

Aransas Pass Independent School District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on December 9, 2024

The Aransas Pass Independent School District Board of Trustees held a regular board meeting on December 9, 2024 in the boardroom located at 2300 McMullen Lane, Suite 600, Aransas Pass, Texas.

President, Wanese Butler; Vice President, John Mullenax; Secretary, Olivia Hill; Trustee, Delfino Flores; Trustee, Victor Galvan; and Trustee, Terry Stansberry were present. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Glenn Barnes; Director of Curriculum, Heather Waugh-Hurta; Director of Business and Finance, Melinda Chapa; Assistant Superintendent, Wayne Bennett; Director of Special Programs, Chris Johnson; Faulk Elementary Principal, Eunice Salazar-Banks; Charlie Marshall Elementary Principal, Misty Del Angel; AC Blunt Middle School Principal, Rose Tran; Aransas Pass High School Principal, Joshua Rombs; and other interested parties.

Absent was Trustee, David Rector.

Opening Ceremonies

With a quorum established, President, Wanese Butler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Trustee, Delfino Flores led the group in the pledges of allegiance to the Texas and United States flags. President, Wanese Butler delivered the invocation.

Public Testimony

At this time President, Wanese Butler opened the meeting for any member of the community who would like to address the board on matters concerning the district.

Donovan Bennett: My name is Donovan Bennett I live here in Aransas Pass been here for about 12 years I am a concerned Citizen and I'm also a parent of a future AP High School student I have come to get really involved with our Athletic program here in the community the last two to three years based on the results of what I see uh to give you guys a little bit of background I've explored almost every High School in our region over here because every year I put on a meet to bring kids together to help them with their Fitness initiatives when I was meeting with the coach here at the program here at coach Taylor I found nothing but kids that were accepting kids that were very humbled kids that were very appreciative of our time that we wanted to spend with them and help them with learning how to lift proper how to how to coach proper talking with Coach Taylor and meeting with these kids uh I found that there was a lot more involved with Coach Taylor what he was doing what he was representing with these kids and the thing I'm bringing up is his dismissal as the head athletic director and head coach of football is a gross Injustice it needs to be reconsidered it needs to be reversed what you can quantify on a win loss program has nothing to do with what you lose with development of our next Generation students our next generation of human beings in our community what I've seen what coach Taylor is trying to bring to the table and what he has bring brought to the table is kids that have H kids that have commitment kids that show up you know when he showed up here he had 17 or I think it was 15 children or 15 students show up for his first year program last two years he's been averaging 70 that's buyin you can't just buy that you can't just bring a new coach in for that you have to give the man an opportunity to develop a program and I've done my homework a ran has passed in the last 20 years had a 36% win ratio period they've only had five seasons of above 500 in 20 years you Can't Blame a coach on that there's a lot of people sitting in this board

who've been there that whole time it's time we take our own initiatives and you know we as parents and concerned citizens hold the Schoolboard accountable you guys think you know what's best for our community what's best for our high school I don't see it that way we've had six different head coaches in that same duration we've had a lot of we had a school a lot of school board members here they've been through that whole thing tell me what the common denominator is you know I feel and I'd like to show how many kids are in here to represent coach Taylor raise your hand these kids come in here on their time there's adults and there's concerned parents everybody in here I've met with a lot of these kids in their school and at the at the weightlifting gym in the program with him I've supported them myself I came up here in the summer program I dug in my pocket I brought in pallets of Gatorade and protein because the program is severely underfunded School Board needs to find a way to get funding to to present that bright shiny penny that the other schools have we're losing talent to other school districts because we don't offer the same facilities you know these kids have got to have something they want to fight for something they want to show up and do I see it happening but you got to support the coach and give him the time to develop that program develop these students to become the young students that or the young adults that they are going to become participants in our community they're going to win it's going to win it's a win no matter what because the way I see it when he showed up with 17 and now he's got 70 showing up that's 300 400% difference that's a win I don't see how you I don't see how you could ever fault him for what he's trying to do Schoolboard needs to reverse that decision you guys need to do the right thing bring that bring that coach back to his position put him back in play give him a contract give him the ease of being able to function without the pressure of having to get six wins for the season which was the ultimatum that he was presented with that doesn't give somebody the Integrity to develop the kids and put the kids who may not be as good as the top 11 but let them get involved that all every bit of that is is everything is counterproductive you cannot develop a program under the pressure of having to have six wins or you're out you cannot conduct a program that's going to succeed with a year-to-year contract so I ask you please reconsider this put it to a vote bring the man back put him back in his position so that this program in this community can follow him that's all I got thank.

Frank Perez: Good afternoon my name is Frank so it was it was a shock to me too right when my son came home and told me the news of course these decisions if you guys don't know up here on this board right have Ripple effects and we'll have long lasting Ripple effects one thing is like you know having to look at your son and see him cried because he believed in coach Taylor now I know coach Taylor can't be here today to defend himself has he given a chance to explain himself to the no probably not now I don't know if this decision was based off one man according to the world out there's Mr Galvan and Mr Barnes here made that decision I could be wrong but if I'm wrong please tell me I am and it was a board decision to reassign Mr coach Taylor right now whether it's one man's Feud versus another from what the rumors are because I I don't believe Mr Barnes being here one year can make a decision because this year was one of our better years than previous so how does he know what happened in the past so I don't fully believe it was all his decision right now of course right six wins that's tough for any team this is not Cal Allen this isn't Alice this isn't Flower Bluff saran's pass we're not known traditionally for winning we had a few good years and if you were here you saw them you got lucky that was it like the gentleman before you miss six wins 20 years five teams have only done that that's a lot some of these kids none of these kids were born here it's a lot to ask for one man to do but yet we he we pull the rug from and just when everything starting to Jael together and get good he the bad that he inherited right the team before Mr coach Taylor got here they went three and seven three and seven does that sound like a winning record no he inherited bad kids a bad practice

field that's basically dirt that every one of these kids have scrapes and bruises and cuts and SCS from that not being grass he inherited kids not participating he inherited kids that failed academically that didn't care that had no pride no goals didn't care whe they were here winning or not we play just to play if we lose whoop you that was the at the attitude and mentality of these kids prior to this year he inherit a leaky weight room that rain every time it rains his miles old flood I mean this is what these kids and you want them to win six games the equipment they have have you seen it is it the best probably not but you want them to win six games or more come on let's be real here do you know that you know we have Coach her and herit also a young Team every year he's had a deal with freshman sophomores playing on his varsity we don't have the luxury these other teams to play with seniors and juniors we don't year in and year out our boys get the crap beat out of them they lick their wounds but they keep fighting because coach Taylor not because you know they have something to fight for now in the PAC we get this the [___] beat out of us excuse my language and who cares but coach Taylor is telling these boys don't give up part of this you know my son you know his attitude this year he believed that every game they had a chance to go out and win whether they did it or not but he believed that that doesn't come from just him overnight he comes from a coach embedding that beless in their minds and all of them not just him he also inherited a rough and tough District we have one of the toughest districts in this region the ednas the golad the Orange Groves all these teams that went to the playoffs lost in the first second third and they're still probably go win state 15 I mean they might go undefeated you want us to Wick six games against them come on now do we understand who we're playing who our competition is our boys are doing the best our coach is doing the best with what he's got we're asking him basically to go win a poker game with a pair of eights let's be real now what's the good since he's been here come his effort his loyalty his bond with all these kids getting them to go to practice like the gentleman prior said now kids want to play they have reason to play because they believe in their coach and the bond that they have with their coach he's built a foundation here when there was none now you all know when you set a foundation for a house you don't just build on it the next day you let it cure so it's strong so whatever you build in the future is going to withstand it that's what he's done maybe even start a culture here but we pulled the rug from him we didn't give him a chance to see to see his fruits of his labor in other words it was too easy just get rid of him let the next guy come in and take all the reap all the benefits right that's what it's going to happen you got more kids involved more kids buying in holding the kids accountability you know getting he's supporting the younger youth groups which has never been done he's supporting those guys teaching them plays that they're going to be running in high school you know who says he's not involved these are all the good things and there's a lot more of course I don't have time but we this let this man let's see what he can do it's not always about winning but the advice and the mentorship that he's given these young men a lot of these young men are be more successful in life than some of the other successful programs because they learned to deal with losses all their careers and they're going to know when the to get the going gets tough they they're going to be able to pick themselves up and dust off and keep going where other successful programs can't because they never tasted defeat like these boys.

Danny Dubois: I'm Coach Dubois those of you that don't know me uh this is my third year here I've been coaching for for 13 years um my first four years coaching were with Coach Taylor at another school after I retired from the Air Force he gave me my first job and I learned a lot from him uh everything I know about offense I learned from coach Taylor um those first four years working as a coach it was like being a part of a family even though we worked on Saturdays and Sundays it didn't really bother me because we had such a good time together and during that four years nobody left all of us stayed together until Coach Taylor left uh so seven of my 13 years have been with with Coach Taylor the other six years I've worked for five different athletic

directors uh usually after one year I left and I don't want to have to go through another athletic director change coach Taylor cares about the kids if that's what's truly important is the young men and women of this District you're not going to find anybody else to come in and do that what you don't see and what I've seen with five other athletic directors is most people they look down the line what's coming okay after this year we don't have a whole lot left so we need to win and get out of here and jump to another job coach Taylor waited five years to get a job as an athletic director again and he took this job not because they had a history of winning as bam had pointed out he showed up and on that very first day of two days when only 13 kids were here and our facilities don't match up with the teams that we're playing against he could have just bailed after that first year but instead he stayed for four years and his record kept taking a hit and kept taking a hit and keep taking a hit and so now his career record doesn't look that well but he was never a person that looked and said man we need to get out of here after this year it was always about building how can we make them better and he's built the program up to where the last two freshman classes have been bigger than the last one we've played the last two years with the freshman and sophomore quarterback Jerry's extremely talented he's 14 years old he should have been a freshman this year he's played two years of varsity football and he's going to do nothing but get better and maybe you bring somebody in here and he wins more than two games that he won this year but they're going to inherit a much Fuller cupboard than what coach Taylor picked up when he got here so I probably not going to be able to change your mind and I'm not here to sling mud you all made a decision that you think is best I think it's wrong uh like bam says I asked that you reconsider because you're not going to find another guy come in here and is going to have the same kind of relationship somebody's going to come in here and look to hit that springboard to the next job they're not going to stay they're going to see these these next two years of talent win win improve and then you're in three years you're going to be looking at hire another coach again right now we have a family and I'm asking you to not break our family up thank you.

Marvin Zinsmeyer: So uh I came with Coach Taylor uh three and a half years ago and um we left a job at Van Vleck where we were successful made the playoffs like that doesn't just change like we didn't just forget football because we move towns there's a lot of contributing factors when coach Taylor took this job uh it was implied by certain board members that we should run the head basketball coach off because he was the problem with football he's one of the winest basketball coaches in the state and a great mentor that I I have learned to love but it was implied it's been implied that he should make coaches change decisions to fit certain board members agendas and to fit what they want for their kids he inherited poor facilities holes and weight room uh roofs uh 13 kids the first day of practice I showed up I had three linemen and two of them were freshman I didn't even have a whole offensive line the the first day of practice since then we've worked day and night seven days a week during football to build up what it is that you want as bam said the the winning percentage is not great here y'all gone through nine head coaches in 20 years you've had seven seasons of five and five or more and I counted the average the average head coach has a lifespan here of 2.7 years that's why your football program isn't winning because you don't give people time to win it takes time to build something right and we've got these boys is going in the right direction they want to play football when we got here kids didn't even want to play football we had to go in our own hallways and recruit our kids we had to beg kids to play football here and that that's I mean it's a testament to what Taylor is as a leader to take a program from 13 or 14 kids whatever it was that first day to 70 and three and a half years there's growth there and he did it with all kinds of people telling him what he should do and how he should do it and no he could have left after 0 And I and all these facilities and board members on his back he could have left he didn't jump ship but now that it's kind of going

in the right direction we want to like they said pull the rug out from underneath them I don't think that's right you know if we're going to say if we're going to go off stats being the only thing that matters we have a D minus rating as a district where's the accountability for that where's the accountability for y'all y'all are leading you don't want to hear that and I'm not doing that to point out my colleagues because it is it's a big team thing everybody has their hand in in that rating and everybody has a hand in it I could sit here and point the finger at everybody and and you and you and but that's I'm not like that it's a team thing and I don't think it's right that coach Taylor is catching the brunt of this because there's a lot of contributing factors that go into building a program you can't move in One Direction when you got three or four people wanting their own thing and their own agendas and they're all moving different directions and what was done to coach Taylor is not right and I sat and listened to a board member call him and tell him that he was a piece of and that he didn't love kids that's the farthest thing from coach Taylor that I've ever known and I've known him for eight years I coached with him in Van Vleck for four years and I've coached here with him for four years and there is nothing that no one can say about that man not loving kids that man loves kids and his record might not reflected but that man loves kids and he wants what's best for him and he wants them and and I can't tell you all the relationships that I've watched him build over the years that I've known him and what was done to him was not right it was not right thank you.

District Recognitions

The Panthers and Employees of the Month for December 2024 were recognized by the Board and presented a certificate on behalf of the Board by Vice President, John Mullenax.

Panther of the Month for December 2024

AnaCristina Gonzalez

Faulk

Marrie Davila

Charlie Marshall

Katrina Griffin

AC Blunt

Ricky Hamilton

APHS

Employee of the Month for December 2024

Bellanira Perego

Faulk

Stephanie Wicke

Charlie Marshall

Alexandria Neill

AC Blunt

Teresa Crawford

APHS

Pam Bennett

Administration

Analisa Reyes

Maintenance and Transportation

Presentation of Financial Audit Report for Year Ending August 31, 2024 Presented by Lovvorn & Kieschnick, LLP

Michael Kieschnick of Lovvorn & Kieschnick, LLP presented the district's Financial Audit for the Year ending August 31, 2024.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, Dr. Glenn Barnes shared an update on the district's attendance and enrollment report from from November 8 through December 5, and the year-to-date enrollment and attendance data. Dr. Barnes also provided an overview of the potential VATRE election in

November 2025. The Board was also provided the calendar of upcoming events, including a reminder of the Mission and Vision Strategic Roundtable to be held on January 23, 2025.

Financial Reports

Information was shared with the Board regarding the accounts payable, budget status and investment, and tax collections reports for November 2024.

Consent Agenda

The item included on the consent agenda for consideration included the minutes of the November 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and the November 20, 2024 Special Board Meeting and Workshop, the field placement affiliation agreement between Grand Canyon University and Aransas Pass ISD for student teaching, and the retainer agreement with Walsh Gallegos Kyle Robinson & Roalson P.C. for legal services. Trustee, Victor Galvan moved to approve the consent agenda items. Vice President, John Mullenax seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Board Updates and Topics for Future Meetings

President, Wanese Butler asked that trustees review the updated Board Calendar for any revisions coming into the new year. Vice President, John Mullenax provided samples of local policy CW from other school districts regarding naming facilities and asked that trustees review the samples and provide feedback. The Board discussed upcoming opportunities for community engagement and education advocacy events.

Action Agenda

The financial audit for the year ending August 31, 2024, was presented for consideration. Vice President, John Mullenax moved to approve the Financial Audit Report for the Year Ending August 31, 2024. Trustee, Victor Galvan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee, Delfino Flores moved to table agenda item IX.B. Consider and Approve Revised Board Documents into Annual Board Handbook. Trustee, Victor Galvan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Information regarding the Panther Logo Rebranding Committee was provided for consideration. Trustee, Delfino Flores, and Secretary, Olivia Hill volunteered to serve on the committee. Trustee, Victor Galvan, moved to approve Board representatives Mr. Flores and Mrs. Hill for the Panther Logo Rebranding Committee. Vice President, John Mullenax seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Trustee, Terry Stansberry asked for cost estimates related to rebranding following the approval of a new Panther logo.

Included for consideration were the bids received and accepted for the pass-thru cabinets for the Charlie Marshall Elementary Cafeteria and a dish machine for the A.C. Blunt Middle School Cafeteria. Trustee, Terry Stansberry moved to approve the purchase of equipment for the Child Nutrition Department as recommended. Trustee, Delfino Flores seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President, Wanese Butler closed the open meeting at 8:25 p.m. and stated that the board would convene in executive session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code 551.001 et seq., concerning any and all purposes permitted by the act.

- *Section 551.074 Personnel:*
 - *Resignations*
 - *New Hire - Information*
 - *Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Timeline*
- *Section 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property*

The board ended the closed session at 8:58 p.m., and reconvened in open session.

Secretary, Olivia Hill moved to approve the resignations as presented. Trustee, Delfino Flores seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There being no further business before the board, President, Wanese Butler adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Wanese Butler, President

Jenna Adame, Board Executive Assistant