

Minutes – Board of Trustees  
April 18, 2006  
6:30 p.m. – LISD Administrative Boardroom

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by board president, John Flores. A quorum of members was present. Dr. Hall opened the meeting with information regarding Child Protective Services investigations and findings.

### Invocation

Dr. John Hall gave the invocation.

### Business:

#### 1. Action: Budget Workshop

The administration reports that no budget materials had been updated since the last workshop. Tina Knudsen reviewed the student discrepancy at Bluebonnet Elementary and brought those figures back in line. Mr. Placke recommends that the cost per student supply budget should be based upon need and not what was previously spent. Tina Knudsen has a peer district study to use for comparison and make sure the supply budget is equitable for each campus, the board requests that the principals provide actual campus costs for this comparison also. The board had questions regarding the remaining bond funds, Mr. McBride stated that he is waiting on board direction regarding improvements at LHS Conference Center. Mr. Placke wanted to know what the status of the Pfluger and Assoc. report on LHS was. The board had agreed to improve/expand the existing LHS campus and was waiting on the master plan report from Brad Pfluger. Dr. Hall proposes dividing the bond money evenly and letting the Bluebonnet, LHS, LJHS principals determine where it would most effectively be spent. Mr. McBride will review the allowed expenditures and present the board with budget amendments next month. Mr. Juarez reminds the administrators to review the original bond package and make sure those projects are completed with remaining funds. The board resumed the budget review at the Career and Technology section, Mr. Placke wanted to know if all of the LHS homemaking equipment was in good working order. Mr. Ramirez said some of it is antiquated, but it is working. Compensatory funds were looked at next, summer school, after school tutoring, and Saturday tutoring. Dr. Hall asked the board if contracted tutorials could be established to provide teacher/student support. Principals agree it's a good idea, Ms. Brooks points out there are a lot of liability issues that need to be looked into. Mr. Rabe agrees that student results should be analyzed and tutoring based on those findings. Mr. Rabe says he is currently working on identifying those students in grades 3-11 for precisely those instructional needs. Dr. Hall wants to make sure the teachers are receiving enough support to make their students successful and Mr. Rabe said there is evidence that some teachers are using materials that are actually making them less effective in the classroom. Mr. Rabe is stressing the need in monthly principal meetings to focus on basic TAKS skills with principals who then pass that strategy on to the classroom teachers. Community Education was looked at next, summer recreation, GED/adult Ed, and cubhouse are all programs summarized on page 37 of the budget report. Special Education supply budgets, travel and in-service were discussed next. Monica Parks said the determinations made by the shared services board are based on the decisions made by this local board. The district is currently at 14% for Special Ed services and should be at 12% according to the state average. Health services, central office, and HR budgets were reviewed and included an increase in utility costs but no election expenses for 2006-07. Mr. Placke had some questions about the cost of a TASB salary survey expense listed on the budget. The Maintenance department budget was reviewed along with the transportation budget and chapter 41/technology budgets. The board reviewed 2 drafts of Estimate of Cost to Equalize the Pay Steps report as prepared by Tina Knudsen. The board had some questions about the way percentage raises affect the pay scale and Tina explained that the raises have always been applied at the mid point. Dr. Hall wanted to know what the board thought of the proposed pay step equalization reports. Draft 1 would factor in a \$135,127 increase to the proposed budget including ½% COLA, the board agrees it makes sense to equalize the pay steps. The board wanted to know when the salary comparison report would be ready; HR is working on it. The board reviewed 2006-07 Budget Assumptions for General Fund report, which is included in the original minutes and factored into the proposed 2006-07 budget, the budget must be finalized by August 31. Susan Brooks states that she would like to retract her request to give up CIS staff person, she thought she would be saving a lot more than \$7500. CIS has notified LISD that the grant will be applicable in 2006-07, with additional \$7000 savings to LISD. Barbara Bernal provided the board with copies of Pre-K parent surveys regarding the 196 Pre-K students and reminded them that there are 10 Pre-K teachers contracted for 2006-07 and students receive a lot more services through a full day program.

Emily Bessey of Communities in Schools was present and states that they are serving 371 at risk students at this time on four campuses. Mr. Ramirez, Mr. Sheppard, and Mr. Henk all support the need for social services at work on their campuses working with at risk students. Mr. McBride asked the board if the creative scheduling of athletics at the Jr. High as proposed by Ms. Brooks would solve the budget issue at hand and negate the need to cut these programs. Mr. Rabe thinks freezing all salaries to balance the budget this year will impact fewer students than cutting either of these programs. Mr. Sheppard suggests receiving a limited number of students from outside of LISD to generate income for the district, to at least cover the costs of at risk counseling that is very important to his campus. Coach Goad spoke to the board regarding the LJHS athletic program and stresses the importance of reaching students through these programs. Mr. Flores asked the board to provide some direction to the administration for balancing the remainder of the \$64,000 deficit budget. Mr. Juarez wants to know if the district consensus supports a ½% raise more than leaving some of the mentioned programs in place Mr. Placke wants to find additional money for staff raises. Mr. Flores and Mr. Juarez feel that the full day Pre-K program and CIS programs are too new to give up on them yet, Mr. Fielder agrees and would like to see freezing of elementary teaching staff. Mr. Allen wants to know if there are no raises this year, where is the money going to come from next year, there was much discussion regarding pay raises for 2006-07. Mr. Juarez wanted to know where the area salary comparison report was.

Agenda completed, meeting adjourned.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Flores, Board President

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Timoteo “Tim” Juarez Jr., Board Secretary

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dated)

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Dated)