

# Minutes of the Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees  
Commerce ISD

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A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Commerce Independent School District was held on June 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commerce ISD Administration Building, 3315 Washington St., Commerce, Texas. President Kathleen Hooten called the meeting to order, extended a warm welcome and announced that a quorum was present. The meeting had been posted for the time and manner required by law.

Board members present were Mrs. Hooten, Mr. Michael Beane, , Ms. Etta Herring, Mr. Randy Starks and Mr. Gabe Wittkopf. Dr. LaVelle Hendricks joined the meeting during Executive Session. Mr. Charlie Alderman was seated as Interim Superintendent.

## **Executive Session...**

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 6:14 p.m. to consider personnel (§551.074) and private consultation with Board's attorney, if needed (§551.071).

## **Reconvene from Executive Session...**

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board ended its closed session 7:06 p.m. on June 20, 2016.

## **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance...**

The invocation was led by Mr. Starks. Mr. Wittkopf led the pledge to the U.S. flag and Ms. Herring led the pledge to the Texas flag.

## **Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget and Tax Rate**

Director of Finance John Walker presented the proposed 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget and Tax Rate.

## **Presentation of Texas Property Tax System**

Brent South, Chief Appraiser of the Hunt County Appraisal District, gave a presentation explaining the property tax system.

## **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

Mr. Beane made a motion to accept the resignations of Geary Walker, CHS teacher/coach, and Michelle Day, CES teacher. Dr. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to employ Tim Allen, CMS teacher; Patricia Hawkins, ACW teacher; and Scott Wilson, CHS teacher/coach. Dr. Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Starks made a motion to employ Jennifer Driver as an administrator on a 12-month contract. Dr. Reid seconded the motion. The vote for yea was Mr. Starks, Mrs. Hooten and Dr. Reid. Opposed were Dr. Hendricks, Ms. Herring, Mr. Beane and Mr. Wittkopf. The motion did not carry.

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to employ Felisha Jones as assistant principal at CHS with an 11-month contract. Mr. Beane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Citizen's Comments...**

None

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 16, 2016, and the special meeting of June 6, 2016, and the financial statement and investment summary for May 2016. Dr. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Amendment of the 2015-2016 Budget**

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to amend the 2015-2016 budget as presented. Mr. Beane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Adoption of the Proposed 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget**

Mr. Beane made a motion to adopt the preliminary 2016-2017 budget as presented with total expenditures of \$14,188,717. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Adoption of 2016-2017 Proposed Tax Rate**

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to adopt the tax rate of \$1.5436 as presented. Mr. Beane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Walker noted the rate is six cents less than last year's rate and property owners were allowed a higher homestead exemption of \$25,000.

**Consider Approval of Property and Casualty Insurance**

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to approve property and casualty insurance through Trident Insurance Services for \$181,881, an increase of \$4438. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Approval of Agreement with Powell & Leon LLP for Legal Services Program**

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve the Powell & Leon LLP Legal Services Program as presented. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Approval of NETCAT Course Sharing Agreement**

Mr. Beane made a motion to approve the NETCAT Course Sharing Agreement as presented. Dr. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Acceptance of Bids Received on Resale Property**

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to accept the bid of \$1000 for one-acre property in the J. Compton Survey, Abstract 161 on Hwy 224. Dr. Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Action to select Gallagher Construction Company as the job order contractor for the 2016 Middle School ADA Project**

Mr. Beane made a motion to select Gallagher Construction Co. as the job order contractor for the 2016 Middle School ADA Project. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Action to Approve Contract Documents with Gallagher Construction Company**

Mr. Beane made a motion to approve contract documents with Gallagher Construction Co. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Execution of Lease Agreement for Chromebooks**

Dr. Reid made a motion to enter into an agreement with Apple to lease Chromebooks and mini iPads. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Informational Reports**

CHS Principal Steve Drummond said that CHS had received a \$6500 Commerce Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation grant to bring Rachel's Challenge back to the school.

Mr. Alderman explained the different options for calculating GPA and asked for Board input. He was directed to develop a plan that would include calculating the GPA with 12 core subjects.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2016, with executive session at 6 p.m.

**Board Comments...**

Mrs. Hooten thanked Blake Cooper for his service as superintendent. He attended his last board meeting as superintendent.

**Executive Session...**

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 8:29 p.m. to consider personnel (§551.074).

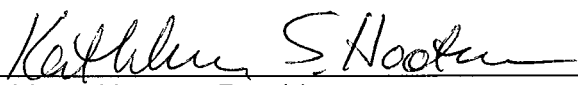
**Reconvene from Executive Session...**


Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board ended its closed session 9:40 p.m. on June 20, 2016. Ms. Herring made a motion that the Board revisit the hiring of CHS Assistant Principal Felisha Jones. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Beane made a motion to hire Felisha Jones as assistant principal at CHS. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The vote was 5 to 2 with Dr. Hendricks and Ms. Herring opposed.

**Adjournment...**

Mrs. Hooten asked if there was any other business. Mr. Beane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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Kathleen Hooten, President  
CISD Board of Trustees

  
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Etta Herring, Secretary  
CISD Board of Trustees