

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Brownwood Independent School District

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Brownwood Independent School District (BISD) was held on Monday, April 13, 2020 beginning at 6:30 PM. Meetings of the Board are normally held at 2707 Southside Drive, Brownwood, Texas; however, this meeting was conducted by video and audio conference in accordance with the governance authorization concerning suspension of certain open meeting law requirements for the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) disaster.

A quorum of members of the Board participated in the meeting and was audible to the public.

The session was called to order by Board President, Michael Cloy. BISD Trustee, Tim Jacobs gave the invocation.

The following Board members were remotely present via virtual conference: Michael Cloy, Roderick Jones, Sr., Dr. Lisa Fowler, Eric Evans, Codie Smith, Tim Jacobs, and Diane Thompson.

Other BISD personnel present by virtual conference: Dr. Joe Young, Liesa Land, Mitch Moore, Doug Bonsal, Charles Musgrove, and Karen Dempsey.

BISD Deputy Superintendent, Liesa Land presented the Instructional Focus update. Land mentioned the good work being done by the Brownwood ISD administrators and teachers preparing and adapting during this off-campus instruction time. Videoconference meetings are being held weekly to coordinate the distribution and return of instructional materials and Tuesday, April 14, has been set for the next round of materials that will span the next 3 weeks. Schools have been working to get as many students as possible working through electronic devices for instruction, though packets continue to be available for those that may need or desire that method. Individualized instruction is also meeting the needs of students in Special Populations such as Dyslexia, English as a Second Language (ESL), Gifted and Talented, Special Education, and more. Land added that the school counselors have done a great job continuing to be available for students and parents, keeping their website up-to-date, and coming up with fun and innovative ways to support kids. Land also noted that Brownwood ISD Food Service/Southwest Food Excellence (SFE), continues to go above and beyond preparing and distributing meals.

BISD Superintendent, Dr. Joe Young expressed a similar sentiment to Mrs. Land with regards to the BISD staff and the great job they have done through the COVID-19 response. The Texas Governor, Greg Abbott, has extended the disaster declaration for the State of Texas, which Dr. Young noted was different than the school closure orders, which had not yet officially changed. Dr. Young added that the Governor would send out details pertaining to schools at a later time. Teleconference meetings continue with Region 15 superintendents sharing ideas on how to best address certain situations. One topic of discussion is how to handle grading during this time. A grading policy has been drafted and sent to school administrators for review and revisions. It will be available soon for the Board to review and consider for approval. Dr. Young emphasized that the district would not be punishing students for the time they are not in school, and that the grading policy takes into account the impact on GPA and class rank. Texas Education Commissioner, Mike Morath has also made it very clear that for a student to receive credit for a course they must do some kind of work and it is up to the teacher and local district to determine if it is enough. If a student does not complete any work, and no successful contact has been made throughout the time of off-campus instruction, that would be the rare case where credit could not be given.

The following Departmental Report was presented:

Quarterly Financial Report: Information provided included the Quarterly Financial Report as of March 31, 2020.

A resolution regarding delegation to the superintendent for possible necessary waivers was considered. Waivers of instructional minutes, teacher and administrative appraisals, and others may be required as the closure continues. Timely filing of waivers is necessary. Trustee Jones made a motion to approve the resolution delegating authority to the Superintendent to apply for waivers during the COVID closure. Trustee Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items on the Consent Agenda were approved unanimously as presented, with a motion by Trustee Eric Evans and a second by Trustee Diane Thompson.

The items on the consent agenda included the following:

- March 16, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- March 16, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes

The board moved into executive session at 6:48 p.m. to discuss a Level III Parent Grievance (in closed session at the request of the parent/guardian) and personnel matters. They returned to open session at 7:33 p.m.

Board President, Michael Cloy asked for any motion with regards to the grievance. Hearing no motion, the matter was concluded.

Trustee Jacobs made a motion to approve the Term and Probationary Contracts for teachers to be employed during the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. Trustee Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Michael Cloy
President

Dr. Lisa Fowler
Secretary