

Minutes – Board of Trustees  
September 22, 2008  
6:30 p.m. – LHS Conference Center

The meeting was called to order by board president, Timoteo Juarez, Jr. Other members present were Juan Alvarez, Jr., Derek Benavides, Susan Brooks, John Flores, John Manning, and Brenda Spillmann.

Call to Order.

Invocation.

Dr. Jose Parra gave the invocation.

School Officials Present

Dr. Jose Parra, Superintendent; Cliff Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Information; Janie Wright, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Student Success; James Rabe, Executive Director of Curriculum; Tina Knudsen, Chief Financial Officer; Jessica Neyman, Director of Human Resources; Monica Parks, Executive Director of Special Education; Melinda Kirst, Athletic Director; Karla Tate, Director of Community Education; Larry Ramirez, LHS Principal; John Henk, Freshman Campus Principal; Lora Hardway, LJHS Principal; Sam Lockhart, Pride Principal; Ed Sheppard, LDMC Principal, Becky Kibby, Bluebonnet Principal; Susan Masur, Navarro Principal; Deanna Juarez, Clear Fork Principal; Evangelina Orta, Plum Creek Principal; Barbara Bernal, Carver Kindergarten Principal; and Bill Coleman, Maintenance Director.

Recognition of Personnel and Students

The 2007-2008 Lady Lions Varsity Volleyball was recognized for their receipt of the National Academic Team Award and the American Volleyball Coaches Award. According to Coach Melinda Kirst, Athletic Director, this is a national award of which Lockhart was 1 of 13 volleyball teams in Texas to receive the award. This award is based upon the academic achievements of the team, whose average GPA was 3.62 out of a possible 4.0.

Open Forum

There were no requests to address the board.

Business

1. Action/Communication: Public Hearing: 2008-09 Proposed Tax Rate.

Tina Knudsen, Chief Financial Officer, provided information and explanation regarding the proposed tax rate. She provided explanation of the components of the tax rate, Maintenance and Operations and Interest and Sinking. The proposed total tax rate is \$1.225 per \$100 valuation, with Maintenance and Operations being \$1.04 per \$100 valuation and Interest and Sinking being \$0.185 per \$100 valuation. There was no public comment on the proposed tax rate; therefore, Mr. Juarez closed the public hearing.

2. Action: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - July 28, 2008
  - August 6, 2008
  - August 18, 2008
  - August 28, 2008
- B. LISD Tax Collection Report
- C. Cash Investment Report
- D. Budget Amendments
- E. Renewal of GED Chief Examiner, Examiner, and Proctor Contracts

Brenda Spillmann requested that the August 28, 2008 minutes be removed from the consent agenda for administration to review district policy CW and then be placed on the October 27, 2008 meeting agenda for action and Juan Alvarez requested that Item C – Cash Investment Report be removed from the consent agenda.

**The motion was made by Susan Brooks, seconded by Derek Benavides, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by administration with the exception of removed items – A. August 28, 2008 meeting minutes and C. Cash Investment Report. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Brenda Spillmann requests that the Item A – August 28, 2008 meeting minutes be placed on the October 27, 2008 meeting agenda upon administration's review.

Juan Alvarez referred to page 14 of the board agenda packet with a question in regard to this being a duplicate report from the August board meeting. Upon clarification of the prior report being July 31 and this being August 31 there was no further discussion.

**The motion was made by John Flores, seconded by Susan Brooks to approve Item C. Cash Investment Report as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

3. Communication: Safety Audit Report

Cliff Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Information, presented the district's Safety Audit Report. As created by legislation in the 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 2001 the Texas School Safety Center was established. The purpose of this center is to provide school districts with a centralized location for school safety information and provide research, training and technical assistance to reduce youth violence and promote safety in schools. The Texas Education Code 37.108(c) has been amended to require school districts to report the results of their safety and security audits under TEC 37.108(b) to not only the Board of Trustee, but also the Texas School Safety Center. The results of our safety audit will be reported online to both the Texas School Safety Center and the Texas Education Agency.

The result of the district's safety audit was very favorable. The district and each instructional facility performed very well, indicating that our facilities are safe, clean, and functional with environments that are conducive to learning and teaching. The report reflects both commendations and recommendations.

4. Communication/Action: Consider and/or Approve Donation of Funds From the Lockhart Evening Lions Club.

Janie Wright, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Student Success, introduced Mr. Mike McGregor, President of the Lockhart Evening Lions Club and Olga Hernandez, Treasurer of the Lockhart Evening Lions Club. Candy Rayos is the chairperson for School Supply Drive, but was not able to be present. Mr. McGregor stated that the Lockhart Evening Lions Club has for the past five years conducted a School Supplies Drive to help families in need of assistance with the purchase of school supplies. Over this five year period, the efforts of the Lockhart Evening Lions Club has assisted over 400 students and has provided assistance with school supplies for approximately 80 students in the current school year. This year's School Supply Drive collections totaled \$808.75 which is being donated to the Lockhart ISD to further assist with school supplies for families in need of this service.

**The motion was made by Derek Benavides, seconded by Juan Alvarez, Jr., to accept the Lockhart Evening Lions Club donation of \$808.75 to help purchase student school supplies. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

5. Communication/Action: Discuss and/or Consider Legal Counsel.

John Manning requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Legal counsel provided an opinion in regard to actions of the board and in Mr. Manning's opinion the legal opinion was wrong. He stated that legal counsel ignored district policy and law in regard to action taken by the board on August 18, 2008. According to Mr. Manning, a good faith effort to change the posted agenda was sufficient and the law that was applied in this circumstance applies to counties over 48,000 in population. When Mr. Manning spoke to the attorney regarding the legal opinion, the response that he received was that the attorney was sorry that Mr. Manning felt the way he did. Mr. Manning state that the attorney did not contact or talk to any board members regarding the action taken on August 18, 2008, before providing the legal opinion as the district's attorney not as the board's attorney. Mr. Manning stated that no one in administration should contact the attorney for legal opinion on the board's action. Requests for legal opinion on board action should only come from the Board of Trustees President or other board members. Discussion for clarification followed.

**The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Juan Alvarez, Jr., to request that Dr. Parra write a letter to the attorney outlining board/attorney relationship and the attorney's relationship to the Board. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

6. Communication/Action: Consider/Approve Amendment to Bank Depository Contract – First Lockhart National Bank.

First Lockhart National Bank approached the district regarding an amendment to current investment options. However, since the receipt of this amendment, administration is withdrawing its recommendation based on market changes.

No action taken.

7. Communication/Action: Consider/Approve Quitclaim Deed.

Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP is requesting a quitclaim deed for property included in Tax Foreclosure suit number 7893, Caldwell CAD, et al v. Leon Vargas Estate, et al. This property was sold at public auction to Mr. Hector Gomez. Inadvertently, the original deed had a portion of the property description omitted. This Quitclaim Deed conveys to Mr. Gomez the portion of the property that was omitted and is needed to help clarify title.

**The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Susan Brooks, to approve the Quitclaim Deed for property included in Tax Foreclosure suit number 7893 Caldwell CAD, et al v. Leon Vargas Estate, et al. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

8. Communication/Action: Consider/Approve Contracting with Residential Placement Facility.

Monica Parks, Executive Director of Special Education, requested to contract with TEA approved Residential Placement Facilities throughout Texas. In the past, the district has contracted with Texas Hill Country School. This facility has been used in the past due to its close proximity to our district. However, the ARD committees should have the option of other facilities to best meet individual student needs. Within Texas, there are 19 residential placement facilities.

**The motion was made by Juan Alvarez, Jr., seconded by Brenda Spillmann, to approve a contract with a TEA approved Residential Facility when needed based on ARD committee recommendation. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

9. Communication/Action: Consider/Approve CIS Agreement.

Cliff Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of Information and Operations, provided information regarding the continuation of services provided by Communities In Schools – Central Texas, Inc. (CIS). The district has had a working relationship with CIS since 2004. They provide assistance to students who have a high absentee rate or who demonstrate delinquent conduct, and social service needs. CIS has served the High School, Freshman Campus, Junior High School, and Carver Kindergarten. In the past school year, approximately 659 families were served through this program. Funding for this agreement was approved in the 2008-2009 district budget in the amount of \$180,000. Discussion followed.

**The motion was made by Susan Brook, seconded by Derek Benavides, to approve the 2008-2009 Agreement between Lockhart ISD and Communities in Schools – Central Texas, Inc. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

10. Communication/Action: Consider Revision to Clerical/Paraprofessional Pay Structure.

Tina Knudsen, Chief Financial Officer, reported to the board a discrepancy that has been found on the 2008-2009 Clerical/Paraprofessional Pay Scale. Two similar jobs, Cubhouse temporary (hourly) employees and Kids Klub (after school program) Group Leader (hourly) aides were in different pay grades. Upon notification of this discrepancy, TASB was contacted to clarify the issue and did confirm that the two jobs should be in Pay Grade 1. The employees that were identified in the wrong pay grade had been compensated from the correct pay grade, even though their job title was listed in the wrong pay grade. Administration is requesting that the Clerical/Paraprofessional Pay Scale be corrected, moving Kids Klub Group Leader job to Pay Grade 1.

**The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Susan Brooks to move the Kids Klub Group Leader job to Pay Grade 1 on the 2008-2009 Clerical/Paraprofessional Pay Scale. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

11. Communication/Action: Consider/Approve Supplemental Athletic Equipment and Supplies Bids for Spring 2008.

Cliff Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of Information and Operations, presented the Athletic Equipment and Supplies Bid, RFP 08-012. The athletic department has reviewed bids and has made their selections based on best value for the district.

**The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Juan Alvarez, Jr., to approve the supplemental athletic equipment and supplies bids for Spring 2008. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

12. Communication/Action: Consider/Approve Maintenance and Operations Tax Rate, Interest and Sinking Tax Rates, and Total Tax Rate for 2008.

Information on this item was provided during the public hearing. There was, however, discussion regarding the interest and sinking tax rate in regard to repayment of bonds.

**The motion was made by Susan Brooks, seconded by Derek Benavides to adopt by Resolution a Maintenance and Operations tax rate for 2008 of \$1.04 per \$100 valuation. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

**The motion was made by Susan Brooks, seconded by Brenda Spillmann, to adopt by Resolution an Interest and Sinking tax rate for 2008 of \$0.185 per \$100 valuation. The motion failed. (3-4). Those voting for the motion were Susan Brooks, Brenda Spillmann, and Derek Benavides. Those voting against the motion were Juan Alvarez, Jr., John Manning, John Flores, and Timoteo "Tim" Juarez, Jr.**

**The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Susan Brooks, to adopt by Resolution an Interest and Sinking tax rate for 2008 of \$0.1825 per \$100 valuation. The motion carried (5-2). Timoteo "Tim" Juarez, Jr. and John Flores voted against the motion.**

**The motion was made by Susan Brooks, seconded by Derek Benavides to adopt by Resolution a total tax rate for 2008 of \$1.2225 per \$100 valuation. The motion carried (6-1). Timoteo "Tim" Juarez, Jr. voted against the motion.**

13. Communication/Action: Consider and/or Approve LHS Boys and Girls Cross Country Runners to Participate in the University of Arkansas Invitational Cross Country Meet on Saturday, October 18, 2008.

Coach Melinda Kirst, Athletic Director, requested that the LHS Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams be permitted to participate in the University of Arkansas Invitational Cross Country Meet on Saturday, October 18, 2008 at Fayetteville, Arkansas. Participation in this event prepares the runners for the Texas State Meet and UIL State Meet. Funding for this event was approved in the 2008-2009 budget.

**The motion was made by Juan Alvarez, Jr., seconded by John Manning, to approve the participation of the LHS Boys and Girls Cross Country Runners in the University of Arkansas Invitational Cross Country meet on Saturday, October 18, 2008 in Fayetteville, Arkansas.**

14. Communication/Action: Personnel

**Consider/Approve Employment of Professional Personnel:**

Brandon Henry	High School – Agriculture Teacher
Genelle Parra	DMC – Counselor (part-time)
Leslie Posey	JH – Language Arts/Communication Applications Teacher
Erin Uhlaender	Carver – PK Teacher
Rosanna Limas	Clearfork – Bilingual Teacher

**Consider/Approve Employment of Paraprofessional Personnel:**

Audrey Adkins	High School – Content Mastery Aide
Gina Serna	Plum Creek – Library Aide

For Your Information

Resignations/Retirements of Personnel:

Professional-Resigned

Stephanie McKee	Bluebonnet – Talented & Gifted
-----------------	--------------------------------

Paraprofessional-Resigned

Candace Risien	Central Office – Superintendent/Board Secretary
----------------	---

Support Staff-Resigned

None

Administratively Hired or Reassigned:

Professional

None

Paraprofessional

Robert Bernal	Kids Klub Group Leader
Elaine Miranda	Kids Klub Group Leader
Ursula Rogers	Kids Klub Group Leader
Tammy Cardenas	Kids Klub Group Leader

Support Staff

Holly Latham	Junior High – Lunchroom Manager
Janie Ruiz-Soto	Freshman Campus – Pastry Cook

Substitutes

Pauline Bodkin	Mayde McGinty
Ramona Brockmeyer	Charles McGuire
Leane Burt	Samantha Mohle
Amy Cargile-Coates	Sarah Morris
Alejandrina Castaneda	Christopher Nealy
Anna Deleon	Moriah Olgin
Lisa DeLosSantos	Jimmie Osteen
Linda Eureste	Stacey Parker
Jay Fortman	Nancy Peralez
Nathaniel Fultz	Mark Raymor
Tina Goode	Leslie Rodgers
Robert Hailey	Ursula Rogers
Elliza Hernandez	Richard L Saylor, III
Stephen Hernandez	Kelsey M. Schawe
Celeste Houy	Dusty Sneed
Kristi Horton	Michael Stone
Marshall Forester	Rosalvina Serrato
Lori Jaimes	Susan Southard
JoAnn Karl	Loretta Thomas
Kelley Koehler	Jacqueline Thompson
Hadassah Lacy	Diane Trevino
Juanita Lozano	Erin Uhlaender
Sandra Martinez	Blanca Vargas
Gretchen Matias	Elizabeth Wright
	Jenna Voigt

Tim Juarez, Jr., closed the meeting at 7:51 p.m. on September 22, 2008 for the purpose of discussing Personnel in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.074. No final action, decisions, or motions would be made while the board was in executive session. The meeting opened at 8:46 p.m. on September 22, 2008.

**The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Juan Alvarez, Jr., to approve Employment of Professional personnel Brandon Henry, Genelle Parra, Leslie Posey, Erin Uhlaender, Rosanna Limas and Paraprofessional personnel Audrey Adkins and Gina Serna as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

15. Board Member/Superintendent Items.

Brenda Spillmann – Review of district policy CW by administration

John Manning – Policy Committee Vacancy – 1 position

Dr. Parra – Completed campus and department visits. We have tremendous educators working hard with focus on teaching and learning. Their efforts are appreciated.

Adjournment.

Agenda completed, meeting adjourned.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Timoteo Juarez, Jr., Board President

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Juan Alvarez, Jr., Board Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated