

Hitchcock Independent School District

Public Meeting to Discuss the Proposed Tax Rate,
Special Called Meeting, and
Budget Workshop

September 28, 2010

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees met at a Public Meeting to Discuss the Proposed Tax Rate, Special Called Meeting, and Budget Workshop on Tuesday, September 28, 2010, at the Hitchcock ISD Boardroom/ Conference Facility located at 8004 North Railroad, Hitchcock, Texas. President Dianne James called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Present Dianne James, President; Monica Cantrell, Vice President; Ted Robinson, Jr., Member; Tom Ivey, Member; Shirley Price, Member

Absent Pat Turner, Member

Late Arrival Estelle Holmes, Secretary, arrived at 7:45 PM

Others Mike Bergman, Superintendent; Nina Conway, Business Manager; Carl Joiner and Scott Brady, Joiner Partnership; Bob Henderson, Financial Advisor

Call to Order Dianne James, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM; announced the presence of a quorum and stated that the meetings had been duly called and the notice had been posted in the manner prescribed by law.

Public Hearing to Discuss the Proposed
Tax Rate

The proposed tax rate was presented to the Board and to patrons by Ms. Conway.

\$1.04	Maintenance & Operations
<u>\$.46</u>	Interest & Sinking
\$1.50	Combined Tax Rate

Special Called Meeting

010-090

Proposal by Joiner Partnership
on alternative school construction
project

Carl Joiner presented the Board with an alternative plan for building a middle school next to the existing high school so that the middle school students would have a new building and could share the athletic facilities and cafeteria facilities. The new building would house the middle school and administration offices at a cost of approximately \$8.5 million and the building could be ready by 2012.

Mr. Joiner proposed selling \$500,000 in bonds for the high school parking lot, \$750,000 in bonds to renovate the Science classrooms and labs at the high school, and \$8.5 million in bonds for the new middle school.

He also suggested selling Crosby Middle School, the administration building, and the boardroom/conference facility and suggested the possibility of moving the Kids First Head Start Program to one of the elementary schools.

Discussion:

- Public does not want 7th and 8th grade that close to the high school.
- Not what was represented to the voters.
- Building a new high school is the direction that needs to be taken.
- Build a new high school, convert existing high school to middle school, and move 4th and 5th grade to the new addition.
- How can we afford to build a new middle school next to the high school when we could not afford to pay for the bonds on a new high school?
- Build a smaller high school to house the middle school and then add on to the high school when needed.
- Do not attach the middle school to high school.

Mr. Joiner suggested that the Board renovate the existing high school, add a new front, renovate the science labs, and build a middle school for approximately \$9.5 million.

It was the consensus of the Board to have a workshop and public meeting on November 16, 2010 at 6:30 PM, prior to the regular meeting. In the meantime, it will allow the Board to “feel out” the public on the plans and Mr. Joiner will have time to do conceptual plans for a middle school with a gym and cafeteria.

010-091

Adopt an order authorizing the issuance of Hitchcock ISD Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2010; and containing other matters related thereto

A motion was made by Shirley Price and seconded by Monica Cantrell to approve the Order Authorizing the issuance of Hitchcock ISD Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2010; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Escrow Agreement and the Subscription for and purchase of Certain Escrowed Securities; and Containing other matters related thereto, in the amount of \$500,000, as recommended by the Administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

(The \$500,000 is for the new parking lot at the high school. The bonds will be sold to Southside Bank, Tyler, Texas at 3.85% interest for 15 years.)

Estelle Holmes arrived at 7:45 PM

010-092

Adoption of the District's 2010-2011 Tax Rate by Written Ordinance

Motion 1 The following motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price. "Move that the property taxes will remain the same by the adoption of the tax rate of \$1.04 for Maintenance and Operation by written ordinance." [See attached]

Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion 2 The following the motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson. "Move that property taxes be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.48 for Interest and Sinking by written ordinance." [See attached]

Motion carried with all in favor.

(Combined tax rate is \$1.50)

Budget Workshop

Discussion/Possible Action

010-093

Review 2010-2011 Budget

Discussion:

- Cut Board meals
- Cut Board travel
- Buy items in bulk
- Micro-manage expenses for one year
- Cut out unnecessary items
- Cut out training
- Combine offices Student Support and Curriculum and Instruction to save on utilities and close Annex
- Move Maintenance office to Auto Tech building, Curriculum and Instruction and Student Support Services to Crosby Middle School
- Sell the Annex for salvage value and convert into a parking lot
- Look at reducing the need for substitutes
- Look at contracted services – bring Transportation back in-house
 - Coaches drive teams to away games, maintain a CDL
 - Check on coaches not riding the bus with the players and driving their own vehicles to the games
 - Check on buses for band and cheerleaders
- Spending too much money to Region 4 for tutoring—program is not working

Ms. Holmes requested that a report be made to the Board at the next meeting on the results of the Math Initiatives Staff Development. She also requested a roster of the Campus Improvement Committee members and the District Improvement Committee members.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Shirley Price and seconded by Tom Ivey to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Taylor
Recording Secretary

Dianne James, President

Estelle Holmes, Secretary