

Minutes – Board of Trustees
October 27, 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 Manning, and Brenda Spillmann. John Flores was absent.

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

- Dr. Guerra presented the A+ Education Foundation presentation. A+ Education Foundation recognized Jennifer Lickert of Plum Creek Elementary as the grant recipient for her winning submission for innovative projects in the classroom. These funds will be used to help cover the cost of her innovative classroom programs that have been implemented to enrich classroom learning experiences for her students. This year's 42 winning submissions included varied projects such as dyslexia support in the classroom, recycling clubs and iPod tutorials.
- Student Organizations participating in GBRA Town Branch Parks Clean Up, by GBRA Community Liaison, Liz Lachik recognized students as well as staff who participated in the Keep Lockhart Beautiful Program. Beatrice Starks helped organize the food donations from local barbecue restaurants and was a team leader for the Pecos River clean up. Ms. Lickert was involved in the planning for the creek clean up and helped with the registration the day of the clean up. FCCLA - Julie Hitter, Student Council - Alice Hamblin, Girl's Volleyball - Jamye Pauley, Boy's Basketball - Glen Rotzler, Key Club - Gracie Kelly and Walter Nickells. Lockhart Jr. High School Builders Club - Sponsor - Laurie Terrell - Darrian Head with parents Mary and Danny, Isaac Sanchez, Alex Martinez, Emma Mills and mother, Lisa Mills, Esai Medina, Andrew Benavides and Father, Derek Benavides, Rachel Bittned and mother, Tara Bittned, Nicolas Salinas, Kaitlyn Breautigan and mother, Lora Breautigan, Jennifer Herring, Karrisa Munoz, Brittany Coleman, Wesley Rains, Danielle Whisenhunt, Jamie Whisenhunt, Lindsey Thornton, Shelby Terrell and Father, Smitty and Kennedy Terrell. Lockhart Jr. High Faculty – Karen Nixon, Rita Flores, Jing Leath, Hillary Contreras, Frances McNair, Amanda English, Stefani Stone, Marlo Wallendorf, Deborah Regalado, Toni Salazar, Wendy Wachtel, Genny French, Maria Elizondo, Ronnie Goode, Kristy Chase, Tana Rogers, Karli Rodriguez, Sonja Villalobos. Others LISD students that participated: Jennifer Lickert, Beatrice Starks, Chris Huggins, Charlene Lawless, Seth Wright, Julie Burt, Sierra Sanchez, Sara Cornelison, Cole Kenney, Travis Williams, Abram Garza, Jacob Alvarez, Cielo Villalobos, Serenity Villalobos.

Ms. Lachik presented pictures of those who participated in the Town Branch Lockhart Community clean up.

Open Forum

JoAnn Diaz filled out a card requesting to speak to the Board but was not present when called to speak during the Open Forum.

Business

1. Public Hearing - Schools FIRST Rating for the 2006-2007 School Year

This is a public hearing on the schools FIRST Rating. Tina Knudsen, Chief Financial Officer, provided background information for the schools FIRST report (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). The Texas legislature enacted legislation several years ago to enhance the transparency of the Texas Public Education System Finances. The Schools Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas was created to address the mandated financial public disclosures. Recently, the report was modified by legislature to include four new indicators and one discontinued indicator of performance. Those changes are noted in the report being presented. Lockhart ISD received its sixth consecutive Superior Achievement Rating. Included in the report are the 24 indicators and Lockhart ISD's standing on each of the indicators since its inception in the 2001-2002 school year, the reimbursements the Superintendent and the School Board received in the 2006-2007 school year, outside compensation and fees received by the Superintendent during that school year, and a report on the gifts in excess of \$250.00 received by executive officers and Board members as well as a report on business transactions between the school district and the board members.

2. Action: Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

August 28, 2008

September 6, 2008

September 22, 2008

B. LISD Tax Collection Report

C. Quarterly Investment Report

D. Budget Amendments

E. Report of 2007-08 Purchasing Cooperative Fees

F. Modified Schedule/TAKS Testing Days Waiver

G. 2008-09 Student Transfers

The motion to accept the Consent Agenda given by the administration was made by Mr. Manning and seconded by Ms. Brooks, The motion carried (6-0).

3. School Finance Overview Report 2009-2010

Tina Knudsen presented the School Finance Overview Report and stated that it would be prudent to be aware of public finance right now. Mrs. Knudsen showed slides if the report. There are no anticipated significant changes until the 2011-2012 school year. Increased property values increased revenue to local school districts. As property values increase, property tax revenues decrease. Local school district revenue money per student remains frozen at 2005-2006 levels. There will be no significant new revenue for LISD unless student enrollment increases. In projecting the 2009-2010 LISD Budget, the administration makes the following assumptions: 1. There will be no changes in state funding until 2011-2012, 2. The Average Daily Attendance (ADA) remains constant at the 2008-2009 levels, 3. The increased property values will not increase LISD revenues and 4. Increased property tax revenues result in decreased state revenues. The general undesignated fund balance, which is the district's savings account, as of June 30, 2008, is estimated at \$9,579,308.00. The Optimal Fund balance is 3 months of operating expenses based upon the 2008-2009 budget. The estimated unencumbered reserve is at \$1,737,517.00. Future considerations: Use fund balance to cover recurring costs and M&O needs, Review staffing, Program evaluations (Cost/Benefit Analysis), Tax Ratification Election to cover M&O needs. *More than 20% decrease over 2 years will cause an unfavorable indicator on the Schools FIRST rating.

4. Board Policy Committee Report

Mr. Manning is coming off of the Board Policy Committee. Mr. Alvarez and Mr. Flores still serve on this Board Policy Committee. Ms. Spillman volunteered to serve on the Board Policy Committee.

Mr. Manning raised a concern that he didn't want to have in November, for a motion made and accepted, that the naming policy that was on the last Board agenda be put off until the November meeting. He stated that if they were going to do that, there are certain requirements in that policy that need to be met. He mentioned that a lot involved Dr. Parra and that he is the one that will receive the nominations. He suggested that it needs to be advertised in the community so the community can make nominations if they want.

5. LHS PA System Report

The High School PA system became inoperable in September of this school year after a heavy rain storm. It is intermittently inoperable due to the age and normal deterioration of the wiring. The wiring is on the roof and is exposed to all kinds of weather elements on a daily basis. Over the course of forty years, it is deteriorating to the point that it will no longer be operational or effective. A renovation project would entail the removal and replacement of all the PA system wiring with a 30-year UV rated cable with the exception of the high school 100 wing, cafeteria and library. Due to recent renovations, the wiring in these locations has not yet deteriorated. The administration plans to solicit proposals for not only the LHS PA System renovations project, but also include an optional bid in the specifications to add the Cub House to the existing LHS system.

6. Consider and/or Approve Maintenance and Renovations Discount RFP 08-013

This item is regarding catalog purchasing and why this particular method would be used. The purpose obtaining a catalog discount bid is to allow LISD to purchase items for the best value through out the fiscal year. This process also allows local and specialty vendors, who offer competitive pricing, the opportunity to be an approved vendor even though they do not automatically qualify as an approved vendor via a purchasing cooperative. The Purchasing Department solicited bids for maintenance and renovations supplies, services and equipment. The bid was advertised in the Lockhart Post Register. Out of 444 mailings to vendors, 131 valid bids were received. The administration's recommendation is that the vendors on the attached list (Maintenance and Renovations Discount Bid #08-013) given be approved as presented for use by the campuses/departments on an "as needed" basis. The bid will be valid for a period of one (1) year from the date awarded, with the option to renew for four (4) additional one (1) year periods if mutually agreed upon.

Mr. Manning made the motion to approve RFP 08-013 submitted by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried (5-0-1). Brenda Spillman chose to abstain from this vote.

7. Consider and/or Approve the Lighting Renovations/Retrofitting RFP 08-015

Dr. Parra stated that previously the board and the administration had worked on a plan for renovation and some retrofitting. In 2005, the district contracted with ESA, Energy Systems Associates, Inc. to design mechanical and lighting retrofit projects for Lockhart ISD. Due to the cost of the projects, the district did not move forward with the projects at that time. This particular lighting renovations and retrofitting was part of that consideration. In this years budget, \$80,000.00 was allocated to assist with this lighting retrofit project. If things remain the same the LISD may see payback within five to six years. The project includes replacing the ballast, bulbs, and fixtures at Plum Creek, Navarro, Freshman Campus and High School. The district only received two proposals for this project after advertising was solicited in the Lockhart Post Register. As a result of the higher cost proposal, the administration provided the School Board Trustees options for considering the cost of the project which was broken down by campus to enable a decision to be made to either complete the project in its entirety or a portion of the project. The administration recommends awarding the Lighting Renovation project to Amtech Lighting Services for the full project costing \$144,897.00.

Mr. Alvarez stated that it was budgeted \$80,000.00 and then asked where the rest of the money would come from. Mr. Gardner stated that it could be taken from the fund balance or that part of it can come from the \$500,000 that has been allocated for capital outlay projects for this school year. Mr. Gardner stated that this would be the best possible payback in five to six years if things remain the same. There are additional projects that need to be looked at. The HVAC system at Plum Creek is something that has been planned for over four years. We're looking at the \$500,000.00 to complete that project. However, it's scheduled to start design and specifications for this project in January. More than likely there would not be any construction until after this fiscal year is over which would be paid for by next year's \$500,000.00.

Mr. Manning made a motion to accept RFP 08-015 for the Energy Conservation Project in the amount of \$144,897.00 and the funds between the \$80,000.00 that is budgeted with the remainder to be taken out of the \$500,000.00 set aside for the maintenance and repair. Seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried (6-0).

8. Consider and/or Approve ADA Compliance Projects that include Renovations for the LISD Softball Field

This was a neighboring district's athletic program request from last year. Mr. Gardner stated that this is a legal issue. The softball field is considered an ADA Compliance priority due to ADA compliance questions and concerns and requests from a neighboring school district. The areas for consideration of renovation are for handicap parking, bleacher seating, restroom facilities, wheelchair accessible paths, and the entrances into the dugout areas. The estimated cost for the softball field renovations is \$106,000.00. Expenditures for ADA renovations have not been budgeted but can be taken from the \$500,000.00 that has been reserved for this year's capital outlay projects or out of fund balance.

Mr. Manning made a motion to accept the administration's recommendation for the ADA Compliance at the Lockhart ISD softball field in the amount projected and the money to be taken from the \$500,000.00 maintenance and repair set aside for this year. Seconded by Ms. Spillman. Motion carried (6-0).

9. Consider and/or Approve Tax Roll Resolution for 2008

Dr. Parra stated that annually the property tax code required approval of the Tax Roll Resolution. The 2008 Roll has been presented by the Caldwell County Appraisal District. The 2008 freeze adjusted taxable value is \$771,874,834 as compared to \$720,155,803 in 2007. Although there will be an increase in Lockhart ISD tax revenues for 2008, there is a corresponding, almost equal, decrease in revenues from the State of Texas, due to state funding formulas. The Administration recommends the approval of the 2008 Tax Roll Resolution as presented.

Ms. Brooks made the motion to approve the 2008 Tax Roll and it was seconded by Mr. Benavides. Motion carried (6-0).

10. Consider and/or Approve 2008-2009 District Improvement Plan

Annually the school district is required to develop and present a District Improvement Plan for Board approval. The District Improvement Plan was developed and received input from the District Advisory Council (DAC). The LISD Administration recommends approval of the 2008-2009 District Improvement Plan.

Mr. Manning made a motion to accept the 2008-2009 District Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spillman. Motion carried (4-1-1) For: Ms. Brooks, Mr. Juarez, Ms. Spillman and Mr. Manning. Opposed: Mr. Alvarez. Abstained: Mr. Benavides.

11. Consider and/or Approve 2008-2009 Campus Improvement Plans

Annually each campus is required to develop and present a Campus Improvement Plan for Board approval. Each Campus Improvement Plan was developed and received input from the Campus Improvement Committee (CIC) for that campus. The LISD Administration recommends approval of the 2008-2009 Campus Improvement Plans.

Mr. Manning made a motion to approve the 2008-2009 Campus Improvement Plans. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spillman. Motion carried (4-1-1) For: Ms. Brooks, Mr. Juarez, Ms. Spillman and Mr. Manning. Opposed: Mr. Alvarez. Abstained: Mr. Benavides.

12. Consider and/or Approve 2009-2012 Technology Plan

TEA mandates that each school district develop and approve a three (3) year technology plan that includes specific guidelines for districts to use when developing this plan. This was an item that needed to be amended on the agenda. It was originally posted as 2008-2009 Technology Plan when it needs to be posted as 2009-2012. The amended agenda was put on the website and posted at the District Office this past Friday and was mailed to each of the Board Members. The agenda was also sent to Lockhart Post Register and to the different campuses. The LISD Administration recommends approval of the 2009-2012 Technology Plan.

Ms. Brooks made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried (6-0)

13. Consider and/or Approve the Payment of Moving Expenses for the Superintendent as per the Employment Contract:

The new Superintendent obtained three bids for relocation expenses, stating that he only expected reimbursement for the low bid.

Mr. Manning made the motion to approve the \$2,660.09 for the moving expenses. Seconded by Mr. Benavides. Motion carried (6-0).

Dr. Parra requested a closed executive session on Item numbers 14 and 15. Tim Juarez, Jr. and the Board convened in a closed session at 8:10 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2008 in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.074 for the purpose of discussing Personnel. No final action, decisions, or votes would be made while the board was in executive session. The Board ended its closed session at 8:54 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2008.

14. Consider and/or Approve Employment/Promotion of Professional Personnel:

Ms. Brooks moved to approve the administration's recommendation of Jennifer Limbaugh. Ms. Spillman seconded the motion. For the purpose of clarity, the Board President called for a hand vote. The motion was carried by hand vote (3-3). In favor: Benavides, Brooks, Spillman. Opposed: Alvarez, Manning, Juarez. The motion failed due to lack of a majority vote. Mr. Manning made a motion that the Administration look at an alternative way to compensate Mrs. Limbaugh for her degree or certification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried (6-0).

15. Employment of Personnel

Administratively Hired or Reassigned:

Mr. Manning made a motion to accept the Administration's recommendation of the Superintendent/Board of Trustees Secretary, Mrs. Darla Damron. Seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried (6-0).

16. Discuss/Consider and/or Approve Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

Dr. Parra requested that the Board go into a closed executive session.

The Board of Trustees on Monday, October 27, 2008 at 8:57 p.m. convened in a closed session in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act for the purposes of discussing items listed under the Texas Govt. code section 551. No final action, decisions, or votes would be made while the board was in executive session. The Board ended its closed session at 9:18 pm on Monday, October 27, 2008.

17. Board Member/Superintendent Items

Ms. Spillman will ask her subcommittee members to look at a date to look at the CW Policies for the meeting in November and will contact Mr. Flores. Mr. Alvarez and Mr. Flores will give Ms. Spillman dates for a future meeting. Mr. Alvarez asked if flowers had been or could be sent to Mrs. Flores on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Parra thanked the Board members for their tremendous support of this administration specifically. He feels that great progress is being made.

Adjournment.

Agenda completed, meeting adjourned.

SIGNED: _____
Timoteo Juarez, Jr., Board President

SIGNED: _____
Juan Alvarez, Jr., Board Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Dated

APPROVED: _____
Dated