

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, April 27, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

Pursuant to the Governor Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020, this meeting will be conducted via videoconference, which will be audible to the Board and public and allow for two-way communication. The Board President, presiding officer of trustees were physically present at one location, a quorum will be required for the meeting on the videoconference or phone. The public may access this meeting or obtain an electronic copy of the agenda packet at <https://www.dentonisd.org/trustees>.

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Burns who announced that a quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Alexander, Burns, Chadwick, Price, Sosa-Sanchez, Smith, and Stafford

Board Members Absent:

Arrived Late:

Left Early:

School Personnel Present: Wilson, Niven, Mattingly, Pierce, Perkins, O'Bara, Rainey, Robinson, Russell, Stewart, Stevenson, Valenta and Zwahr

Others: Marshall Reid, *Denton Record Chronicle*; Randy Stout, Attorney; citizens, staff, and students.

Pledges: The pledges to the flags were led by virtually by Sam Houston Elementary School students.

Presentations/ Recognitions This spring Emily Whitis, senior at Braswell High School, won the gold medal in the Texas SkillsUSA District 4 Championship in Barbering. Emily attends the Cosmetology program at the LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex where she has already completed her Texas Cosmetology Operator exam and is a licensed stylist.

The Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) hosts a skills competition to encourage young, future educators to focus their skills utilizing their creativity. Students are asked to prepare real world projects, in a variety of categories, to demonstrate their preparation skills and readiness to pursue a career in education.

Through the pre-education classes at the LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex, our district had 18 students finish first/gold certification at the State competition and six students qualify to compete at the upcoming Nationals Contest. TAFE is a co-curricular statewide non-profit student organization created to allow young men and women an opportunity to explore the teaching profession.

This year marks the 14th consecutive year Denton ISD has been honored as one of 2021 Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. Now in its 22nd year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Denton ISD answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.

To mark this occasion, we are honored to feature Emilio Sanchez, lead choir director, at Rodriguez Middle School. Mr. Sanchez has quickly established an award-winning vocal music program in the school's short history. His enthusiasm for his students, including some non-traditional ways to engage them, stand an example of the caliber of the program our district cultivates and a key reason we are a perpetual winner.

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

COVID-19
Update

Dr. Matt Richardson, Denton County Public Health Department provided the Board with the COVID-19 update. This week has started off a little higher on Covid 19 cases and there were 6 reported deaths due to Covid. The outlook is better with a gradual decline than it was two weeks ago. Guidelines for indoors unvaccinated individuals must still wear masks indoors. Dr. Richardson wants to continue encouraging people to get vaccinated so herd immunity can be reached.

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

Budget
Discussion 2021-
2022

Dr. Scott Niven, Chief Financial Officer and Jennifer Stewart, Director of Budget. Jennifer reviewed the 2021-2022 budget calendar. The challenge this year is revenue estimation. Estimating the tax rate, value growth and tax collections as well as the number of students enrolled in school next year is very challenging. The 2021-2022 budget is using an ADA of 1.5% over current year average. Ms. Stewart will continue to refine the 2021-2022 estimates, property value reports, and tax rates.

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

Discussion of
College and
Career Academy
at LaGrone
Advanced
Technology
Complex Update

Dr. Gwen Perkins provided an update of the expansion of the College and Career Academy at the LaGrone Advanced Technology Complex. As previously shared with the trustees, the College and Career Academy will allow our students who have identified their college/career path by their junior year to attend the academy full-time in an effort to focus intently and intentionally on their post-secondary aspirations. Establishing a College and Career Academy provides a school of choice option for juniors and seniors who are focused on post-secondary readiness in a setting which allows students to pursue a college/career pathway with a strong academic core designed to support their aspirations.

Marcus Bourland, Principal of LaGrone Academy provided a LaGrone Academy student snapshot including:

- Seeks personalized learning environment related to student interests
- Craves connection not found on a traditional campus
- Desires participation in UIL Academics and career-related activities and organizations
- Rising junior or senior

The LaGrone Academy will not offer options in Athletics/PE or Fine Arts

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

Discussion of
Denton ISD K-8
Virtual Academy

Dr. Lacey Rainey provided information regarding the development of a K-8 Virtual Academy for the 2021-2022 school year and an overview of the current status of the K-8 Virtual Academy. The K-8 Virtual Academy will allow Denton ISD to provide an exemplary virtual education to students who wish to remain or engage in that modality. K-8 teachers will be able to focus on and specialize in one modality.

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

Discussion of
Denton ISD
Utility
Management
Report- July
2020-December
2020

The Purpose of this Report is to inform the Board of Trustees of utility management processes in all Denton ISD's facilities from July 2020 – December 2020. This report includes the following:

- 1) Total consumption and cost comparison.
- 2) Analysis by utility type.
- 3) Percentage change of energy use.

Brandon Hoke with TDIndustries provided information and the impact of COVID-19 had on utility costs. 2005-2006 was the baseline year when TDIndustries started monitoring the utility performance trends. Costs are significantly lower as well as usage. The numbers may increase when campuses and students are back in buildings. Utilities were down 8.71 % as compared to the same time in 2019. Electricity and Gas rates have increased this year and Gas went up almost 21% because it is a more volatile rate

structure. However, gas and electricity consumption were down by 19% from July 2020-December 2020.

Union Park Elementary has solar panels and saves over an average of \$5,248 per month with a total savings of \$47,234.00 over the past nine months. The initial cost of the solar panels was \$565,257 and the payback will not take long with the amount of energy saved. The power returned to the utility grid will return to the District as income.

Nette Shultz campus will be using a Variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system, also known as variable refrigerant volume (VRV) is an HVAC technology which uses refrigerant as the cooling *and* heating medium. As with minisplit units, the refrigerant in a VRF system is conditioned by a single outdoor condensing unit and circulated within the building to multiple indoor units without the benefit of ductwork. VRF HVAC systems use variable motor speed and variable refrigerant flow to heat and cool, unlike standard units which use a simple on/off operation. VRF systems also allow users to control heating and cooling individually in each room (or zone), and with some units, operate heating and cooling at the same time. The benefit of variable motor speeds is that VRF technology uses far less energy to heat and cool, often saving up to 55% in utility costs. The Operations Department will be using the Nette Shultz campus as a study to see the return on the investment verses the GEO thermal wells used at previous campuses.

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

Discussion of
Legislative
Updates for the
87th Legislative
Session

Deron Robinson, General Counsel and Dr. Gwen Perkins, Area Superintendent provided updates and resources to the Board of Trustees regarding the 87th Legislative Session.

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

Board Operating
Procedures

The Board of Trustees was provided a final draft of their revised Board Operating Procedures that several trustees have been working on over the past month.

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

Open Forum

These comments were provided virtually, and all Trustees were given copies of the submitted comments. Written comments were received from the following individuals:

Josiah Groves wanted to add sign language to Middle School foreign language options.

Emily Meisner - I encourage you to make the decision now to keep the health & safety of our children as your top priority and extend the mask requirement for next year 21/22, until all students are vaccinated for Covid-19. I also recommend requiring the Covid-19 vaccine for all students when becomes available.

Jenni Spafford Pettit - This is my 2nd year at Bettye Myers Middle School teaching 8th grade (ELAR). All my prior experience has been at the high school level, but I am finding that middle school is a special place, and even more so that BMMS is a special place. I have been battling breast and ovarian cancer since 2014 and recently had to start chemotherapy for the 3rd time since then. This time going through chemo has been the toughest and I've had problems and complications that I didn't have the previous 2 times, including one that brought an ambulance to my home and put me in the ICU for 3 days last week. When I got home Friday, my dept. chair texted me to check in and let me know to check my email because the BMMS faculty and staff had purchased a Door Dash gift card for me. I thought that was sweet and went to check and discovered the amount on the card was \$500!!! I was truly speechless and shocked. I have never, ever in my lifetime been the recipient of such generosity and support, including from many on the faculty that I haven't gotten the chance to know well yet. Many schools claim to have a "we're all family" culture but working on this campus is the first time I've really seen it to be true. BMMS faculty, staff, and administration are unique, and I am so happy to be working with them.

Consent Agenda Motion by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez and seconded by Mia Price

To approve (the minutes for the April 13, 2021 Board meeting; personnel matters; approval of leaves and absences; Investment Report as of March 31, 2021; approval for the quotes received from both Dell Marketing L.P. and Delcom Group LP for the middle school campus teachers and office staff computer refresh equipment in the total amount of \$510,435.94; approval of the quote from Advanced Connections Inc. in the amount of \$242,373.00 for the purchase of security cameras for the Strickland Middle School campus renovation; approval of the quote from TD Industries in the amount of \$252,414.00 for the upgrade of the HVAC & Access Controls at WS Ryan Elementary School; approval of the quote from TD Industries in the amount of \$231,289.00 for the upgrade of the HVAC & Access Controls at Sam Houston Elementary School; approval of the quote from TD Industries in the amount of \$262,828.00 for the upgrade of the HVAC & Access Controls at Borman Elementary School; approval of the 2021-2022 Instructional Materials & Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills form to be submitted to TEA's Instructional Materials Division; approval of Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn and Seay for the 2020-2021 fiscal year audit; approval of the AWSFYC Head Start monthly compliance reports for March 2021; approval of the Resolution to sell 0.0339 acres of real estate along Sam Bass

Boulevard; to grant the Mustang Special Utility District the use of a thirty (30') foot permanent easement and right-of-way (0.608 of an acre) along the Braswell High School property. Additionally, Denton ISD grants and conveys a fifty (50') foot temporary construction easement for use in connection with the installation of improvements and services; approval of Change Order 002 assigned to Northstar Builders for the Ryan High School Athletic Additions & Renovations project to allow for renovations to be done to the C.H. Collins Athletic Facility; approval of a Resolution respectfully asking and recommending that Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Legislature, and the Texas Education Agency ensure that all supplemental funds allocated from the Federal Government, for the purpose of addressing the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on schools, be directed to local education agencies without additional restrictions beyond what the Federal Government has stipulated; approval of an Agreement and Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$3,539,796 submitted by Steele & Freeman for renovations at McMath Middle School; approval of an Agreement and Guaranteed Maximum Price submitted by Balfour Beatty Construction for the renovations of Crownover Middle School and the Phase 1 Elementary Campuses that include Houston Elementary, McNair Elementary, Borman Elementary, W.S. Ryan Elementary, and E.P. Rayzor Elementary and approval of the Board Operating Procedures as presented).

With the passing of the Consent Agenda the following principals were named:

- Shelley Maxwell, principal at Pauba Valley Elementary in Temecula Valley (CA) United School District, has been named the new principal of Cross Oaks Elementary. She replaces Matt Preston, who was recently named principal at Shultz Elementary.
- Tiffany Gonzalez, assistant principal of Alexander Elementary, has been named the new principal at Houston Elementary. She replaces Teresa Andress, who announced her retirement after 37 years in education. Mrs. Gonzalez will begin serving her role as principal at Houston Elementary on July 1.
- Shelly Panter, interim principal of Newton Rayzor Elementary, has been named the new principal at the same campus. She replaces Cecilia Holt, who began her new role as early childhood education coordinator on March 15.
- Claire Springer, assistant principal of Savannah Elementary, has been named the new principal at Sandbrock Ranch Elementary, the district's newest elementary school scheduled to open in the fall of 2022. Sandbrock Ranch Elementary is Denton ISD's 25th elementary school located on the eastern edge of the district nestled in the development of the same name.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider
Approval of
Resolution
Regarding the
Allocation of
ESSER Funds

Motion by Doug Chadwick and seconded by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez

To approve the ESSER Resolution respectfully asking and recommending that Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Legislature, and the Texas Education Agency ensure that all supplemental funds allocated from the Federal Government, for the purpose of addressing the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on schools, be directed to local education agencies without additional restrictions beyond what the Federal Government has stipulated.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider
Approval of
Agreement and
Guaranteed
Maximum Price
for the
Renovation of
McMath Middle
School

Motion by Mia Price and seconded by Doug Chadwick

To approve of the Agreement and Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$3,539,796 submitted by Steele & Freeman for renovations at McMath Middle School. This project will be funded from the 2018 Bond Authorization

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider
Approval of
Agreement and
Guaranteed
Maximum Price
for the
Renovations of
Crownover
Middle School
and the Phase 1
Elementary
Campuses

Motion by Patsy Sosa-Sanchez and seconded by Jim Alexander

To approve of an Agreement and Guaranteed Maximum Price of \$11,130,354 submitted by Balfour Beatty plus alternate items outside of GMP due to winter storm water damage in the amount of \$648,958 for a Total Construction Cost of \$11,779,311 for renovations at Crownover Middle School and the Phase 1 Elementary Campuses that include Houston Elementary, McNair Elementary, Borman Elementary, W.S. Ryan Elementary, and E.P. Rayzor Elementary.

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting.

Consider
Approval of
Board Operating
Procedures

Motion by Mia Price and seconded by Jim Alexander

To approve the revised Board Operating Procedures as presented

The motion passed unanimously of Board members present and voting

Closed Meeting

The Board convened into Closed Session at 9:44 pm

Open Meeting

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 10:43 pm

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:54 pm

President

Secretary