm) – A motion was made by Justin Scarborough, with a second by Loy Dorsey, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

A. Approve Minutes of the December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting

B. Approve Minutes of the January 10, 2025, Special Meeting

8. Consider approval of Action Agenda items

A. Consider approval of 2023-2024 Annual Financial Report. (7:01 pm) – Molly Abley from Axley & Rode, LLP presented the 2023-2024 financial audit ending August 31, 2024. They showed an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion that can be given on financial statements, which means that everything in the audit is presented fairly in all material respects. As of August 31, 2024, the district’s overall net position was \$44,991,453. The district has a healthy fund balance, staying above 50% for most of the last five years. TEA considers a healthy fund balance to be about 24% of annual expenditure. The district had a slight decrease in the fund balance in 2024 of \$613,195 which is still at 47%. Cash and investment, compared to the fund balance in the general fund, has over 100% of the fund balance in the operating fund in cash, so we are highly liquidable. There were no findings or compliance issues in the child nutrition program. Internal controls were reviewed and showed to have excellent segregation of duties. There were no audit entries to perform. A motion was made by Shannon Coats, with a second by Dr. John Taylor, to approve the 2023-2024 audit report as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

B. Consider approval of insurance renewal for 2025-2026. (7:10 pm) – Kristin Byrd presented for approval the TASB Risk Management property and liability insurance coverage which will be effective February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026. The proposal includes a change in the deductibles for All Perils except Weather Perils to include a 2% minimum. The district’s contribution for 2025-2026 increased from \$419,547 to \$463,090 (+\$46,543 or 10%). Most of the increase is related to property coverage which has been impacted by severe and unpredictable weather, increases in the value of covered buildings, and inflation increasing the cost of claims. The district had significant losses related to the hailstorm that occurred in April 2023 and is still making repairs caused by the storm and working with TASB on those claims. A motion was made by Sonny Simmons, with a second by Jean Williams, to approve TASB Risk Management property insurance coverage effective February 1, 2025, - January 31, 2026. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

C. Consider approval of the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar. (7:12 pm) - Terry Everitt presented the proposed academic calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. The calendar meets state requirements and prioritizes instructional time as well as district goals and

priorities. Stakeholder input was gathered through surveys and discussions with campus leadership, teachers, and community members within the DEIC committee. The calendar includes 75,600 instructional minutes, 2 bad weather days, 187 teacher contract calendar days, required CTE minutes, and classes will not begin before August 1 (according to the District of Innovation Plan.) Spring Break must also align with Kilgore College for dual credit students. The final two calendar drafts were presented to the staff for a vote, which received 90% of the vote. A motion was made by Sonny Simmons, with a second by Shannon Coats, to approve the recommendation to adopt this academic calendar. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

9. **Superintendent Report (7:17 pm)** - Interim Superintendent Jim Dunlap reported that at midyear, our 2023-24 Fall PEIMS report showed an ethnic distribution of 40% Hispanic, 36% Caucasian, 18% African American, with the remaining percentage as "other." The report showed enrollment at 3,245, which is about a 1% decrease in enrollment from last year. There is a slight increase in 504 and GT students. There is a significant increase in SPED students, a 7% increase over last year. It also reported an 8% increase in at-risk and a 14% increase in dyslexia students. There is a 29% increase in the immigrant population and a 105% increase in the homeless population. A video detailing the PLC process was also shared.

A. Enrollment/Attendance Report

10. **Set date, time, and location of next Regular Board Meeting**

A. Tentative date, time, and location of Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the Administration Boardroom, 300 Crosby Drive, Henderson, Texas. A new time of 6:00 pm was proposed to accommodate several trustees.

The HISD Board of Trustees ended Open Session at 7:26 pm.

11. **The Board of Trustees will conduct an Executive/Closed Session pursuant to the following provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 et seq. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in Open Session.**

A. 551.071 – Consultation with Attorney: A governmental body may conduct a private consultation with its attorney when the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation; or a settlement offer; or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter

B. 551.072 - Deliberate the Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property if Deliberation in an Open Meeting would have a Detrimental Effect on the Position of the Governmental Body in Negotiations with a Third Person

C. 551.074 - Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee; or to Hear a Complaint or Charge Against an Officer or Employee;

1. Consider hiring personnel
2. Consider personnel resignations

D. Discussion of Board Relations Between the Members of the Board of Trustees and the Relationship of the Board of Trustees with the Superintendent of Schools

E. 551.076 - Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits; Closed Meeting. This chapter does not require a governmental body to conduct an open meeting to deliberate:

- 1. The deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or
- 2. A security audit.

F. 551.129 - A Governmental Body May Use a Telephone Conference Call, Video Conference Call, or Communications Over the Internet to Conduct a Public Consultation with its Attorney in an Open Meeting of the Governmental Body or a Private Consultation with its Attorney in a Closed Meeting of the Governmental Body
The HISD Board of Trustees reconvened in Open Session at 8:44 pm.

12. Consider possible action on items discussed in Closed Session.

Upon return to Open Session, the following action was taken:

A motion was made by Loy Dorsey, with a second by Shannon Coats, to approve equipment for campus safety and security supplies in the amount of \$51,237. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

A motion was made by Sonny Simmons, with a second by Justin Scarborough, to approve all recommendations on accepting resignations and hires as presented by the administration. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

13. Adjournment (8:46 pm)- With no further business, a motion was made by Dr. John Taylor, with a second by Sonny Simmons, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF BOARD

Henderson Independent School District
Name of School District

Rusk
County

201-902
Co.-Dist. Number

We, the undersigned, certify that the attached annual financial reports of the above named school district were reviewed and (check one) approved disapproved for the year ended August 31, 2024, at a meeting of the board of trustees of such school district on the 14th day of January.


Signature of Board Secretary


Signature of Board President

If the board of trustees disapproved of the auditor's report, the reason(s) for disapproving it is (are):
(attach list as necessary)

