

Minutes of Special Board Meeting May 6, 2020

The Board of Trustees Texas City Independent School District

Present: Bryan Thompson, President
Nakisha Paul, Vice President
Melba Anderson
Hal Biery
Dickey Campbell
Nelson Juarez
Mable Pratt

Present: Susan Myers, Interim- Superintendent
Dr. Terri Burchfield, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services
Marcus Higgs, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Margaret Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations

Also Present: James Banks, Executive Director of Technology
Shone Evans, Coordinator for La Marque Athletics
David Hodgins, Attorney (Present by Phone)
Adriana Lyle, Executive Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Mark McLiney, SAMCO
Don Pursley, Director of Facilities
Leland Surovik, Director of Athletics
Melissa Tortorici, Director of Communications

A Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Texas City Independent School District was held Wednesday, May 6, 2020, beginning at 12:00 PM in the Simpson Education Support Center Board Room.

1. First Order of Business

- A. Announcement by the President whether a quorum is present, that the meeting has been duly called and notice of the meeting has been posted for the time and manner required by law

Mr. Bryan Thompson, President, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. Mr. Thompson announced that a quorum was present, that the meeting had been duly called, and a notice of the meeting had been posted in the time and manner required by law.

2. Pledge & Invocation

4. Action Items

- A. Consider approval of Amended Resolution regarding actions related to COVID-19 pandemic, delegation of authority to the Superintendent in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and additional related actions

Mr. David Hodgins, Attorney, reviewed the First Amended Resolution, where on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak and spread of the contra virus that causes COVID-19 a public health emergency and on March 13, 2020, publicly characterized the spread of COVID-19 as a pandemic. Mr. Hodgins read changes affecting the students, staff, and District of TCISD through this resolution. Including delegations and authority to the Interim Superintendent and designees that impact the District.

Mr. Dickey Campbell, Board Member, made a motion to approve the amended resolution regarding actions related to COVID-19 pandemic as presented. Ms. Nakisha Paul seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

- B. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE BY THE TEXAS CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ITS UNLIMITED TAX REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2020; LEVYING A CONTINUING DIRECT ANNUAL AD VALOREM TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ANY NECESSARY ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS WITH THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL ADVISORS; DELEGATING THE AUTHORITY TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND DISTRICT STAFF TO EXECUTE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE SALE OF THE BONDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mr. Mark McLiney, SAMCO District Financial Advisor, presented information regarding the District's proposed bond refinancing and recommended how our District should proceed with the refinancing. Mr. McLiney provides language and an Order that will allow Administration to move forward with the refinancing, and that would enable the District to take advantage of rates that are lower than previously anticipated. Mrs. Margaret Lee, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, suggested using Frost Bank as the primary manager and Raymond James and secondary underwriters.

Mrs. Mable Pratt, Board Member, made a motion to approve an Order authorizing the issuance of unlimited tax refunding bond series 2020. Ms. Melba Anderson, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

3. Public Forum

- A. Public Forum regarding listed Open Session Agenda Items (in lieu of a public appearance at the Board Meeting, members of the public may submit written comments to the Board on any listed agenda item via email prior to the beginning of the meeting addressed to alyle@tcisd.org. In your email, please state your name, address, agenda topic, and comment).

Rev. James Daniels, by email, sent a concern regarding the construction of Simms in comparison to the rate of construction rates of Guajardo and Hayley.

- C. Consider approval of minutes for Board meetings held 2/11/20, 2/14/20, 2/18/20, and 3/20/20.

Mr. Nelson Juarez, Board Member, moved to approve the minutes from meetings held on 2/11/20, 2/14/20, 2/18/20, and 3/20/20. Mr. Hal Biery, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

5. Information Items

- A. Review proposed 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar

Mrs. Susan Myers, Interim Superintendent, interjected a caveat that this is the proposed calendar prepared prior to COVID-19, and there may be a possible need for some additional adjustments due to the current situation with COVID-19.

Dr. Terri Burchfield, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services, presented the TCISD 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar. She explained that House Bill (HB) 2610, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, amended the Texas Education Code (TEC), §25.081, by striking language requiring 180 days of instruction and replacing it with language requiring districts to provide at least 75,600 minutes of instruction (including intermissions and recess). The bill also allows school districts to add minutes as necessary to compensate for minutes of instruction lost due to school closures caused by a disaster, flood, extreme weather conditions, fuel curtailment, or another calamity. Through the summer data submission, the Texas Education Agency will verify that school districts have met the required number of minutes of instruction.

Administration requests that the Board Approve the proposed 2020- 2021 Instructional Calendar along with the authority of the Superintendent to modify as needed under the relevant circumstances.

- B. Review proposed technology purchase to provide one to one devices for all students in grades PreK – 6

Mr. James Banks, Executive Director of Technology, explained that the Technology Department is requesting quotes for approximately 26,000 additional HPx360 laptops. These laptops will be provided for students in grades K-6. Mr. Banks explained that currently, we have about 4,496 students in grades K-6. We now own 1,921 laptops that are in mobile carts on these campuses. The difference is 2,575. He stated that to expand the 1-1 program, we would need to purchase 2,600 units so that there will be enough for students district-wide. PC Connections has currently provided the best pricing. This project will be paid for Title 1 funds, State Compensatory Education funds, Local Technology funds, and funds initially budgeted for substitutes by not needed due to school closures for the 2019-2020 school year.

C. Review proposed renovations to La Marque High School Athletic Facilities

Coach Leland Surovik, Director of Athletics, reviewed a proposed schedule and cost for renovations to La Marque High School athletic facilities. He stated that improvements are needed to provide adequate work-out and dressing room space for both La Marque High School and La Marque Middle School students participating in the athletic program. Trustees asked for additional details, and an itemized cost analysis be provided at the June meeting.

D. Review budget amendments

Mrs. Margaret Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, discussed budget amendments as presented. The budget amendments consist of budget transfers and budget revisions. The budget revisions can only be initiated in the Business Office and may result in a change to the total budgeted revenues and/or expenditures. The Budget Revisions presented at this meeting have a net effect of zero.

1. Budget Transfers
2. Budget Revisions

E. Review Investment Reports

Mrs. Margaret Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, stated that they would be closing the month of April next week. Financial reports will be sent out in the Friday packet for review and consideration. Mrs. Lee included and reviewed a Quarterly Investment Report for Trustees to approve.

F. Review proposed list of Brokers/Dealers

Mrs. Margaret Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, briefly reviewed the proposed list of Brokers/Dealers and stated that there were no changes from last year.

G. Review proposed list of investment continuing professional education providers

Mrs. Margaret Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, briefly reviewed the proposed list of investment continuing professional education providers and stated that there were no changes from last year.

H. Review construction progress update

Mr. Don Pursley, Director of Facilities, explained why Sims school is currently behind the construction of Guajardo Mr. Pursley then gave an update of District facilities.

6. Business/Legal/Finance Consent Agenda

Ms. Nakisha Paul, Vice President, moved to approve items A (1-2), B, C, D, and E. Ms. Melba Anderson, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

A. Consider approval of budget amendments

1. Budget Transfers
2. Budget Revisions

B. Consider approval of Investment Reports

C. Consider approval of Brokers/Dealers

D. Consider approval of continuing professional education providers

E. Consider approval of 1 new professional position

7. Curriculum & Instruction Consent Agenda

Ms. Melba Anderson, Board Member, moved to approve items A, (Approved as presented with the understanding that authority has been granted to the Superintendent to modify as appropriate under relevant circumstances) and B. Mr. Dickey Campbell, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

A. Consider approval of the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar

B. Consider approval of technology purchase to provide one to one devices for all students
in grades PreK-6

8. Future Business

A. Future Agenda Items

B. Consider report by Superintendent and/or Board members regarding previous or upcoming activities for Board members

1. June 27 **Graduation:**
Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX
La Marque - 11:00 a.m.
Texas City - 3:00 PM.

Mrs. Susan Myers, Interim Superintendent, explained that due to the Governor's statement regarding indoor Graduations, we would relook at location and procedures for Graduation.

9. **Closed Meeting** - Closed meeting will be held for the purposes authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.071 - 551.087 concerning any and all purposes permitted by the Act, including but not limited to the following sections and purposes: Texas Government Code Sections:

Mr. Dickey Campbell, Board Member, made a motion to convene into a closed meeting under Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 through 551.087. Ms. Nakisha Paul, Vice President, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0. The Board of Trustees entered closed session at 2:09 PM.

- A. **551.071** For the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on all subjects or matter authorized by law when the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney about:
 1. when the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney about:
 - a. Pending or contemplated litigation or
 2. A settlement offer, or On a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body, under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this Chapter;
 3. Consider legal advice regarding items specifically listed on the Agenda.
 4. Consider legal advice regarding Mediation Agreement regarding special education case, TEA Docket No. 143-SE-0120, and related actions
 5. Consider legal advice regarding proposed nonrenewal of the term contract of Sahirah A. Muhammad and related actions
- B. **551.072** For the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property:
- C. **551.073** For the purpose of discussing negotiated contracts for prospective gifts or donations
- D. **551.074** For the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, resignation, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee
 1. Consider hiring of professional personnel;
 2. Consider renewals, nonrenewals, and terminations of contracts for professional personnel;

3. Consider proposed nonrenewal of the term contract of Sahirah A. Muhammad and related actions
- E. **551.076** For the purpose of considering the deployment, specific occasions for, or implementation of, security personnel or devices
- F. **555.0821**
 1. For the purpose of deliberating on a matter regarding a public school student if personally identifiable information about the student will necessarily be revealed by the deliberation.
 - a. Consider approval of Mediation Agreement regarding special education case, TEA Docket No. 143-SE-0120, and related actions
- G. **551.082** For the purpose of considering discipline of a public school child, or complaint or charge against personnel
- H. **551.083** For the purpose of considering the students, guidelines, terms, or conditions the Board will follow or will instruct its representatives to follow, in consultation with representative of employee groups
- I. **551.084** Excluding witness for a hearing
- J. **551.087** For deliberation regarding economic development negotiations
 1. Discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the governmental body has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the governmental body and with which the governmental body is conducting economic development negotiations;
 2. Deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described by Subdivision (1)

10. Reconvene from Closed Meeting

The Board of Trustees reconvened into open session at 2:55 PM.

11. Consider Action on Items Discussed in Closed Session

- A. Consider Board approval of professional personnel recommendations and related actions

Mr. Marcus Higgs, Executive Director of Human Resources, asked for approval of the hiring of all professional personnel recommendations as discussed in closed session. Mr. Hal Biery, Board Member, moved for approval. Mr. Dickey Campbell, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

- B. Consider Board approval of renewals, nonrenewals, and terminations of contracts for professional personnel and related actions

Mr. Marcus Higgs, Executive Director of Human Resources, asked for approval renewals, nonrenewals, and terminations of contracts for professional personnel and related actions recommendations as discussed in closed session. Mrs. Mabel Pratt, Board Member, moved for approval. Mr. Hal Biery, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

- C. Consider approval of Mediation Agreement regarding special education case, TEA Docket No. 143-SE-0120, and related actions

Mr. David Hodgins, Attorney, asked for approval of the agreement regarding special education case, TEA Docket No. 143-SE-0120, and related actions as presented and with the authorization of signature by the Board President and Superintendents' authority to implement all aspects of the agreement.

Mrs. Melba Anderson, Board Members, made a motion to approve the agreement regarding special education case, TEA Docket No. 143-SE-0120, and related actions. Mr. Hal Biery seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

- D. Consider proposed nonrenewal of the term contract of Sahirah A. Muhammad and related actions

Mr. Marcus Higgs, Executive Director of Human Resources, asked for approval of the proposed nonrenewal of the term contract of Sahirah A. Muhammad and related actions, for reasons listed in BFBB (local).

Mr. Hal Biery, Board Member, made a motion to approve the proposed nonrenewal of the term contract of Sahirah A. Muhammad and related actions. Mr. Dickey Campbell, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

12. Adjournment

Mrs. Mable Pratt, Board Member, moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 PM. Mr. Dickey Campbell, Board Member, seconded the motion. The motion carried 7/0.

Approved:

Bryan Thompson
TCISD Board of Trustees

Date

Adriana Lyle, Secretary
TCISD Board of Trustees

Date

