MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEXIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

DATE: July 20, 2009
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Mexia ISD Administration Building
616 North Red River
Mexia, TX 76667

Members Present: Brian Johnson, President; Richard Duncan, Vice President; Culetta Beachum, Secretary; Larry LaRue, Member (arrived at 6:07 p.m.); Bert Harrison Member; Stephen Trantham, Member; Willie Herring, Member.

Members Absent: None

MISD Staff: Dr. Jason Ceyanes, Superintendent; Eleanor Fitte, Executive Director of Finance; John Turpin, Asst. Superintendent; Larry Adair, Junior High Asst. Principal; Kristina Brunson, Sims Principal; Donna Savage, McBay Principal; Russ Meggs, Junior High Principal; Hugh Ellis, High School Principal; Jess Whisler, MISD Chief of Police; Maggie Johnson, H.S. Teacher; Kendal Hickenbottom, H.S. Band Director; Debi Miller, Foodservice Director; Judy Holleman, High School Asst. Principal and Phylliss Connell, Supt. Secretary.


1. Brian Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Johnson then called roll and noted that all Board members were present with the exception of Larry LaRue who arrived at 6:07 p.m.

2. Willie Herring led the Board in the pledge of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags, and Stephen Trantham led the Board in an invocation.

3. Special Recognition
   A. Campus and District Support Staff
      1. Dr. Ceyanes recognized his secretary, Phylliss Connell, by thanking her for all that she does for him and the school district and presented her with a gift of appreciation. Dr. Ceyanes expressed his appreciation for her contributions to the organization.

4. Recognition of Visitors - Public Forum
   A. No one addressed the Board.

5. Consent Agenda
   A. Board Minutes for June 15, 2009 and June 29, 2009
   B. General Operating Checks and Financial Reports
   C. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves the consent agenda items as presented.
   D. Bert Harrison made a motion that the Board approves the consent agenda items, as presented. Culetta Beachum seconded.
   E. Board approved 7 – 0.
6. Reports
   A. The Executive Director of Finance, Eleanor Fitte, presented reports on the following topics:
      1. Utility Report
      2. Tax Report
      3. Principal Activity Account Reports
   B. The Assistant Superintendent, John Turpin, presented a report on the following topics:
      1. Completion & Drop-out Rate
      2. Maintenance Report
      3. Transportation and Fuel Report
   C. The Superintendent, Dr. Jason Ceyanes, presented reports on the following topics:
      1. Summer School Report
      2. Results of the Texas Education Agency's Investigation Relating to the Advocacy Inc. Complaint Alleging that State School Students Do Not Have Access to the Regular Education Campuses
      3. Student Handbooks for all Campuses

7. New Business - Discussion/Action Items
   A. Budget Amendment for the General Fund (199)
      1. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves the budget amendments for Fund 199, the general fund.
      2. Stephen Trantham made a motion that the Board approves the budget amendments for the general operating fund. Bert Harrison seconded.
      3. Board approved 7 – 0.
   B. 2009 - 2010 Residential Placement Contract with Bayes Achievement Center
      1. The contract for Bayes Achievement Center is a special education contract for a 24-hour residential student who resides in our district. The district will file a separate application for residential services funding with the Texas Education Agency and the remaining expenditures will be coded to federal special education funds.
      2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves the contract with Bayes Achievement Center.
      3. Richard Duncan made a motion that the Board approves the contract with Bayes Achievement Center. Larry LaRue seconded.
      4. Board approved 7 – 0.
   C. Custodial Supplies Bids
      1. All state and local requirements have been met for competitive bidding and purchasing for custodial supplies.
      2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board accepts the bid for custodial supplies from Talley Chemical and Kendal & Son.
      3. Richard Duncan made a motion that the Board accepts the bid for custodial supplies from Talley Chemical and Kendal & Son (for only the items that can’t be bought from Talley’s). Bert Harrison seconded.
      4. Board approved 7 – 0.
   D. Office Supplies Bids
      1. All state and local requirements have been met for competitive bidding and purchasing for office supplies.
      2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board accepts the bid for office supplies from
Flatt Stationers, Lakeshore Learning, Nasco and Summit Learning as presented.

3. Bert Harrison made a motion that the Board accepts the bid for office supplies from Flatt Stationers, Lakeshore Learning, Nasco and Summit Learning as presented. Larry LaRue seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0.

E. Fuel Supplies Bids
1. All state and local requirements have been met for competitive bidding and purchasing for fuel supplies.
2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board accepts the bid for fuel supplies from Ryder Oil, as presented.
3. Bert Harrison made a motion that the Board accepts the bid for fuel supplies from Ryder Oil as presented. Culetta Beachum seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0.

F. Student Insurance Bids
1. All state and local requirements have been met for competitive bidding and purchasing for student insurance bids.
2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board accepts the bid for student insurance from Baker Agency, as presented.
3. Larry LaRue made a motion that the Board accepts the bid for student insurance from Baker Agency as presented. Culetta Beachum seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0.

G. Establish Date and Time for the Budget and Tax Rate Hearing for FY 2010
1. Each year, the Board must hold a public hearing on the proposed budget and tax rate in which tax payers have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed budget.
2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board sets the 2009 - 2010 budget and tax rate hearing for Monday, August 31, 2009, at 6:00 pm.
3. Stephen Trantham made a motion that the Board sets the 2009 - 2010 budget and tax rate hearing for Monday, August 31, 2009, at 6:00 pm. Willie Herring seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0.

H. FO (LOCAL) - Student Discipline Specifically Relating to Corporal Punishment
1. After careful consideration, a community survey, and a community chat meeting relating to the reimplementation of corporal punishment in Mexia ISD, Dr. Ceyanes stated that he was convinced that a strong majority of the Mexia ISD community supports the reimplementation of corporal punishment.
2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves modifications to Board Policy FO(LOCAL) to include the reimplementation of corporal punishment, effective immediately.
3. Richard Duncan made a motion that the Board approves modifications to Board Policy FO(LOCAL) to include the reimplementation of corporal punishment, effective immediately. Bert Harrison seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0

I. FNF (LOCAL) - Student Rights and Responsibilities Interrogations and Searches Specifically Relating to the Random Drug Testing Policy
1. Dr. Ceyanes stated that he believes that the district needed to slightly shift the drug testing policy to a more therapeutic model rather than a punitive model that would include meaningful counseling on the first positive test, 30 day total suspension of
activities on the second positive test, one year suspension on the third positive test, and indefinite suspension on the fourth positive test. Dr. Ceyanes conducted a Community Chat meeting to discuss this topic and obtained feedback from the community prior to making a final recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board modifies Board Policy FNF(LOCAL), as presented.

3. Bert Harrison made a motion that the Board modifies Board Policy FNF(LOCAL), as recommended by Dr. Ceyanes, including changes such as adding “but not limited to,” changing “100 percent of the students” to “40 students,” removing “365 school days” and adding “365 days.” Stephen Trantham seconded.

4. Board approved 7 – 0.

J. DEA (LOCAL) - Compensation & Benefits - Disaster Pay Policy

1. In light of recent school closures due to natural disasters and the swine flu, Texas Association of School Boards is recommending that local school boards modify Board Policy DEA (LOCAL) to clarify that employees will be continued to be paid during school closures.

2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves modifications to Board Policy DEA (LOCAL) to clarify provisions relating to disaster pay.

3. Stephen Trantham made a motion that the Board approves modifications to Board Policy DEA (LOCAL) to clarify provisions relating to disaster pay. Culetta Beachum seconded.

4. Board approved 7 – 0.

K. FMH (LOCAL) Student Activities and Commencement

1. Currently, students who have completed coursework but not passed the exit level TAKS test are allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies. The administration recommends that the board raise this expectation to only allow students who have met all requirements for graduation to participate in graduation activities and ceremonies.

2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves modifications to Board Policy FMH (LOCAL) to clarify qualifications for participation in graduation ceremonies.

3. Culetta Beachum made a motion that the Board approves modifications to Board Policy FMH (LOCAL) to clarify qualifications for participation in graduation ceremonies. Larry LaRue seconded.

4. Board approved 7 – 0.

L. 2009 - 2010 Student Code of Conduct

1. Mexia ISD is utilizing the TASA Model Student Code of Conduct and will only have one Student Code of Conduct that will apply to all students on all campuses. Dr. Ceyanes briefly reviewed the portions of the model code of conduct in which the district made selections based on the needs and philosophies of the school district.

2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves the 2009 – 2010 Student Code of Conduct, as presented.

3. Stephen Trantham made a motion that the Board approves the 2009 – 2010 Student Code of Conduct, as presented. Bert Harrison seconded.

4. Board approved 7 – 0.

M. 2009 - 2010 Campus Improvement Plans for Mexia Junior High and Mexia High School

1. Mexia High School and Mexia Junior High School campus principals presented their respective Campus Improvement Plans and answered questions that the Board had relating to the plans.
2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves the Campus Improvement Plans for Mexia High School and Mexia Junior High School.

3. Stephen Tranham made a motion that the Board approves the Campus Improvement Plans for Mexia High School and Mexia Junior High School. Willie Herring seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0.

N. PDAS Teacher Appraisal Calendar & Appraisers
1. Each year, the Board of Trustees must approve the PDAS Appraisal Calendar and list of Appraisers.

2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board of Trustees appoint the following individuals as Certified Appraisers: Jason Ceyanes, John Turpin, Eleanor Fitte, Donna Savage, Pam Chaney, Kristina Brunson, Ellen Hogan, Dana Pate, Russ Meggs, Larry Adair, Greg Goodrum, Hugh Ellis, Judy Holleman and Michelle Howard and that Misd adopts the state approved PDAS system and attached Teacher Appraisal Calendar.

3. Culetta Beachum made a motion that the Board approves the attached PDAS Teacher Appraisal Calendar and the list of Certified Appraisers for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Willie Herring seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0.

O. Establishment of Dates for 2009 - 2010 Board Meetings
1. The Superintendent asked the Board to consider the meeting dates below.
   a. Monday, August 17, 2009
   b. Monday, September 21, 2009
   c. Monday, October 19, 2009
   d. Monday, November 16, 2009
   e. Monday, December 14, 2009 *
   f. Monday, January 11, 2010 *
   g. Monday, February 15, 2010
   h. Monday, March 8, 2010 *
   i. Monday, April 19, 2010
   j. Monday, May 17, 2010
   k. Monday, June 21, 2010
   l. Monday, July 19, 2010
   * Conflicts - not the 3rd Monday

2. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board review the attached information and set the 2009-2010 board meeting dates.

3. Stephen Tranham made a motion that the Board approves the attached dates for the 2009 - 2010 regularly scheduled Board Meetings. Bert Harrison seconded.

4. Board approved 7 - 0

P. 2009 - 2010 Budget Work Session
1. The Board entered into a budget workshop at 9:14 p.m. Eleanor Fitte and Dr. Ceyanes announced that the district has reduced its current year 1.6 million dollar deficit to approximately $500,000 and that the attrition plan has been extremely successful in eliminating the deficit for next school year. The current proposed budget for 2009 - 2010 is a zero balanced budget including the significant pay raises for teachers next school year. Dr. Ceyanes thanked the administration and staff for being fiscally responsible this current year and for being proactive to eliminate the potential deficit for next school year.
Q. Issues Relating to the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee Including the Junior High Principal and Sims Intermediate Principal or to Hear a Complaint or Charge Against an Officer or Employee
   1. Discussed in Executive Session

R. Student Issues including Discipline and Transfer Students
   1. Discussed in Executive Session

9. The Board entered into executive session at 9:43 p.m. as authorized by Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E:
   A. Issues Relating to the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee including the Junior High Principal and Sims Intermediate Principal or to Hear a Complaint or Charge Against an Officer or Employee (551.074)
   B. Superintendent Performance Goals and Formative Evaluation (551.074)
   C. Deliberating a Matter Regarding a Public School Student if Personally Identifiable Information about the Student will Necessarily be Revealed by the Deliberation (551.0821)

10. The Board reconvened into open session at 11:45 p.m.
    A. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves one year probationary teacher contracts for Meagan McCallum (McBay), Jaime Schick (McBay), Victoria Bennett (McBay), Laura Ellis (Junior High), Zach Smith (Junior High), Mark Rector (Junior High), Robert Punchard (Junior High), Jeffery McCoy (Developmental Center), and Angela Bailey (Developmental Center) for the 2009 – 2010 school year.
    B. Larry LaRue made a motion that the Board approves one year probationary teacher contracts for Meagan McCallum, Jaime Schick, Victoria Bennett, Laura Ellis, Zach Smith, Mark Rector, Robert Punchard, Jeffery McCoy, and Angela Bailey for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Willie Herring seconded. Board approved 7 – 0.
    C. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board hire Nanceen Hoskins as Behavioral Specialist and offer the appropriate associated contract for the 2009 – 2010 school year.
    D. Culetta Beachum made a motion that the Board hire Nanceen Hoskins as Behavioral Specialist and offer the appropriate associated contract for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Bert Harrison seconded. Board approved 5 – 2. For: Culetta Beachum, Bert Harrison, Larry LaRue, Brian Johnson and Stephen Trantham. Against: Richard Duncan and Willie Herring.
    E. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board accepts the resignations for Marcus Wilson and Heather Stuver for the 2009 – 2010 school year.
    F. Larry LaRue made a motion that the Board accepts the resignations for Marcus Wilson and Heather Stuver for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Willie Herring seconded. Board approved 7 – 0.
    G. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves a new position for a self-contained classroom at McBay Elementary beginning with the 2009 – 2010 school year. (This position will be initially funded with the federal stimulus funds).
    H. Bert Harrison made a motion that the Board approves a new position for a self-contained classroom at McBay Elementary beginning with the 2009 – 2010 school year. Larry LaRue seconded. Board approved 7 – 0.
    I. Dr. Ceyanes recommended that the Board approves the student transfer for the 2009 – 2010 school year as discussed in executive session.
    J. Larry LaRue made a motion that the Board approves the student transfer for the 2009 – 2010 school year as discussed in executive session. Willie Herring seconded. Board approved 7 – 0.
11. With no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

[Signature]
Brian Johnson, Board President

[Signature]
Culett Beachum, Board Secretary