

Hitchcock Independent School District

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2009

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees met a Regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2009, held at the Hitchcock ISD Boardroom/Conference Facility located at 8004 North Railroad, Hitchcock, Texas. President Dianne James called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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

Late Arrival Pat Turner, Member, arrived at 8:10 PM during closed session

Others: Mike Bergman, Superintendent; Nina Conway, Business Manager; Stephen Dubner, Attorney; Blanca Ochoa, Crosby Middle School Interim Principal

Call to Order

Dianne James, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 and patrons in the Pledge to the Texas flag.

Recognition

Ms. Holmes presented the Above and Beyond Citizen Award to Mr. Ronald Sheffield.

Public Participation

A request for public participation was received by the Board from Ms. Doreatha Walker asking to address the Board. Ms. James stated that since Ms. Walker has filed a grievance, the grievance would be heard at the July board meeting.

009-062

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and as recommended by the administration and to pull item B (Monthly Financial Report, Check Register, and Investment Report) to discuss separately.

1. Minutes

- a. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Special Called Meeting at Hitchcock High School, May 7, 2009
 - b. Regular Meeting, May 19, 2009
 - c. Special Called Meeting and Goal Setting Workshop, May 28, 2009
2. Monthly Tax Collection Report for month ending May 31, 2009
3. Monthly Kids First Head Start Financial Report (KFHS), Check Register, and Monthly KFHS Report for month ending May 31, 2009
4. Monthly Greater Gulf Coast Cooperative/SHARS Financial Report and Monthly Check Register for month ending May 31, 2009

Motion carried with all in favor.

Monthly Financial Report, Check Register,
And Investment Report

The following items were discussed:

- Check # 082172—UIL Final fee
- Check # 082173—Cajun Football Clinic
- Check # 082224—Texas Girls Coaching Clinic—S. Hrna
- Check # 082261—TASSP
- Check # 082228—Cingular Wireless
- Check # 082284—Joiner Partnership
- Check # 082312—Sam’s Club Membership—have one check out card at Central Office and not have one for everyone
- Check # 082392—NSBA Black Caucus Membership—needs Board approval

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to approve the Monthly Financial Report, Check Register, and Investment Report as presented and as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Report and Information from the
Superintendent

KFHS Board
Liaison Report

Ms. James reported that interviews were being conducted for the open positions.

Preliminary TAKS
Results Report

The Preliminary TAKS Results Report was presented for the Board’s review and information. [See attached]

ESL Annual
Evaluation Report

The 2009 English as a Second Language Annual Evaluation Report was presented for the Board's review and information. [See attached]

Pre-K Expansion Grant
Report

The Cycle 14 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Expansion Grant Program for 2008-2009 report was presented for the Board's review and information. [See attached]

Drop-Out
Recovery Grant

We have been notified that Hitchcock ISD has been awarded a one-year Drop-out Recovery Grant for \$150,000. The grant is intended to bring approximately 15 drop-out students back to school to earn their high school diploma or a GED. There is a college component in the grant to assist students through dual credit or articulated credit. We will be partnering with College of the Mainland on the GED program. A drop-out student is defined as a student who has been coded as a drop-out, has not been in attendance for 30 school days and is 25 years of age or younger. Instruction will be primarily computer-based using the PLATO system.

Texas Learn and
Serve Grant

We have been notified that Hitchcock ISD has been awarded a Texas Serve and Learn Grant for \$20,000. This three-year grant will be used to offer two service learning classes at the high school and middle school in the coming school year. The classes will be the nucleus of the service learning initiative and students will develop projects to improve the local community through other classes. Classes will be approximately 20 students per campus per semester and should serve approximately 80 students per year. The focus is on at-risk students. Most of the grant will go to pay for the salary of the service learning coordinator/teacher.

Action

009-063

John Mitchell Masonic Lodge—
Cornerstone at New Primary and new
High School

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson to postpone action indefinitely.

Motion carried with all in favor.

009-064
Revised colors and color
Schemes for the New Primary
School

A motion was made by Shirley Price and seconded by Monica Cantrell to approve color swatch SW7001 Marshmallow for the wall color.

Motion carried with all in favor.

The Board requested that the architects bring back some red and additional colors to be used as a second wall accent color, in the foyer by the library, and some color renderings so they could see what the colors would look like.

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to approve wood cabinets in the same color as the doors.

Motion carried with all in favor.

009-065
CenterPoint Energy Terms and
Conditions for Underground Electric
Service and CenterPoint Easement
Agreement for New Primary School

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price to table the item.

Motion carried with all in favor.

009-066
RFP: Pupil Transportation
2009-2010

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to award the 2009-2010 transportation contract to Durham School Services. The contract may be extended for an additional four years through the 2013-2014 school year, as presented and as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

009-067
TEA Waiver Application:
Low Attendance, June 5, 2009

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to approve the TEA Application for Low Attendance Days for June 5, 2009, as presented and as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

009-068

PDAS Calendar and Official
Appraisers, 2009-2010

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Monica Cantrell to approve the 2009-2010 Teacher Appraisal Calendar [See attached] as presented, and that the following administrators be approved as official appraisers for the 2009-2010 school year:

Principal, Hitchcock High School
Assistant Principal, Hitchcock High School
Assistant Principal, Hitchcock High School
Principal, Crosby Middle School
Assistant Principal, Crosby Middle School
Academic Advisor, Crosby Middle School
Principal, Stewart Elementary School
Assistant Principal, Stewart Elementary School
Director, Kids First Head Start Program
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Director, Student Support Services
Director, Special Education
Superintendent

Motion carried with all in favor.

009-069

Changes to Emergency
Operation Plan

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price to table the item indefinitely.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion/ Possible Action

009-070

NSBA National Affiliate
Program

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price for the HISD Board of Trustees to become members of the NSBA National Affiliate Program.

Members in favor: Dianne James, Monica Cantrell, Estelle Holmes, Shirley Price, Tom Ivey

Members opposed: Ted Robinson

Motion carried with the majority in favor.

009-071

Parent Workshop—
Understanding TAKS Testing and
Results

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price to approve Monday, August 3, 2009 and the date to hold the Parent Workshop— Understanding TAKS Testing and Results, Hitchcock High School Cafeteria, 6:30 PM.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Closed Session

Dianne James, President called the members of the Board of Trustees into Closed Session at 8:00 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 the government 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 contract duties, and discipline of the Kids First Head Start Director; and the legal issues related to the Level III Grievance of Paula Ledbetter.

551.074 Personnel

- Contract, duties, and discipline of Kids First Head Start Director
- Employment of new professional employee(s) for the 2009-2010 school year

551.074, 551.082 Level III Grievance of Paula Ledbetter

Dianne James, President, recognized Paula Ledbetter, who requested that her Level III Grievance be heard in open session.

Dianne James, President, recognized Doreatha Walker, KFHS Director, who requested that any discussion regarding her contract be discussed in open session.

Reconvene from
Closed Session

The Board reconvened from Closed Session at 9:22 PM, for action, if any, from Closed Session.

Motion 1

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to employ Irma Paris under a Probationary One-Year Contract—Teacher with Certification Addendum for the 2009-2010 school year, as presented and as discussed in executive session.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion 2

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to employ Carol DeVries under a Probationary One-Year Contract—Teacher for the 2009-2010 school year, as presented and as discussed in executive session.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion 3

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to employ Diana Hernandez under a Probationary One-Year Contract—Teacher for the 2009-2010 school year, as presented and as discussed in executive session.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Level III Grievance—Paula Ledbetter

The Board conducted the Level III Grievance—Paula Ledbetter concerning the timeliness issue of hearing the complaint.

Ms. Ledbetter stated that she had been terminated from employment on April 1. She received notification on April 16 that she did not qualify for unemployment benefits and filed her Level I grievance on May 7. Her Level I grievance was denied because of failure to file her Level I in a timely manner. She requested the Board waive the timeline and to hear her grievance.

Dr. Bergman stated that she was terminated from employment on April 1. The deadline to file a Level I grievance was April 24. The Level I grievance was held on May 7 and a Level II grievance was held on May 22 (within the timeline to file). He denied the Level II grievance based on the timeliness issue to file the Level I grievance.

During discussion of the timeliness issue to hear the grievance, Tom Ivey and Estelle Holmes had legal questions to ask the attorney and convened in Closed Session at 9:45 PM.

Ms. Holmes and Mr. Ivey reconvened in open session at 9:50 PM.

Motion

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to deny the grievance for failure to timely file the grievance according to DGBA (LEGAL) (LOCAL).

Members in favor: Dianne James, Monica Cantrell, Estelle Holmes, Shirley Price, Ted Robinson, Tom Ivey

Members abstained: Pat Turner

Motion carried with the majority in favor.

Contract, duties, and discipline of Kids First Head Start Director

Dr. Bergman recommended to the Board, in the best interest of the district, at this time, to leave the Kids First Head Start Director on administrative leave.

Ms. Turner asked who would be in charge of the Kids First Head Start program and Dr. Bergman stated that Betty Martins would be in charge while the director is out. She will work with Ms. Conway on the Kids First Head Start Grant and will submit the grant in a timely manner.

Ms. Cantrell asked if the Kids First Head Start Policy Council had made any recommendations. Ms. James said that there has been no discussion as of yet. At the last meeting, the policy council lost their quorum and the meeting was adjourned.

Future Agenda Items

1. Ms. Turner—Discuss DGBA (LOCAL) as it pertains to paraprofessionals.
2. Ms. Holmes—Need to add speakers to the graduation ceremony to include judges, senators. Currently, not offering great messages to the students. Also need to notify parents at least 30-days in advance of graduation of expectations of students.
3. Mr. Robinson—Schedule a workshop for the principals and Board to review the Campus Improvement Plans and to discuss how the principals are going to accomplish the Board Goals.
4. Ms. Turner—Schedule a Parent—Summer Program to help parents to help their student.
5. Ms. Holmes—Implement homework again so that parents can help their student.
6. Ms. Cantrell—Go churches on Saturdays and have reading groups.
7. Mr. Ivey—Find out if the new primary school will meet the Energy Star Program efficiency rating—have architect at the next meeting.

Announcements

June 23, 2009—TEAM of Eight Training, 6:30 PM

Adjournment

A motion was made by Pat Turner and seconded by Shirley Price to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Taylor
Recording Secretary

Dianne James, President

Estelle Holmes, Secretary