

Minutes – Board of Trustees

June 26, 2006

6:30 p.m. – Lockhart ISD Administrative Office Boardroom

The meeting was called to order by board president, John Flores. Other members present were Gary Allen, Juan Alvarez, Jr., Timoteo ‘Tim’ Juarez, Jr., John Manning, Clint Mohle, and Carl Ohlendorf.

Administrators and staff present were: Dr. John Hall, Superintendent; Phil McBride, Assistant Superintendent–Instruction and Operations; Theresa Ramirez, Assistant Superintendent–Human Resources; Tina Knudsen, Finance Director; Monica Parks, Special Education Executive Director; Larry Ramirez, LHS Principal; John Henk, Freshman Campus Principal; Patrick Venglar, Pride HS Principal; Ed Sheppard, LDMC Principal; Susan Brooks, LJHS Principal; Jesus Espinoza, Bluebonnet Elementary Principal; Donna Moore, Clear Fork Elementary Principal; Evangelina Orta, Plum Creek Elementary Principal; Barbara Bernal, Carver Kindergarten Principal; Joan Schlaht, Community Education Director; Darrell Hess, Maintenance Director; Les Goad, Boys Athletic Director; David Johnston, Girls Athletic Director; and Candy Risien, Secretary for Superintendent/Board of Trustees.

Other visitors included: Dr. Mary Hensley, Annette Gregory, and Mark Kincaid of Austin Community College and Adrian Pena from Texas Association of School Boards.

Call to Order.

Invocation.

Dr. John Hall gave the invocation.

Open Forum.

Ms. Kyla Touchstone appealed to the board and administration to make sure background checks are done consistently on all parents who are in contact with LISD students; whether parents are visitors, volunteers, or chaperones.

Recognition of Personnel and Students.

Carver Kindergarten Principal, Barbara Bernal was recognized for being an HEB Excellence in Education nominee and received \$500 for her campus.

Business.

1. Action: Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes
April 12, 2006
April 18, 2006
May 9, 2006
May 22, 2006
- B. LISD Tax Collection Report dated May 31, 2006.
- C. Cash Investments Report dated May 31, 2006.
- D. Budget Amendments dated May 31, 2006
- E. 2006-07 ESC Commitment Forms

The motion was made by Carl Ohlendorf, seconded by John Manning to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

2. Action/Comm: College Connection Report

Dr. Mary Hensley of Austin Community College presented the board with information regarding new opportunities for LHS seniors. ACC will come to Lockhart and assist all senior students with their college application process, financial assistance information, and acceptance letters to ACC upon graduation. ACC will be providing more early college courses and credits for LHS students in 2006-07.

3. Action/Comm: CATE Program Report

Annette Gregory and Mark Kincaid of Austin Community College presented the board with information regarding CATE progress during 2005-06. Ms. Gregory met with staff at LHS and developed needs assessments and updated the course guides. Current courses were sequenced for more cohesiveness and she applied with TEA for innovative course credit. Many departmental and advisory meetings were held within the district and community. Articulation agreements were filed with ACC for Welding, Culinary, Hospitality, and Business. Health Science and Automotive agreements are still pending, instructors must be certified in order for students to maximize college credit. By January, 18 students had already received full credits in Welding. Ms. Gregory expects a year end report soon. She's attended numerous meetings including being a chairperson for the Capital Area Tech Prep Consortium and represents Lockhart during these meetings. She anticipates working with Blinn College, Texas State, and TSTC during the next school year. Mr. McBride explains that expansion into the Automotive Body/Collision area will require substantial renovations, equipment and the addition of an instructor perhaps at mid-term. Gary Allen stresses that there needs to be enough student support and interest, especially at the lower grade levels to make sure there is demand for this course. Ms. Gregory said industry/employment reports are good indicators, as are student surveys, and parental input. She states that the numbers of students currently enrolled in the Health Sciences courses already validates that program. John Flores reiterated the importance of exposing students to the opportunities available to them by pursuing these CATE courses. Tina Knudsen stated that new High School improvement funding would probably help with the cost of expanding the CATE staff if that is the direction the board would like to pursue. John Manning urges the administration to 'fast track' the expansion of the CATE program, wherever the most student interest lies, and hopefully more students will stay in school. Tim Juarez urges the administration to prioritize the district wide needs that will serve the most students and be prudent of future budget restraints.

4. Action/Comm: Report Regarding Coding Error at Freshman Campus

John Henk reports that a clerical error made at the Freshman Campus in all likelihood will cause his campus to be Academically Unacceptable on the TEA reports in July. The documents were not 'bubbled in' at the correct level as determined by the ARD committee. But due to the error, Pearson scoring will misinterpret the student performance. He explained the appeal process and assures the board that he, Mr. Venglar, and Mrs. Parks are all working diligently to correct this problem. They cannot start the appeals process until after the TEA ratings are posted in July and have until August 18 to submit the explanation and supporting documents to change the accountability rating. The TAKS appeals are considered on a case by case basis and last year all appeals were granted.

5. Action/Comm: 2005-06 TAKS Report

Dr. Hall reviewed a 2005-06 TAKS comparison chart with surrounding districts that was prepared by James Rabe. The entire report is included in the original minutes.

6. Action/Comm: Optional Flexible School Year Program Report

TEA permits school districts to select an optional flexible school year for students that have passed all elements of the TAKS tests. Students that have not passed, remain in school with smaller class sizes and concentrated tutorials/instruction. Dr. Hall said it will be optional for parents and if they elect for their students to stay in school, they may do so. Secondary principals agree that this will be a motivational tool for 9th and 10th graders to pass the TAKS. This program does not cost the district any loss of funding or ADA. Dr. Hall wants to know if the board would be interested in pursuing this for 2007-08 school year. Clint Mohle said if it does not cost the district funding, 'it's a no brainer'.

7. Action: Consider and/or Approve TASB as the Provider for Workers Compensation Insurance

Tina Knudsen stated that LISD advertised for Workers Compensation proposals in May for the upcoming school year. TASB has been the provider in the past and the administration is recommending a new type of plan for 2006-07. LISD has had a flat rate policy in the past, through the RFP process Mrs. Knudsen became aware of a different type of plan called Aggregate Deductible Insurance Policy which will cost the district a maximum of \$220,000 per year in claims. The highest loss in a five year history has been \$65,000 in one year. Mr. Adrian Pena explained that this policy will cost the district less money, but will require more effort in paying claims, loss prevention services are still included. Mr. Pena explained that open claims can add to a yearly maximum. Last year the district paid \$197,000 in quarterly premiums and only \$52,000 in claims.

The motion was made by Gary Allen, seconded by Clint Mohle to change to the Aggregate Deductible Insurance Policy provided by TASB. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

8. Action: Consider and/or Approve Durham Transportation One Year Contract Extension

The administration recommends that the attached contract extension with Durham School Services be approved. Mr. Manning wanted to know if there was a more efficient way to transport Special Ed students who do not fill a full size bus. Phil McBride will check with Walsh, Anderson and see what the liability would be for the district if these students are transported in smaller vehicles, he would also look into the safety factors. The contract is included in the original minutes.

The motion was made by Tim Juarez, seconded by Carl Ohlendorf to approve the Durham School Services contract extension. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

9. Action: Consider and/or Approve Memorandum of Understanding with City of Lockhart Student Resource Officer

The administration recommends the approval of the MOU with the City of Lockhart for an SRO at LHS, there is also a second MOU providing for an officer at the Freshman Campus that will serve other campuses in light of the additional funding for 2006-07. Tim Juarez wanted to make sure we know what the City of Lockhart budget expectations are, John Manning said he understands they are anticipating a 4% increase.

The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Gary Allen to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Lockhart for LISD Student Resource Officers. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

10. Action: Consider and/or Approve Replacement Computer Purchase

The five year technology plan provides for a replacement cycle of classroom computers, currently there are 292 computers that are six years old. The administration recommends replacing the CPUs from remaining Chapter 41 funds. The monitors and keyboards will continue to be used and the new CPUs will have a three year warranty. The bid from M & A Technology was the best received via TCPN vendors based on LISD specifications. The computer replacement list was compiled by recommendations received from campus TIMS staff.

The motion was made by Tim Juarez, seconded by Clint Mohle to approve the replacement of 262 district computers. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

11. Action: Consider and/or Approve Expanded Surveillance System at Lockhart Junior High School

The administration recommends approval of the proposed CCTV system from Troxell Communications for the Jr. High School. The entire pricing matrix is included in the original minutes.

The motion was made by Tim Juarez, seconded by John Manning to approve the purchase of CCTV system for LJHS. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

12. Action: Consider and/or Approve a Nominee for TASB Board of Directors

The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Gary Allen to nominate Mike Sagebiel to the TASB Board of Directors. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

13. Action: Consider and/or Approve 2006-07 LISD Secondary Student Handbook

The administration recommends approving the 2006-07 Secondary Student Handbook. Gary Allen had a question regarding the proposed dress code change at LJHS. Susan Brooks stated that the changes are minimal and address 'modesty' issues at her campus, shorts and skirt lengths will be longer. Boys must wear shirts of a specific style, no solid black clothing and baggy clothes are not permitted. All dress code violations are referred to the office for enforcement and a student is provided with acceptable clothing to wear for the remainder of the day. Clint Mohle disagrees with the pierced ear issue for boys and Ms. Brooks says the dress code is considered 'conservative', to prevent distractions. Tim Juarez wants to be sure that students will be given a couple of days to adjust to the new rules and that enforcement will be consistent. Students at the High School will receive ISS for 3-4 repeat dress code violations and students at LJHS are given lunch detention. Students at the Freshman Campus are not punished if they comply at the time of correction, if they do not comply they are then removed from the classroom and sent to ISS. Repeat offenders are given after school detention. Dress code violations alone are not a basis for LDMC, insubordination or repeatedly defying campus rules will result in LDMC placement at all campuses. John Manning recommends that a copy of the FNG policy be included as an appendix to the Student Handbooks. With the parents acknowledging signature, they can no longer deny knowing the formal complaint/appeals process.

The motion was made by John Manning, seconded by Juan Alvarez, Jr., to approve the Secondary Student Handbook with the addition of the FNG policy. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

14. Action: Consider and/or Approve 2006-07 LISD Elementary Student Handbook

The administration recommends approving the 2006-07 Elementary Student Handbook. Principal, Donna Moore stated that a Free and Reduced Meal Application has been added to the handbook since the last version. The Elementary Student Handbook will also include the FNG policy.

The motion was made by Gary Allen, seconded by John Manning to approve the Elementary Student Handbook. The motion was amended by Tim Juarez, seconded by John Manning to approve the inclusion of the Free and Reduced Meal Application(s). The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

15. Action: Consider and/or Approve Rehiring of Shirley LaBlanc at LJHS
Withdrawn, no action needed.

16. Action: Consider and/or Approve Diane Voigt Leave Request

John Flores closed the meeting at 8:57 p.m. on June 26, 2006 for the purpose of discussing personnel. No final action, decisions, or motions would be made while the board was in executive session.

The meeting opened at 10:37 p.m. on June 26, 2006.

The motion was made by Tim Juarez, seconded by John Manning to approve the leave request for Diane Voigt. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

17. Action: Consider and/or Approve One Year Leave of Absence for Paul Royall
Withdrawn, no action needed.

18. Action: Consider and/or Approve Contract Extension for Dave Johnston

The administration recommends approving a contract extension.

The motion was made by Tim Juarez, seconded Gary Allen to approve the contract extension for Dave Johnston. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

19. Action: Employment of Personnel
See addendum.

20. Action: Parent Complaints/Grievances
None requested.

21. Action: Student Complaints/Grievances
None requested.

22. Action: Other Members of the Public Complaints/Grievances
None requested.

23. Action: Board Member Items

Regarding the request for an Athletic Workshop, the board is a governing body and they feel the discussion should only take place once the decisions are made by the program directors and administrators. The athletic directors will provide the board with a rough draft of the athletic handbook by the July 10 meeting. Tim Juarez thanked the AD's for initiating this discussion. The board would like to schedule an LHS Master Plan presentation at the next board meeting.

24. Action: Consider and/or Approve Additions/Changes to Calendar for 2006-07 School Year

The administration is proposing a change to the 2006-07 school calendar. A holiday on March 2, for students and staff that would accommodate the Caldwell County Stock Show members' requests.

The motion was made by Clint Mohle, seconded by Gary Allen to amend the 2006-07 School Calendar. The motion carried unanimously, (7-0).

