

Minutes – Board of Trustees
December 15, 2008
6:30 p.m. – LHS Conference Center
(Revised)

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Timoteo “Tim” Juarez, Jr. Other members present were Juan Alvarez, Jr., Derek Benavides, Susan Brooks, John Flores and Brenda Spillmann. Members absent were John Manning.

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; 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; 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; and Bill Coleman, Maintenance Director.

Recognition of Personnel and Students:

Plum Creek Elementary Science Fair Medal Winners were presented by Principal Evangelina Orta. Ms. Orta thanked Ms. Rachel Grubbs (Librarian) and Kimberly House (Technology) who were in charge of the Science Fair. Ms. Orta also thanked Mr. Benavides for attending the Science Fair. She announced that the First Graders had an activity table that worked on the five senses. Second grade had an activity of Classification. Third grade makes toys every year. Fourth grade had an activity in the library where they had a circle of chairs and as a person sat in each chair they could see a different phase of the moon. Fifth grade had an Observation Memory Box activity. The students who received awards were: First grade individual - Hadley House, Second grade individual - Anastacia Rodriguez, Third grade individual- Katie Henrichs, Third grade team Marshal Grimm and Adrianna Wallace, Fourth grade individual - Thayman House, Fourth grade team - Madison Rogers and Maddison Welvaert, Fifth grade individual - Kaylee Goerlitz, Fifth grade team Natalie Rodriguez and Quinn Dechene, The overall individual winner was - Melanie Jones. The overall team winners were Megan Rogers and Alison Lickert.

The Lockhart High School’s 7th Period Theater Production Class gave a presentation of The Twelve Days of Christmas which was led by Ms. Whitfill.

Open Forum

There were no requests to address the board.

1. Public Meeting – 2007-08 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) Report

Ms. Wright presented the AEIS report to the board and the public. The AEIS report pulls together a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. She showed comparisons of the state with LISD for the 2007-08 school year. The results Ms. Wright presented included Results of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS); by grade, by subject; and by all grades tested. She also presented the Participation in the statewide assessment programs, Exit-Level TAKS Cumulative Passing Rates, Progress of Prior Year TAKS failers, Results of Student Success Initiative, Attendance Rates, Annual Dropout Rates (grades 7-8, 7-12 and grades 9-12), Completion Rates, and College Readiness Indicators. Of the 36 areas of TAKS testing, Lockhart ISD scored higher than the State of Texas in 26 of the 36 tests. The AEIS report is on the LISD Web. Also online are the campus AEIS reports for 8 campuses. The rating for the campuses are as follows: Pride High School – Acceptable, Lockhart High School – Acceptable, Lockhart Freshman – Recognized, Lockhart Jr. High – Recognized, Plum Creek Elementary – Recognized, Navarro Elementary – Recognized, Clear Fork Elementary – Recognized, Bluebonnet Elementary – Recognized, Carver Kindergarten – not rated. In order to receive a Gold Performance Acknowledgement, 25% of the students had to score at or above the scale score of 2400. Those campuses are as follows: Pride High – 2006-2007 Advanced Academic Courses; Lockhart Jr. High – Reading/English Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Social Studies, Comparable Improvement in Reading/ELA; Navarro – Writing, Mathematics & Science; Clear Fork – Math; Bluebonnet – Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Comparable Improvement in Reading; Plum Creek – Comparable Improvement in Reading & Math. Lockhart ISD Student Information: Total students in 2007-2008: Ethnic distribution; African American – 295 students,

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Hispanic – 2,596 students, White 1,499 students , Native American – 10 students, Asian/Pacific Islander – 31 students. Economically Disadvantaged – 2,560 students. Limited English Proficient - 310 students. At Risk – 2,134 students. There were no community comments. Mr. Flores asked for a breakdown of the Economically Disadvantaged students. Ms. Wright stated that it was not in the AEIS report but that she could probably find it. Mr. Alvarez asked what month this report begins. Ms. Wright responded that it is from August 2007 to May 2008 with the exception of the dropout rates. Ms. Brooks commented how much she likes the information on pages 15 and 16 which talks about who this district is and how many professional staff the district has. It also gives a breakdown of all the students which is very important to the public. She stated that this is the district's report card and shows who the kids are and how the district is serving them as well as how the district stacks up against the state. She invited everybody to take a look at this report. Mr. Juarez asked Dr. Parra, since this is a public document, if a hard copy is available in the central office or on the campuses for the community to review, mentioning that this report is also available on the district website,. It would help those in the community who do not have computer access. Ms. Brooks asked Ms. Wright if a copy of the Campus Report will be sent home in January. Ms. Wright confirmed that.

Business

2. Action: Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - October 27, 2008
 - November 24, 2008
- B. LISD Tax Collection Report
- C. Cash Investments Report
- D. Budget Amendments
- E. 2008-09 Texas Excellence in Education Grant Award
- F. Cubhouse/Texas Workforce Matching Grants Agreement

Mr. Flores made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda with the exception of the minutes from the November 24, 2008 board meeting and was seconded by Mr. Alvarez. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Brooks requested to pull the Approval of Minutes for November 24, 2008 for further discussion. She requested that typing errors be corrected on pages 11 and 17. No action will be taken on this November 24, 2008 minutes until revisions are made.

3. 2009-10 Proposed Budget Planning Calendar

Ms. Knudsen presented the Budget Planning Calendar for the 2008-2009 year. She pointed out target dates to the Board in order to make sure the specific step is done. She also pointed out the three Special Called Meetings on April 13, 2009, May 11, 2009 and June 1, 2009. In the past the Board requested budget workshops on a day other than the regular board meeting dates.

4. Publicly Announce Board Member Training Hours

In their first year of service, Board members shall receive at least ten hours of continuing education in fulfillment of assessed needs. Following the first year of service, Board members shall receive at least five hours of continuing education annually in fulfillment of assessed needs. All board members have met the required training hours as per Policy BBD (Legal) and are in compliance for this training year.

5. Consider and/or Approve Proposal for Internet Services / Fiber Transport RFP # 08-017

Mr. Gardner stated that Lockhart ISD currently receives internet service from ESC Region 13 via a fiber optic connection that is 6MB x 6MB. This means that the district has 6MB to transport internet data from Lockhart ISD to Region 13 and 6MB to transport data coming from ESC 13 back to Lockhart ISD. As the district continues to increase its usage of internet services through video streaming, internet applications, web based interactive lessons, and Skyward's applications for student and financial services, the district has come to its threshold as to the availability of bandwidth that is currently provided by its internet service. Therefore, the district is now requiring additional bandwidth in order to continue providing the best possible services for the students and staff. Requests for proposals were posted on November 3rd for LISD internet services that would provide the district with 12MB X 12MB bandwidth. It was requested that the proposal afford the district the

ability to increase bandwidth during the contract, if needed. Education Service Center Region 13 submitted the only proposal for \$32,760. Since internet service is E-rateable the district is eligible for reimbursement up to 77% of the contract cost. Therefore, the projected cost to the district will be \$7,534.80 for one year of service. The \$32,760 proposal for this contract is for one year with the option to renew for two additional one year terms.

Mr. Alvarez asked Mr. Gardner what the highest the district can go in bandwidth. Mr. Gardner responded by saying that they asked if they would be allowed to go up to at least 20MB but could probably go higher than that. Mr. Alvarez asked how long the district has had the 6MB x 6MB. Mr. Gardner stated that the district has had the current contract for 2 years. Mr. Alvarez asked that if the district outgrew the 6MB x 6MB and if it could outgrow the 12MB x 12MB in two more years. Mr. Gardner stated that it depends and that was why they are asking for the option to increase the bandwidth without having to go for bids again. The 77% is the discounted contract cost due to low socio economic status, the number of students the district has that classifies in that category.

Mr. Benavides made a motion to approve RFP #08-017 for Internet Services/Fiber Transport submitted by the administration and Mr. Flores seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

6. Consider and/or Approve Proposal for Cellular Services RFP # 08-019

Requests for proposals were advertised on November 3rd for district cellular services. The purpose of this request was to meet the district requirement for bidding contracts that exceed \$25,000. The request was necessary to meet the application window deadline for E-Rate and to secure the best value for district cellular service. Currently the district uses 71 phones with Cellular/PTT (Push to Talk) services. Three proposals were received for Cellular Services. Sprint/Nextel submitted the best valued proposal in the amount of \$20,466. All cell phones used for student related activities/supervision are eligible for E-Rate reimbursement up to 77% of the cost. The projected cost to the district for cellular service after E-rate reimbursement is \$4,707.18. This contract will be for one year with the option to renew for two additional one year terms.

Mr. Alvarez asked Mr. Gardner if the cost was .99 cents or \$99. Mr. Gardner said that is .99 cents. Mr. Flores asked if the phones are push to talk and unlimited. Mr. Gardner said that most of the phones have the capability of push to talk which is mainly for maintenance and custodial employees and that it's included in the plan.

Mr. Alvarez made a motion to approve the Proposal for Cellular Services RFP #08-019 and Ms. Spillmann seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Consider and/or Approve the High School Allotment Budget

Dr. Parra reminded the Board that during the regular meeting on September 15, 2008 the board approved a portion of the total funds that were available for 2008-2009 High School Allotment budget. At that time the Board asked that a plan for the remaining balance be presented after the new superintendent, Dr. Parra, had an opportunity to assess the district's needs. Dr. Parra stated that he has a good feel of what will need to happen. The Administration presented a plan for the remaining funds in the 2008-09 High School Allotment budget. The High School Allotment budget is for grades 6-12. The software package will be for grades 6-8 and 9-10. This will help fill in the gaps from grades 9-10 and on an individualized basis which can be worked on at school or at home. What the teacher writes or draws will appear on the right side for the student. The bottom left hand side will be a dictionary, different terminology the teacher is using. The right hand side will be a notepad which describes what the student needs to be doing. It is customizable to the teacher for each student. **Ms. Spillmann made a motion to approve the High School Allotment Budget and Ms. Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.**

8. Consider and/or Approve Televising LISD Board Meetings

In the November board meeting, Time Warner proposed that in order for the school district to use the City of Lockhart's existing TV channel, fiber optic cable will have to be installed from the high school to City Hall. In addition to placing the fiber optic cable (approximately \$30,000) the district would have to purchase additional equipment (approximately \$18,500 including labor) to facilitate the feed coming to the high school. The placement of the fiber optic cable and the additional equipment that is needed to share the city's existing channel would cost the district approximately \$48,500. The option of using the Glosserman Room at City Hall was also considered, however as discussed at the meeting, we will have certain limitations and inconveniences if this option is chosen. The two options left for consideration are the sharing of Time

Warner's Channel 10 that would cost the district approximately \$48,500 or video recording our meetings at approximately half the cost. Video recording the board meetings will allow the district to post all recordings on the district's web site for viewing where each recording can be filed or archived for future viewing. Although video recording does not have the capabilities of televising, it will take care of the district's immediate needs and it also allows for future expansion to eventually televise the meetings. The administration presented two options to the board for approval. Option A: To pursue sharing the Time Warner's Channel 10 for the purpose of televising LISD Board meetings at an approximate cost of \$48,500 with the funding to come from the unreserved fund balance. Option B: To pursue video recording of the LISD Board meetings via an in-district solution at an approximate cost of \$25,000 with the funding to be drawn from the unreserved fund balance.

Mr. Alvarez suggested an Option C which would be to wait until the next school year's budget to do it the right way. Mr. Gardner confirmed that the \$25,000 would include what would be needed when the district is ready to use the channel 10. The district is hoping that Time Warner, in the near future, will have facilities available nearby the conference center that would allow the district to do it at a more practical cost. Right now to run fiber optic cable from the City Hall to the school would be around \$30,000. Mr. Gardner has heard that Time Warner will have fiber optic services in the LISD area. Option B would allow the district to prepare for future expansion but at the same time to go ahead and take care of the district's need as far as recording the board meetings and placing them on the district website for viewing that next day. Channel 10 has a very small portion of the population that actually views the live meeting at the City Hall. Austin ISD televises their board meetings but has a very small percentage of people who watch it live. Mr. Gardner got an approximate cost from AT&T for \$15,000.00 – \$16,000.00 to provide all the equipment needed to do what the district wants to do. The other option would be to use fiber optic with Time Warner. Part of it can be done to be ready for when the facilities are in the district area. It would not be a waste of funds to use the web based option since it would interface well when the district is ready to use Channel 10. There would be three cameras, audio and wireless remote.

Ms. Spillmann made a motion to accept Option B Televising/Video Recording LISD's School Board meetings via an in-district solution at an approximate cost of \$25,000.00 with the funding to be drawn from the unreserved fund balance. Mr. Benavides seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Consider and/or Approve Resolution of Intent or Policy to Keep the Lockhart High School Name Unchanged

During the Regular Meeting on November 24th, the Board showed interest in adopting a resolution to publicly express this Board's intent to keep the Lockhart High School name unchanged. Also under consideration is the Policy Committee's proposal to develop a Board Policy to keep the Lockhart High School name unchanged.

Ms. Brooks stated that she thought that having a Resolution is a great idea but if the Policy Committee felt there needed to be more she wouldn't vote against it. She continued stating that the less local policies there are the better but would support either. Mr. Flores stated that a Resolution is a public gesture but it is not binding. He continued to say that their seemed to be a lot of support from the community that were present. If future boards desire to change the name they'll have to view policy and there will have to be a policy change before they change it. He continued that they can still do a Resolution and then look into a policy and then let the board make a decision.

Ms. Brooks made a motion to approve the Resolution of Intent to Keep the Lockhart High School Name Unchanged and Ms. Spillmann seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. After hearing Mr. Flores state that he thought it would be best to have legal council draw up the policy and then come to the board for approval, Ms. Spillmann made a motion to have legal council establish a policy that would keep the Lockhart High School name unchanged. Mr. Alvarez seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

10. Consider and/or Approve the Issuance of an RFQ for Financial Advisor Services

First Southwest Company is the current financial advisor for Lockhart ISD and is under contract. First Southwest Company has recently signed a "Definitive Agreement" with Plains Capital Corporation to merge the two companies. The merger will combine First Southwest with a privately-held bank in Texas. Further information is included with this agenda item. It has been a long time since Lockhart ISD has considered the review of the financial services agreement with First Southwest. Due to the changes in the financial market

and the merger of First Southwest with Plains Capital Corporation, it is prudent to issue a request for qualifications for financial advisory services to review available providers. The current financial services agreement allows for a 30 day written notice from either party to terminate services. Due to provisions in the current contract, there are no charges to LISD unless services are provided on a bond issue. First Southwest is not working on any projects at this time. First Southwest does not require LISD to terminate the current agreement prior to issuing the RFQ.

Mr. Alvarez made a motion to approve the Issuance of an RFQ for Financial Advisor Services and Mr. Benavides seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Juarez asked Ms. Knudsen whether this would just be saying that an RFQ would be issued based on policies and procedures established by the district and that this would not bind the district with First Southwest or the new company name and if they wish to do so they will have the opportunity to submit an RFQ. Ms. Knudsen confirmed that the district currently has a contract with First Southwest which is like being on retainer. There is no fee and if we have services we need we either pick up the phone and call or if they see bond issues that we could be refinancing they call the district. This agreement will still be in place during the RFQ process and they may apply like any other company to provide services and we'll look at the qualification of each company.

11. Consider and/or Approve LISD's Used Time Clocks as Surplus Material and Authorize Permission to Accept Bids For Sale of the Clocks.

Policy CI (Legal) governs the disposal of school properties. This year LISD replaced the Kronos time clocks and program with True Time biometric time clocks and software integrated with the district's Skyward program. The district purchased 15 True Time clocks to replace the outdated Kronos time clocks. Several school districts have contacted the LISD district expressing an interest in purchasing the district's used time clocks.

Ms. Spillmann made a motion to approve the sale of the Used Time Clocks and Mr. Alvarez seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

12. Discuss, Consider and/or Approve Superintendent Priorities

The area of superintendent priorities was initially addressed during the October 15, 2008 Board Training and then discussed during the October 27, 2008 Regular Meeting as part of the superintendent's evaluation instrument. Trustees submitted their individual perceptions (targeting approximately four items) of what the superintendent's priorities should be, and the result was a compiled listing of those priorities. This item was on the November 24, 2008 Regular Meeting Agenda, but discussion was postponed pending Trustees' further review. The Performance Goals are, *Improve/Increase the academic performance and the educational opportunities for all students, Improve/Increase communication(s), involvement, and trust within the district and the community, Improve/Increase accountability and recognition among staff, Works with the LISD governance team to stay focused on areas that have positive impacts on student learning.*

Ms. Brooks stated that she thought Dr. Parra did a great job in putting all of the Boards wishes together. Ms. Spillmann agreed with Ms. Brooks that Dr. Parra did a fine job. Mr. Juarez stated that they will establish these as the priorities part of the evaluation method as an instrument that will be used.

Mr. Alvarez made a motion to approve the Superintendent Priorities and Mr. Flores seconded the motion. Mr. Alvarez stated that Mr. Manning requested to have the priorities emailed to him. Dr. Parra will email the list to Mr. Manning. Motion carried 6-0.

13. Discuss, Consider and/or Approve Suspension of Board Policy CW (Local) Regarding Naming Facilities

This would restrict the Board from naming and/or renaming any of the buildings or facilities in the district until such time as the board acts to remove the suspension and/or revise this policy.

Ms. Spillmann made a motion to approve the Suspension of Board Policy CW (Local) Regarding Naming Facilities and Mr. Alvarez seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

14. & 15. Communication/Action: Personnel

Employment

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Consider/Approve Employment/Promotion: Professional:

Jacqueline Thompson - Learning Strategist, Carver Kindergarten

Consider/Approve Employment of Paraprofessional Personnel: Paraprofessional:

Amber Crider – Secretary to Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction / Federal & State Programs

For Your Information:

Administratively Hired

Professional:

Will Burns – Student Teacher @ Navarro & High School to Substitute districtwide
Elizabeth Sappington – Student Teacher @ Navarro to Substitute districtwide
Nora Sosa – Student Teacher @ Clear Fork to Substitute districtwide
Lisa Wood – Student Teacher @ Freshman to Substitute districtwide
Donna Stephens – Certified Teacher (1-8) to Substitute districtwide

Food Service:

Gonzala Alvarez – Food Service
Rocio Garcia – Food Service
Magdalena Lopez – Food Service
Dolores Mendez – Food Service
Maria Miranda – Food Service
Guadalupe Mojica – Food Service
Orfelinda Rayos – Food Service

Resignations

Professional:

Kendrick Broadus – High School U.S. History/Economics Teacher/Coach (effective 12/19/2008)
Spencer Jones – Bluebonnet Special Education Teacher (effective 1/2/2009)

Ms. Brooks made a motion to approve the Employment of Personnel as advised by the Administration and was seconded by Ms. Spillmann. Motion carried 6-0.

16. Board Member/Superintendent Items

Mr. Flores mentioned the upcoming Celebrating Opportunities Conference that will be held in Austin, TX. on March 27-29, 2009. He asked Dr. Parra to look into consistency throughout the district in the stipends for Bilingual and ESL. Ms. Brooks wished everyone a Merry Christmas and suggested that everyone get rest. Mr. Benavides requested a status update on Boardbook. Mr. Alvarez requested an update on the bilingual program. He asked how many seniors are in jeopardy of not graduating this school year.

Adjournment.

Agenda completed, meeting adjourned.

SIGNED: _____
Timoteo Juarez, Jr., Board President

SIGNED: _____
Juan Alvarez, Jr., Board Secretary

APPROVED: _____
Dated

APPROVED: _____
Dated