

Regular Board Meeting

Public Hearing

September 8, 2020

On September 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM the Alvin Independent School District Board of Trustees met for a Regular Meeting at the Central Administration Building, AISD, Alvin, Texas, with the following members present:

Earl Humbird, Nicole Tonini, Cheryl Harris, Vivian Scheibel, Tiffany Wennerstrom, Regan Metoyer and Julie Pickren.

Carol Nelson, Superintendent of Schools and other administrative staff were also present.

ITEM #1 - CALL TO ORDER

President Humbird called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum of Board members was present, notice was duly posted, and the meeting was called to order in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001.

VISITORS

A complete list of registered guests is available in the office of the Superintendent.

ITEM #2 - PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED 2020 ALVN ISD TAX RATE

Alvin ISD held a Budget and Proposed Tax Rate Public Hearing on June 9, 2020, which was prior to the certification of values and confirmation of Alvin ISD's maximum compressed rate. With these variables now finalized, Alvin ISD held an additional Public Hearing as part of the tax rate adoption process.

Dr. Daniel Combs, CEO, noted that the overall goal is to provide financial clarity and recommendations that take into consideration student and district needs, both current and in the

future, to ensure the Alvin ISD Vision is the reality for all students.

The Public Hearing conducted by Dr. Daniel Combs, CFO, presented the adoption of the proposed 2020 Alvin ISD tax rate of \$1.3977, which is the same as the 2019 tax rate. (See attached Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate)

No public comment was given regarding the proposed tax rate.

ITEM #3 - INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Scheibel gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Nelson reviewed current District happenings.

ITEM #5 - COMMENDATIONS STAFF COMMENDATIONS

Alvin ISD Police Department

On August 6, 2020 the Alvin ISD Police Department received the award of "Recognized Law Enforcement Agency" from the Texas Police Chiefs Association Law Enforcement Recognition Program. This is the third time the Department has received this honor.

Beginning in 2006, the Recognition Program evaluates a Police Department's compliance with over 168 Best Business Practices for Texas Law Enforcement. These Best Practices were carefully developed by Texas Law Enforcement professionals to assist agencies in the efficient and effective delivery of service and the protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, and patrol and investigative operations.

The Alvin ISD Police Department was the 2nd law enforcement agency in Brazoria County, and the 2nd ISD law enforcement agency in the State of Texas to be so recognized. To date, there are only eight ISD law enforcement agencies that have achieved "Recognized" status.

The department will be recognized at the Texas Police Chiefs Association annual conference in April.

ITEM #6 – OPEN FORUM

Jenise Johnson – Request to have the August 11, 2020 minutes changed to reflect Mr. Spurgeon Robinson's specific comments regarding targeted outreach to minority and women-owned businesses.

ITEM #7 – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A-F

Trustee Metoyer Peterson made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items A-F. Trustee Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

ITEM A – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

The minutes of the following meeting were submitted for approval:

August 11, 2020
September 2, 2020

ITEM B – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR AWARD OF CONTRACTOR CONSULTANT PROPOSALS

Ten proposals were received for service commodity codes as classified under the Contractor Consultant Proposals (2009CS RFP) for a one year non-exclusive award with the option to renew for an additional two years.

ITEM C – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF #2009 INSTRUCTION, ATHLETICS, CTE, FINE ARTS, LIBRARY SPECIAL EDUCATION, STEAM, STEM SOFTWARE & LICENSE CAT RFP

Pursuant to Texas Education Code 44.031 contracts for purchase of

goods and services valued at \$50,000 or more will be presented for award based on an approved competitive proposal method. The RFP #2009; Instructional, Athletics, CTE, Fine Arts, Library, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Humanities and Math STEAM, STEM Software & License-CAT proposal (RFP) meets these requirements. This non-exclusive proposal is requested for a one year contract with a two year renewal extension.

ITEM D – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PURSUANT OF CH LOCAL – EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING \$75,000 PER LINE ITEM

A list of line item expenditures over \$75,000 was presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. These are reoccurring anticipated purchases made throughout the year by district budget managers.

ITEM E – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF IDENTIFIED HAZARDOUS ROUTES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

The Transportation Department presented identified areas which are within two miles of a campus as hazardous, permitting a continuation of established hazardous bus routes for the 2020-21 school year.

ITEM F – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REVISED ELECTION DAY VOTE CENTERS

One of the Election Day polling places (The Mims Facility) could no longer host the election on Election Day as a polling place due to the financial crisis the community center is facing.

Brazoria County was able to secure the Greater Mount Zion Event Center in Brazoria, which is just a few miles away, and they are willing to host the election as a polling place on Election Day, November 3, 2020.

The Order of Election and Notice of Election will now reflect this change on the Election Day Vote Centers.

ITEM #8 – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE 2020 ALVIN ISD TAX RATE

A resolution was presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration to adopt the 2020-2021 Alvin ISD tax rate as follows:

Maintenance & Operations	\$1.0052
Interest & Sinking	<u>0.3925</u>

TOTAL RATE \$1.3977

The recommended total tax rate of \$1.3977 is for both Maintenance & Operations as well as Interest & Sinking and is equal to the 2019-2020 Alvin ISD total tax rate of \$1.3977. See attached resolution.

The proposed motion is defined by language established in Texas Property Tax Code Section 26.05(b).

Trustee Pickren made a motion to approve the total Alvin ISD property tax rate of \$1.3977, which is effectively a 5.12 percent increase in the tax rate due to the increase in values. Trustee Wennerstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

RESOLUTION
By the governing body of
ALVIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Be it resolved and ordered by the Board of Trustees of the Alvin Independent School District that we hereby adopt a rate per \$100 of property valuation for Alvin Independent School District for the tax year 2020 as follows:

Maintenance and Operations	\$1.0052
Interest and Sinking	<u>0.3925</u>
Total Tax Rate	\$1.3977

The prior year total Alvin ISD tax rate was \$1.3977, or \$0.000 cents higher than the 2020 rate of \$1.3977.

The adoption of a total Alvin ISD tax rate of \$1.3977 is effectively a 5.12 percent increase in the total tax rate.

THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR’S TAX RATE.

Be it further resolved that the Tax Assessor/Collector is hereby authorized to assess and collect taxes for Alvin Independent School District employing the above tax rate.

Earl Humbird
President, Board of Trustees

Tiffany Wennerstrom
Secretary, Board of Trustees

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared the officers of the District, whose signature appear above, each known to me to be the person named, and each upon oath duly given, acknowledged to me that such person is an Authorized Officer pursuant to the Resolution, and that all of the facts, estimates and statements made in the above and foregoing Certificate are true and correct to his or her best knowledge and belief.

GIVEN MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE
this 8th day of September 2020.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Mary Anne McWhirter

ITEM #9 – REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ALVIN ISD BOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

On March 18, 2020 the Texas Commissioner of Education announced that administration of STAAR exams would be canceled for Spring 2020, and school districts

and campuses would be assigned ratings of “Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster” for 2020.

On March 19, 2020, The Texas Governor issued Executive Order No. GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation through this action and in accordance with guidelines from the president ordered the temporary closure of all Texas school districts. It is important that LEA’s are given the opportunity to focus on interventions necessary to recover instructional gaps resulting from school closures caused by COVID-19.

Trustee Tonini made a motion to approve the proposed Resolution to cancel the administration of the STAAR test and suspend State accountability for the 2020-2021 school year to allow Alvin ISD to focus on interventions necessary to recover instructional gaps resulting from the school closures caused by COVID-19. Trustee Scheibel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**Alvin Independent School District
Resolution of the Board Regarding State
Accountability**

WHEREAS, on Mach 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency and the State of Texas has declared a statewide disaster regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, ON March 18, 2020, the Texas Commissioner of Education announced that administration of STAAR exams would be canceled for spring 2020, and school districts and campuses would be assigned ratings of “Not Rated: Declared State of Disaster” for 2020;

WHEREAS, ON March 19, 2020 the Texas Governor issued Executive Order No. GA-08 relating to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation through this action and in accordance with Guidelines from the President ordered the temporary closure of all Texas school districts;

WHEREAS, assessment standards for the spring of 2021 can be adjusted; however; data from those assessments will not be interpretable with respect to previous years’ assessment data;

WHEREAS, academic growth will not be possible to accurately calculate for spring 2021, as students will not have previous year STAAR scores from spring 2020;

WHEREAS, academic growth accounts for 50% of an elementary or junior high campus’s Domain 3 score, which will have an adverse effect on overall accountability ratings for those campuses;

WHEREAS, external research shows that, historically, extended school closures negatively affect student achievement in math and reading;

WHEREAS, internal research shows that there are significant academic gains made at the end of each school year, which may not be present now with the extended school closure;

WHEREAS, exceptions have been made to school accountability in the past when campuses were greatly impacted by natural disasters such as Katrina, Rita, and Harvey;

WHEREAS, it is still unknown that additional adjustments to the educational process will be necessary to start the 2020-2021 school year to address the social, emotional and physical health impact upon students when they return to school in whatever format that may be;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Alvin Independent School District, that the STAAR Texas should be cancelled and the State accountability should be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year to allow districts to focus on interventions necessary to recover instructional gaps resulting from school closures caused by COVID-19.

Passed and approved on this 8th day of September, 2020 by the Alvin ISD Board of Trustees.

By: _____
Earl Humbird, Board President

By: _____
Vivian Scheibel, Board Vice President

By: _____
Tiffany Wennerstrom, Board Vice President

By: _____
Cheryl Harris, Board Member

By: _____
Regan Metoyer Peterson, Board Member

By: _____
Julie Pickren, Board Member

By: _____
Nicole Tonini, Board Member

ITEM #10 - REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ALVIN ISD’S ASYNCHRONOUS PLAN FOR REMOTE INSTRUCTION

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has made provisions to the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) system to accommodate remote instruction. In order to provide remote instruction, school districts must submit an instructional plan to TEA by October 1st for review. Submitted plans will be reviewed by a team at TEA and they will approve or sent back to districts for revisions by December, 2020.

Alvin ISD has created an asynchronous plan for PK-12th grade students. The plan consists of a combination of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. In a case where a combination is used, districts only have to submit an asynchronous plan. The plan must clearly identify the instructional systems developed for the creation of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning.

A detailed plan was presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The question was asked when the District would know if TEA accepted the District’s plan. Superintendent Nelson noted that most plans will be approved as long as they address each core area and that Alvin ISD’s plan exceeds what TEA is asking for. Superintendent Nelson further stated that the District has been assured if the guidelines given are followed the plan will be approved – yet adjustments will be made if needed.

Trustee Wennerstrom made a motion to approve Alvin ISD’s Asynchronous Plan for Remote Instruction. Trustee Pickren seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

ITEM #11 - REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REMOTE HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION WAIVER

This waiver will allow the district to count a student receiving homebound instruction in attendance for FSP funding purposes provided that all requirements of the homebound program are met except for face-to-face instruction from the homebound teacher. The request to receive virtual instruction is at the parent’s request and will meet the following requirements:

- The student’s ARD committee must have determined, in a manner consistent with state and federal law, that the remote homebound instruction to be provided meets the needs of the student.
- The ARD committee must have documented that determination in the student’s IEP.
- All requirements related to the provision of special education homebound instruction must be met except for face-to-face instruction from the homebound teacher.

If a waiver is granted, the affected student will generate attendance (eligible days present) according to the homebound funding provisions in 4.7.2.5 Homebound Funding and

Homebound Documentation Requirements.
Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the waiver as presented. Trustee Scheibel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

ITEM #12 - REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGER @ RISK CONTRACT FOR ELEMENTARY #21 AND JUNIOR HIGH #9

The Construction Manager at Risk purchasing method for Elementary #21 and Junior High #9 was previously approved by the Board of Trustees. After review and evaluation by the Building Programs Department and the Project Architect, Gamma Construction has satisfied the evaluation criteria and submitted pricing that offers the best value to the District.

Trustee Tonini made a motion to approve Gamma Construction as the Construction Manager at Risk for Elementary #21 and Junior High #9 and authorizes the Superintendent or her designee to review and execute the final negotiated contract. Trustee Metoyer Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

ITEM #13 - REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CLASS SIZE WAIVER

A waiver was needed for class size due to the anticipation of exceeding the 22:1 ratio in one or more classrooms at the elementary schools, due to rapid growth to our district.

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the waiver as presented. Trustee Wennerstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

ITEM #14 - REQUEST TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

As presented

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the employment of personnel as presented. Trustee Wennerstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

ITEM #15 - FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were requested.

ITEM #16 - CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Trustees entered into a Closed Executive Session at 7:48 to discuss the following:

- 551.074 Discuss personnel or to hear complaints against personnel

The Board returned into an Open Session at 8:00 p.m.

ITEM #17 - ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Humbird made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Scheibel seconded the motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Attest:

Earl Humbird, President

Tiffany Wennerstrom, Secretary