

Brackett Independent School District
Board Minutes of Public Hearing & Monthly Meeting
January 17, 2006

Members Present	-	Mark Frerich, Ronnie Hobbs, Jeffrey Duncan, Sondra Meil, Sara Terrazas, Henry Lutz
Member Absent	-	Tony Ashley
Administrators Present	-	Paula Renken, Alma Gutierrez, Frank Taylor, George Burks
Guests	-	Bo Hagler, April Blake, Christy Price, Kay Stigeaves, Lisa Conoly, Guillermo A. Guzman, Leigh Volcsko, Susan Esparza

1. A.E.I.S. PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing to review the Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) was called to order at 5:45 p.m., by Henry Lutz, President. No guests were present for the hearing.

Principal Alma Gutierrez demonstrated the new A.E.D. machine, one of four that were purchased for the district. Three will be mounted, one in Elementary, one in the High School, and one in the Gym, the fourth is a portable unit.

Henry Lutz, President, closed the public hearing and called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISH QUORUM

A. MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE

Sara Terrazas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Principals, Alma Gutierrez, George Burks and Frank Taylor, shared in the reading of Governor Rick Perry's proclamation designating January 2006 as School Board Recognition Month. To show their appreciation, Jones Elementary decorated the boardroom with artwork. Board members were given copies of letters written by the sixth grade expressing their appreciation. Paula Renken and Frank Taylor presented each member with a certificate recognizing their part in "Building Brighter Futures" for the students of BISD.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No guests were present for public forum participation.

5. MINUTES

Minutes for December 12, 2005 Monthly Meeting

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to approve the minutes for December 12, 2005, as presented. Jeff Duncan seconded. The motion carried with Sara Terrazas abstaining.

President Henry Lutz called for a change in the order of the agenda. The Pre-K Report, item 10, was moved up to allow teachers to leave when done with their presentation.

6. PRE-K REPORT

Pre-K committee members reviewed information obtained through research and a mailed-out survey. Kay Sitgreaves opened with a Power Point presentation titled "School Readiness, 7 Things Policy Makers Need to Know." Out of 315 surveys mailed, only 45 were returned. Bo Hagler stated surveys were mailed twice, the end of October and again December 2nd. Twenty-nine had no child of Pre-K age, six qualified for Pre-K but chose to go to Head Start, six did not qualify for Pre-K, and eleven (4 year olds) are currently enrolled in Head Start. Alma Gutierrez stated TPRI test results look at our current Pre-K program. According to results, stay at home children do better. Mrs. Gutierrez stated the Pre-K Committee will review the results. If the district goes with the Pre-K program, a minimum of two teachers and aides will be needed. Following discussion, the committee was asked to research further and have the following information ready for the March meeting:

- What impact would it have on the Head Start program?
- Would a grant be available, and when?
- Facilities?
- Requirement size?
- Would students go full or half day?
- Transportation needs (3 & 4 year-olds on a bus?)
- If we start next year – enrollment, registration in May?

7. BUSINESS & FINANCE

A. MONTHLY RECAP OF REVENUE & EXPENSES

Revenue is in good shape and on target. Our expenditures are right where they need to be. Spending will start to slow down late March and into early April in order to close the books. Paula Renken stated S.E.C.O. grant money must be spent by March, adding she will meet with Marla and Richard Terrazas next Tuesday to discuss where we currently stand.

B. FALL ATHLETIC GATE REPORT

The estimated profit for football was \$15,000.00. Instead, our total revenue was \$17,717.45. Paula Renken added we are one play-off game less than last year. Charter bus costs were up due to gas, etc. Estimated profit for volleyball was \$1,500.00, actual revenue was \$2,981.00. Volleyball is not a big draw, but together both sports made us \$20,698.45.

C. CHECK RUN

Checks reviewed by the board; \$6,521.50 to the Cardiac Science Corp. for the A.E.D.'s., \$870.37 to Cecil Adkinson Motors for bus parts, \$2,042.95 to the City of Brackettville for utilities, and \$1,099.10 to S.W. Feed Service to install water meters. After several phone calls and no response, Paula Renken stated a certified letter was mailed in order to get a date for meter inspections as required for the permit.

Marla Madrid and Paula Renken will be attending a Budget Boot Camp on the 17th. Mrs. Renken stated they would be given a template for the 2006-2007 budget.

8. BUS, 2006-2007 BUDGET

Paula Renken requested approval for the purchase of a 47 passenger, BlueBird Bus. It will take 150 days to get it, but the district will need to order it now to lock in the price, \$63,000.00. The bus will be budgeted in 2006-2007.

A motion was made by Mark Frerich to authorize the Superintendent to purchase a 47 passenger BlueBird Bus for \$63,000.00, to be budgeted in 2006-2007. Sara Terrazas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **KINNEY COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK PROPERTY EXEMPTIONS, 2006**

The board reviewed a list of 22 historic landmark properties given a "pass" rating by the Kinney County Historical Commission's property assessment. Property owners are being given a year to make necessary improvements and meet assessment criteria. Two properties, Staff Officers' Quarters (owner Cecil Hale) and the Commanding Officers' Quarters (owner James Moore) are being recommended for a 30% exemption, instead of the 25%. Both properties have been kept in immaculate shape for many years. Henry Lutz stated the problem is our policy, CCG Local, does not give us the option to grant an additional 5%, as in the case of the county, which granted the 30%. A recommendation was made to go with policy now, and look at revising it before this time next year, possibly adding the phrase "at a minimum of 25%." The board voiced their appreciation of the local historical commission for taking the time to develop and do the assessments.

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to approve a 25% tax exemption for the 22 historic landmark properties that received a "pass" assessment rating, as recommended by the Kinney County Historical Commission. Mark Frerich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. **LOCAL BOARD POLICY UPDATE 77**

The board conducted a first reading of local policy Update 77. Policies of note; CNA (Legal) which addresses bus drivers and cell phone use, and BBD (Legal) new training requirements related to the Open Meetings Act and Texas Public Information Act.

Alma Gutierrez and Richard Terrazas will be attending transportation meetings at Region 20 once a month.

11. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: ENROLLMENT, DISCIPLINE REPORT & CURRENT EVENTS**

Jones Elementary School (Alma Gutierrez)

Refer to written report. Enrollment is 238. Enrollment has stayed about the same. Principal Gutierrez added there has been a big change in discipline. The incidents have gone down.

Jones Intermediate & Junior High School (George Burks)

Refer to written report. Intermediate enrollment is 87. Junior High enrollment is 119. Eleven teachers have gone to San Antonio for training. Teachers are concerned about 5th-8th graders lacking motivation. Getting ready for TAKS.

High School (Frank Taylor)

Refer to written report. High School enrollment is 170, dropped 3. Educational Academy is 17, dropped 2. Principal Taylor reported minimal discipline problems. Lots of staff development. Two students will be recognized in February, Michael Stephenson and Gabriella Schroeder.

Educational Academy (Elizabeth Hodges, Director)

Paula Renken stated as of today, 41.5 credits have been earned. The students are working hard. Two students are set to graduate mid-March. Principal Frank Taylor checks in each day.

Special Education

Paula Renken commended Administrators, Melanie Jones and Judy Blankenship for spending many long hours on PBMAS grant. We continue to get our numbers down, our target is 14%, the states' is 12%.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- We had a good parent turnout for the Migrant meeting. Hector Jimenez was commended for his work translating the boards goals and Mission Statement into Spanish.
- Paula Renken also recognized Curvin Crane for his annual \$1,000.00 donation to Hunt Library. Mrs. Renken stated she would like to do something to show the district's appreciation.
- February 2nd is D-Day for U.I.L. realignment. Alignment will be based on 178.
- Arvil Baker is ready to move the Rose House, he is waiting on CP&L to disconnect the meter. Mr. Baker was able to save the big pecan tree, but three others along the street were removed in order for the house to come out the front.
- Architect John Graves, Jr., is finalizing specs. and getting ready for bids on the storage barn. A Long Range Building and Planning Committee meeting will be scheduled in March to discuss.
- Our district ADA is doing well.
- Alamo Heights payments will start coming in this August.
- The district received an Academically Acceptable rating on it's school report card. Overall we are doing well.

The High School received three gold performance acknowledgements: Recommended High School Program, TAAS/TASP Equivalency, and Comparable Improvement - Mathematics. The Alternative Program/Academy received an Academically Acceptable rating.

Brackett Junior High did well with a Recognized rating, and gold performance acknowledgement in Writing.

An Academically Acceptable rating was given to Jones Elementary. Elementary scores dropped. Grades 3, 4, & 5 scored lower on TAKS when compared to the state. Reasons include staff changes and raising of the bar on scores required to pass. Jones Elementary has developed intervention plans to address problems. Staff at all grade levels meet once a month to discuss and make recommendations.

A short break was called for at 7:52 p.m., with the board convening into a Closed Session at 8:33 p.m., pursuant to Texas Gov't Code 551.074 Personnel.

13. *REQUEST FOR RELEASE FROM CONTRACT

14. *CONTRACT FOR SCHOOL ATTORNEY

The board convened into Open Session at 8:58 p.m., and took the following action:

A motion was made by Mark Frerich to accept the resignation of Elementary Teacher Jennifer Baggett , releasing her from her 2005-06 contract. Sara Terrazas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Sondra Meil to retain the legal services of Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Schulze & Aldridge, P.C., Attorneys at Law, starting on February 1, 2006, for a period of one-year (12 months). Jeffrey Duncan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no guests present for public forum, and with no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Lutz, Board President

Sara Terrazas, Secretary

Date

Date