

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Commerce ISD

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Commerce Independent School District was held on September 21, 2020, at the Commerce ISD Administration Building. 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 for the meeting were Mrs. Hooten, Dr. Ray Green, Dr. LaVelle Hendricks and Mr. Gabe Wittkopf. Ms. Etta Herring and Mr. Randy Starks were absent.

Executive Session...

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss personnel (§551.074) and hold a private consultation with the Board's attorney, if necessary (§551.071).

Reconvene from Executive Session...

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board ended its closed session at 7:07 p.m. on September 21, 2020.

Opening Activities

Dr. Hendricks led an invocation. The pledge to the American flag was led by Dr. Green and the pledge to the Texas flag was led by Mr. Wittkopf.

Citizens' Comments

Ms. Stephanie Pickard spoke about the hybrid schedule at Commerce High School and the stress it puts on students and parents. Scott Lancaster spoke about the changing the hybrid schedule beginning at the next nine-week period.

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

_____ made a motion to employ Shelby Haygood, CHS teacher. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Hendricks made a motion to employ Michael Pope as special education coordinator. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 17, 2020 and the Special Meetings of August 27, 2020 and September 1, 2020, and the financial statements and investment summary for August 2020. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Review of Investment Policy and Investment Strategies

Director of Finance John Walker gave the annual review as required by statute.

Consider Acceptance of Certification of 2020 Appraisal Rolls for Commerce ISD

Mr. Walker explained that the certified appraisal rolls dropped from the \$530,033,865 preliminary figures. Dr. Hendricks made a motion to approve the total certified appraisal rolls of \$515,580,365 with \$512,628,716 for Hunt County and \$2,951,649 for Delta County. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Adoption of 2020-2021 Proposed Tax Rate

Mr. Walker explained that the proposed tax rate was eight cents lower than last year's. Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to adopt a tax rate of \$1.3598 with \$1.0109 for maintenance and operations and \$.3489 for the payment of principal and interest on debt of the district. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Approval of Instructional Model Change at Commerce High School

High School Principal Steve Drummond spoke about changing the hybrid instructional model to four days a week at school. Mondays would be used for online learning and teacher preparation. Teachers and staff were giving their all and were challenged by the current hybrid model. He said 47 percent of online students were failing at least one class and added that more students needed to be coming to school for face-to-face instruction.

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to change the Commerce High School hybrid model to four days of on-campus instruction and one day (Monday) online. Students could also continue to have the choice of total online instruction. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried with Dr. Hendricks opposing.

Consider Approval of Resolution Regarding Suspension of STAAR Testing and Modifying School Accountability Ratings for the 2020-2021 School Year

Superintendent Charlie Alderman stated that other districts across Texas were passing this resolution asking Governor Abbott to forgo STAAR testing and to modify accountability rating for this year due to the extreme hardship resulting from COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Green made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Appointing 2020-2021 School Health Advisory Council Members

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to appoint the following to the SHAC Committee:

Staff

Kathy Myers (Health)
Alison Walker (Family)
Joe Venable (Safety)
Patricia Tremmell (Admin)

Parents

Erica Campbell (ACW)
Tiffany McPherson (CES&ACW)
Shannon Shannon (CMS)
Sarah Staton (CHS)
Shanda Harris (CES & CHS)
Lisa Gossett (CHS)
Nicki Dawson (CMS)

Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Informational Reports

Superintendent Charlie Alderman reported a total of 1450 students enrolled. Pre-k is down 28 students from last year and kindergarten is down 25.

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Mr. Alderman gave reports on COVID-19 and the budget. He stated that the contingency built into the budget was not gone due to decreased enrollment and tax compression. He said the District had a healthy fund balance available but with the Legislature meeting in January, everything was subject to change.

Principal reports were made by Steve Drummond, CHS; Tina Bronson, CMS; Lisa Palazzetti, ACW and Wanda Beane, CES.

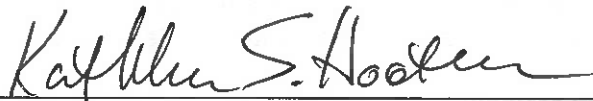
The date, time and location for the October Board meeting was set at Tuesday, October 20, 2020 with executive session to begin at 6 p.m. and the open session at 7 p.m. in the CISD Board Room.

Comments from Board Members

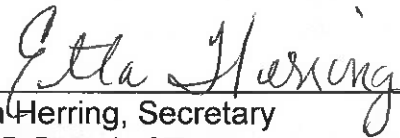
None

Adjournment...

Dr. Green made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Hooten stated that the meeting was adjourned.



Kathleen Hooten, President
CISD Board of Trustees



Etta Herring, Secretary
CISD Board of Trustees