

Minutes – Board of Trustees
August 25, 2005
8:00 p.m. – LISD Administrative Boardroom

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by board president, John Flores. Other members present were Gary Allen, Alan Fielder, Timoteo “Tim” Juarez, Jr., Clint Mohle, and Dennis Placke.

Administrators and staff present were: Dr. John Hall, Superintendent; Phil McBride, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Information; Theresa Ramirez, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Janie Wright, Executive Director of Curriculum and Special Programs; Tina Knudsen, Finance Director; Monica Parks, Executive Director of Special Education; Larry Ramirez, LHS Principal; John Henk, Freshman Campus Principal; Patrick Venglar, Pride High School Principal; Ed Sheppard, LDMC Principal; Susan Brooks, LJHS Principal; Susan Masur, Navarro Elementary Principal; Becky Kibby, Clear Fork Elementary Assistant Principal; Evangelina Orta, Plum Creek Elementary Principal; Barbara Bernal, Carver Kindergarten Principal; Joan Schlaht, Director of Community Education; Darrell Hess, Maintenance Director; Jesus Espinoza, Bluebonnet Elementary Principal; and Candy Risien Secretary for Superintendent/Board of Trustees.

Invocation

Dr. John Hall gave the invocation.

Business:

2. Action: Consider and/or Approve Adding a Pre-K Teaching Position to Carver Kindergarten

The administration is recommending adding a seventh Pre-K teaching position to relieve the overcrowding at the Pre-K level; the Kindergarten classes are currently in good shape. Dr. Hall and Barbara Bernal had considered transferring a Kindergarten teacher to the Pre-K level but feel the students would benefit more by adding this position since they are still experiencing growth on this campus. Mrs. Bernal provided the board with first day enrollment figures and history for previous school years. The board had some questions regarding previous teacher student ratios and what class space is available. A new teacher will cost the district an average of \$43,000 including benefits. The full day Pre-K grant will not be available; TEA will only be considering previous full day Pre-K programs this year according to Mr. McBride.

The motion was made by Alan Fielder, seconded by Clint Mohle to add a Pre-K teaching position to Carver Kindergarten. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

1. Action: Budget Workshop

The administration provided the board with 2005-06 proposed budget book including revenues and expenditures; the effective tax rate is \$1.45. Dr. Hall directed the board toward budget summaries titled B1 and B2, Tina Knudsen went through the budget book and discussed how she had been working closely with Title I, Title II, and SCE budgets. The most current figures indicate a \$419,215 loss in Budget 1 and \$1,314,682 in Budget 2, her analysis includes a 20% adjustment for fuel costs and \$20,000 for utilities. The business office has been reviewing salaries and making sure they are charged correctly. Mr. Fielder asked about the fund balance, Tina Knudsen stated it was at \$7.2 million as of last August 31. She is estimating a \$500,000-\$600,000 reduction this August, due to capital expenditures, staffing at LDMC, LHS and upgrading LVNs to RNs during the school year. The projected fund balance as of August 31, 2005 will be \$6,669,191. and the lowest formulated calculation is \$4.8 million. Ms. Knudsen provided the board with a chart listing Tax Rate Scenarios, which is included in the original minutes she also directed the board to additional revenues listed in sections 2 and 3 in the budget book. There was much discussion regarding tax collection rates, delinquent tax collections, capital outlay, ADA, budget templates, and additional revenues. Mr. Placke hopes that Mr. Rabe can provide the majority of our teacher training and

coordinate it to reduce the need for substitute teachers in the classrooms and would urge all staff to only pursue mandatory or required travel/expenses. John Flores suggested that the board should decide the tax rate and let the administrators determine how to get there. Mr. Placke would like the tax rate to stay where it is and get within \$500,000 of a balanced budget. Gary Allen asked to see campus budgets earlier next year, Tina Knudsen stated that Phil McBride met with all principals and directors and took a hard look at areas that could be cut. She also reminds the board that 80.8% of the budget is salaries/benefits, 2.1% is utilities, and 1% fuel, which only allows about 15% to play with. Dr. Hall stresses that we have to maximize our local tax effort to realize the greatest Tier II benefit for Lockhart ISD. The Truth in Taxation ad stated a \$78.86 increase for the average homeowner. Dennis Placke recommended doing away with the Communities in Schools caseworkers in the district to help lower the deficit. Tim Juarez asked how they serve the students and Janie Wright said they not only serve the students, but the entire family. The Freshman campus has one of two CIS counselors and Mr. Henk stated that 37 students were retained last year and only 14 this year, he particularly likes the conflict resolution, drug counseling, socialization skills and group work that is done on his campus. He also thinks they are just starting to see all the benefits of the program as students become more familiar with this resource. Mr. Sheppard said these counselors are quite active at his campus, he was looking forward to a CIS rep for LHS. These at risk students are referred to the Communities in Schools counselor via the principal and counselor. Mrs. Brooks states that 1/3 of her students are defined as at risk and an extra pair of hands is always welcome; especially someone who does social work and can go into homes and work with available agencies. The CIS counselor works with 40-50 students at LJHS and 50-60 at freshman campus. Mr. McBride recommends that directors/principals be permitted to determine where their budgets can/will be cut.

Agenda completed, meeting adjourned.

SIGNED: _____
John Flores, Board President

SIGNED: _____
Timoteo "Tim" Juarez Jr., Board Secretary

APPROVED: _____
(Dated)

APPROVED: _____
(Dated)