

Hitchcock Independent School District

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees met at a Regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, held at the Hitchcock ISD Boardroom/Conference Facility located at 8004 North Railroad, Hitchcock, Texas. President Dianne James called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present Dianne James, President; Monica Cantrell, Vice President; Estelle Holmes, Secretary; Pat Turner, Member; Ted Robinson, Jr., Member; Tom Ivey, Member; Shirley Price, Member

Others Mike Bergman, Superintendent; Susan Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Nina Conway, Business Manager; Randy Dowdy, Director of Student Support Services; Blanca Ochoa, Crosby Middle School Principal; Phyliss Coleman, Hitchcock Primary School Principal; Carl Joiner and Scott Brady, Joiner Partnership; John Carson, Brookstone Construction; Stephen Dubner, Attorney

Call to Order Dianne James, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM; announced the presence of a quorum and stated that the meeting had been duly called and the notice had been posted in the manner prescribed by law.

Pledge of Allegiance Ms. Cantrell led the members of the Board and patrons in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. flag and Mr. Ivey led the members of the Board and patrons in the Pledge to the Texas flag.

Recognitions Hope Small-Jackson, Hitchcock High School, announced the following recognitions:

1. Business Professional Association Regional (BPA) Leadership Conference Competition:
 - a. Diamond Hinton, Sophomore, participation in Interview Skills
 - b. Stephanie Spells, Senior, 4th place winner and State Alternative in Keyboarding Production
2. State level winner of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) award for aspirations in computing—Geornise Evans

Certificates of Recognition were presented by the Board to Ms. Jackson to distribute to the students.

3. The January 2010 Above and Beyond Citizen Award was presented to Chris Armacost, Technology Director, by Estelle Holmes.

The February 2010 Above and Beyond Citizen Award will be presented at the March meeting.

Public Participation

1. Frank Lopez addressed the Board concerning the inappropriate lecture at Crosby Middle School made by a board member.
2. Henry Coger addressed the Board in support of the board member who addressed students at Crosby Middle School.
3. Michelle Williams addressed the Board concerning a presentation given at Crosby Middle School on January 15, 2010.
4. Reverend Silverand addressed the Board in support of the board member.
5. Reverend Gilford addressed the Board in support of the board member.
6. Thomas Martin addressed the Board concerning no phones at Hitchcock Primary School.
7. Meisha Williams addressed the Board concerning the speech at Crosby Middle School by a board member.
8. Morris Tuck addressed the Board concerning board member conduct and policies and procedures.
9. Esther Orrill addressed the Board concerning the January 15, 2010 assembly held at Crosby Middle School.
10. Otto Hewitt, speaking for the Honish family, addressed the Board regarding the board member who gave a lecture to the 5th – 8th grade students at Crosby Middle School.
11. Stephanie Gutierrez addressed the Board concerning the speech given at Crosby Middle School.

Discussion

010-020

Architect Report:

District/Community Auditorium;

Parking at Hitchcock High School;

Turning Lane at Hitchcock Primary School;

Bond Construction Phase: Field House, Gym, Concession Stand

Mr. Joiner addressed the Board and announced that all projects are on schedule and on budget.

1. Convert Mooney Gym to an auditorium: To totally renovate the gym to an auditorium and to add additional parking would cost approximately \$6 million. To build a new auditorium on property located at the high school complex would cost approximately \$8 million.

It was recommended by Mr. Joiner that tax dollars would be better spent on educating students rather than a district/community auditorium.

2. Additional parking at Hitchcock Primary School: Mr. Joiner presented five possible options for additional parking. He recommended plan 1A at a cost of approximately \$160,000.
3. Turning lane at Hitchcock Primary School: Mr. Joiner reported that the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) did not require a turning lane in front of the school. It would have cost an additional \$105,000 and the decision came down to budget. He also reported that TXDOT would need to approve if we tie into the road. TXDOT reviewed the plan and did not require it. If it was required, the district would have to pay for the turning lane, not TXDOT.
4. Field House/Concession Stand/Gym: Mr. Joiner reported that the construction is ahead of schedule and on budget. He addressed the following concerns:
 - a. Equipment for field house: The equipment for the field house is included in the Phase 2 budget for the new high school.
 - b. Ms. Cantrell stated that she wanted to go on record to say that any excess funds would need to be used for furniture and equipment.
 - c. Ms. James asked about the girls using the weight room and if we were in violation of Title VII since there were no restrooms, dressing rooms, etc. for girls in the new building. It

was stated that the girls would use the existing field house which is in the current high school.

- d. Bulldog logo on the flooring of the new field house: The logo is not in the budget and the approximate cost is \$5,000 - \$6,000.
- e. Concession stand will be finished in early May, ahead of schedule. Ms. James asked why she had to hear from the community that there were no drains, sinks, or water pipes installed in the new concession stand. Mr. Brady responded that when the error was discovered, they took care of it and the concession stand does have drains, sinks, and water pipes.

Motion 1 A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to install the bulldog logo inlay at the new field house.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Pat Turner was not seated during the vote.

Motion 2 A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to approve the design of Option 1A for additional parking at Hitchcock Primary School and to authorize Joiner Partnership to get bids for the project.

Motion carried with all in favor.

010-013
Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as recommended by the administration:

1. Minutes
 - a. Regular meeting of January 19, 2010
 - b. Special Called meeting and Kids First Head Start (KFHS) Training Session between the KFHS Policy Council and the HISD Board of Trustees of January 28, 2010
2. Monthly Financial Report, Check Register, and Investment Report for month ending January 31, 2010
3. Monthly Tax Collection Report for month ending January 31, 2010

4. Monthly Kids First Head Start Financial Report and Monthly Check Register for month ending January 31, 2010
5. Monthly Greater Gulf Coast Cooperative/SHARS Financial Report and Monthly Check Register for month ending January 31, 2010
6. Communicate with the Texas Education Agency to express the opinion that the proposed new campuses, expanded grade levels, expanded geographic boundaries, and increased enrollment of the listed charter schools poses a potential for financial difficulty because of loss of enrollment:
 - a. KIPP Southeast Charter and KIPP Inc. Charter—increase maximum enrollment, expand geographic boundary, and add a campus
 - b. Ambassadors Preparatory Academy—expand grade levels
 - c. Comquest Academy Charter High School—add a campus and expand geographic boundary
 - d. Responsive Education Solutions—increase maximum enrollment, add a campus, and expand geographic boundary
 - e. KAT Small Planet Montessori Preschool, Inc.—add a campus
 - f. Abundant Life Christian Center of La Marque, Inc.—add a campus
7. 2010-2011 school calendar—approved the revised calendar. [See attached]
8. H-GAC Criminal Justice Resolution—approved resolution allowing Hitchcock ISD to apply for a parent outreach/truancy grant from the Texas Criminal Justice Division through the Houston-Galveston Area Council. [See attached]
9. Textbook Certification—approved the Local Board of Trustees Certification Form, 2010 for textbook adoption. [See attached]

Report/Information

Kids First Head Start Liaison Report

Ms. James reported that the Kids First Head Start Policy Council met on February 9, 2010. The following information was presented:

1. Director's report
2. Financial report

3. Monitoring debriefing

Report by Estelle Holmes—
Washington, DC Trip—TASB
Representative

Ms. Holmes presented handouts to the Board and to the audience on legislative issues that were presented in Washington.

Update on Bonds—Fund Balance

An update of the bonds—fund balance was presented to the Board for their review and information. There is approximately \$250,000 left in the remaining budget. Ms. Conway will have exact figures in about two weeks.

Mr. Robinson stated that he wanted to see a line item comparison between the financial audits for period ending August 31, 2008 and August 31, 2009. Ms. Conway stated that she would have the comparison at the workshop on February 18, 2010.

Optional Flexible Year Program (OFYP)
and Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP)

The OFYP is designed to give a school district 10 days to focus on instruction for students who are in danger of not passing the state assessments (TAKS) or in danger of not being promoted to the next grade. The program requires school districts to have 180 instructional days. Hitchcock ISD is not eligible due to the number of instructional days.

The OFSDP is what Hitchcock ISD currently has. It is a program designed to allow schools to change schedules of individual students so they can make up classes, make up credit, and graduate on time. OFSDP is a computer instruction class that uses the PLATO Learning System.

Minimum Grade on Report Card

Dr. Bergman presented information regarding minimum grade on report card stating that according to EIA (LEGAL), a teacher may not assign a grade without regard to mastery or quality of work.

Texas State Plan for the Education
of Gifted/Talented Students

Ms. Thompson presented a report on the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students for the Board review and information.

EduRap Report

Ms. Thompson reported that she, Larry Allen, Blanca Ochoa, Phyliss Coleman, Anna Moya, and Glen Newsom attended the presentation of Dr. Ron Kelley at the Texas Alliance of Black School Educators (TABSE) in Galveston on January 29, 2010. It was the consensus of the group not to hire Dr. Kelley to present in the district.

Action

010-014

Board Member Continuing Education Hours

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to approve the continuing education hours presented.

Board Member	Hours Earned 01/01/2009 to 02/08/2010	Tier One	Tier Two	Tier Three
Dianne James, President	64.00	Y	Y	Y
Monica Cantrell, Vice President	29.50	Y	Y	Y
Estelle Holmes, Secretary	54.00	Y	Y	Y
Pat Turner, Member	9.50	N	N	Y
Ted Robinson, Member	12.75	N	Y	Y
Tom Ivey, Member	24.00	Y	Y	Y
Shirley Price, Member	27.50	Y	N	Y

Motion carried with all in favor.

010-015

Appointment of Early Election Deputy Clerks

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price to appoint Susan Gage, Pam Haygood, and Eleanor Spells as the district's Deputy Clerks for early voting, as presented and as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

010-016

Contracting with Galveston County Election Division to Conduct Early Voting and the May Election

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to approve contracting with the Galveston County Election Division to

conduct the May Board Election, as presented and as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

010-017

Early Voting Ballot Board

Action to appoint a judge and two other members to serve on the Early Voting Ballot Board for the May 8, 2010, General Trustees Election was postponed to the March Board meeting.

010-018

Resolution calling for
General Trustee Election and
Order of Election

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to approve the Resolution calling for the 2010 General Trustee Election for Single Member District 1 and 2, and to approve the Order of Election for the 2010 General Trustee Election, as presented and as recommended by the administration. [See attached]

Motion carried with all in favor.

010-019

Media Honor Roll

A motion was made by Monica Cantrell and seconded by Estelle Holmes to approve the Resolution to place T. J. Aulds, Galveston County The Daily News reporter, on the statewide Media Honor Roll. [See attached]

Motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion

010-021

Graduation Plans

Ms. Thompson presented the Board with a copy of the new State Graduation Requirements. She will gather additional information and bring to the Board in March.

No action taken

Closed Session

Dianne James, President, called the members of the Board of Trustees into Closed Session at 9:35 PM for the purposes permitted as authorized by the Texas Open Meeting Act, Texas Government Code:

551.071 Consultation with District's Attorney Stephen Dubner of the Law Office of Stephen Dubner on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings specifically including the legal issues related to the Parent/Student Level III Appeals and Evaluation, Duties, and Discipline of School Board Member—Shirley Price.

551.074 Personnel

- Evaluation, Duties, and Discipline of School Board Member—Shirley Price
- Employment of new professional employee(s) for the 2009-2010 school year
- Reconsider superintendent's contract renewal

551.074, 551.082

- Parent/Student Level III Appeals

Reconvene from Closed Session

The members of the Board of Trustees reconvened from Closed Session at 12:20 AM, February 17, 2010, for action, if any, from Closed Session.

Parent/Student Level III Appeals—Open Session

Board members present: Dianne James, Monica Cantrell, Estelle Holmes, Pat Turner, Ted Robinson, Tom Ivey

Level III Appeal—1, Stephanie Gutierrez

Ms. Gutierrez presented her appeal and the Board President presented a response on behalf of the Board

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson to grant Ms. Gutierrez's appeal: (1) acknowledge that the speech by Ms. Price was inappropriate; (2) cannot require that Ms. Price resign; (3) will read the Code of Conduct and the specified sections of the Standard Operating Procedures; (4) will seek additional board training on policies and procedures.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Pat Turner was not seated during the vote.

Level III Appeal—2, Frank Lopez, on behalf of Theresa Lopez

Mr. Lopez presented his appeal and the Board President presented a response on behalf of the Board.

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson to grant Mr. Lopez's appeal: (1) acknowledge that the speech by Ms. Price was inappropriate; (2) cannot require that Ms. Price resign; (3) will read the Code of Conduct and the specified sections of the Standard Operating Procedures; (4) will seek additional board training on policies and procedures.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Level III Appeal—3, Esther Orrill

Ms. Orrill presented her appeal and the Board President presented a response on behalf of the Board.

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to grant Ms. Orrill's appeal: (1) acknowledge that the speech by Ms. Price was inappropriate; (2) cannot require that Ms. Price resign; (3) will read the Code of Conduct and the specified sections of the Standard Operating Procedures; (4) will seek additional board training on policies and procedures.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Level III Appeal—4, Senaida Tuck

Ms. Tuck presented her appeal and the Board President presented a response on behalf of the Board.

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to grant Ms. Tuck's appeal: (1) acknowledge that the speech by Ms. Price was inappropriate; (2) cannot require that Ms. Price resign; (3) will read the Code of Conduct and the specified sections of the Standard Operating Procedures; (4) will seek additional board training on policies and procedures.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Level III Appeal—5, Otto Hewitt, on behalf of the Honish family

Mr. Hewitt presented his appeal and the Board President presented a response on behalf of the Board.

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson to grant Ms. Honish's appeal for additional board training and deny the remaining requested remedies.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion from Closed Session—Level III Appeal—Meisha Williams

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to grant Ms. Williams' appeal: (1) acknowledge that the speech by Ms. Price was inappropriate; (2) cannot require that Ms. Price resign; (3) will read the Code of Conduct and the specified sections of the Standard Operating Procedures; (4) will seek additional board training on policies and procedures.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Ms. James read the Board's Code of Conduct and specified sections of the Board's Standard Operating Procedures.

Motion from Closed Session—Discipline of Board Trustee Shirley Price

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson to admonish Ms. Price for her inappropriate speech on January 15, 2010, at Crosby Middle School and to prohibit her from speaking on District campuses without permission from the Board of Trustees.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion from Closed Session—New Hire

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to employ Khaleel Lott under a Probationary One-Year Contract—Teacher with certification addendum for the 2009-2010 school year beginning February 22, 2010 and ending June 5, 2010, as presented and as discussed in executive session.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Future Agenda Items

1. Pat Turner—Cheerleaders

Pat Turner left the meeting at 1:35 AM

2. Estelle Holmes—Report of legislative action—Region IV ESC

Announcements

1. Early voting for the primaries has started.
2. Crosby Middle School's Black History program is February 24, 2010, at 2:30 PM.
3. Girls Basketball playoff game is at Cuero.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Tom Ivey and seconded by Ted Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 AM, February 17, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Taylor
Recording Secretary

Dianne James, President

Estelle Holmes, Secretary