

Hitchcock Independent School District

Public Meeting to Discuss the Budget and Proposed Tax Rate
and
Special Called Meeting
Thursday, August 30, 2007

The Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees met at a Public Meeting to Discuss the Budget and Proposed Tax Rate and Special Called Meeting on Thursday, August 30, 2007, at the Boardroom/ Conference Facility located at 8004 North Railroad, Hitchcock, Texas. President Monica Cantrell called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Present Monica Cantrell, President; Tom Ivey, Vice President; Estelle Holmes, Secretary; Pat Turner, Member;

Late Arrival Ted Robinson, Member, arrived at 7:23 PM; Shirley Price, Member, arrived at 7:41 PM

Absent Mark Morgan, Member

Others Mike Bergman, Superintendent; Nina Conway, Business Official; Gerald Hughes, Technology Director; Barbara Trahan, Stewart Elementary School Principal; Susan Bowles, Special Education Director, Bridget Robinson, Attorney for Walsh, Anderson; Stephen Dubner, Attorney for Stephen Dubner at Law

Call to Order Monica Cantrell, President, called the meeting to order at 7:14 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.

Public Hearing on Proposed
2007-2008 Budget and Tax Rate

Ms. Conway led the discussion on the proposed 2007-2008 budget and tax rate stating that the Board is requested to adopt the maintenance and operations, food service, and debt service budget. A printout of the line-by-line items was presented to the Board. The Board will be adopting the budget by function.

The budget includes the 6% raise for all paraprofessionals, support staff, and manual trades; the new teacher pay schedule, \$200,000 for computer upgrades, and an increase in utility usage.

Total Revenue	\$11,411,893
Total Expenditures	\$11,882,380
Balance	\$ 470,487

Pat Turner requested that the district buy an ice machine for Crosby Middle School. Ms. Conway stated that the ice machine was not included in the Crosby budget but that she would prepare a purchase order. Patron Dianne James asked if the meals had been increased for extra-curricular activities. The amount was raised from \$4.00 to \$6.00.

Patron Harry Robinson said there are rumors that the Board will do away with the County collecting taxes and would collect their own taxes. If that is true, he stated that he would not support a bond issue. Dr. Bergman stated that the request had not been officially brought before the Board for consideration.

Estelle Holmes asked if the district could pay for the police to be on school grounds when the students return from out-of-town trips at night. Dr. Bergman stated that Officer Crow stays until the last child is gone. Ms. Conway replied that the officers are paid for actual time worked.

Patron Harry Robinson stated that he would like to see all of the Board pay their taxes.

The Hearing was closed at 7:25 PM.

Closed Session

President Cantrell called the members of the Board of Trustees into Closed Session at 7:25 PM for the purposes permitted as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections:

551.071: Consultation with District's Attorney: Bridget Robinson of Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Schulze & Aldridge, P.C. regarding Rolisha Goins, et al v. Hitchcock ISD, et al., Cause No. 03-CV-1038

551.071: Consultation with District's Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Reconvene from Closed Session

The members of the Board of Trustees reconvened from Closed Session at 8:15 PM. The following action was taken:

Motion

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to empower Bridget Robinson, Attorney, to offer the sum of \$100,000 to Rolisha Goins for total settlement of her claim.

After discussion, a motion was made by Shirley Price and seconded by Estelle Holmes to amend the original motion and to offer the sum of \$125,000 to Rolisha Goins for total settlement of her claim.

Members in favor: Pat Turner, Estelle Holmes, Shirley Price, Monica Cantrell

Member opposed: Ted Robinson, Tom Ivey

Motion carried with the majority in favor.

Closed Session

President Cantrell called the members of the Board of Trustees into Closed Session at 8:18 PM for the purposes permitted as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections:

551.071 Consultation with District's Attorney: Stephen Dubner of the Law Office of Stephen E. Dubner regarding Board confidentiality.

551.071: Consultation with District's Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Reconvene from Closed Session

The members of the Board of Trustees reconvened from Closed Session at 9:40 PM for action, if any from Closed Session.

No action taken.

Action

007-075

Adoption of 2007-2008

Budget

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price to adopt the proposed 2007-2008 budget, as presented and as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

007-076

Adoption of the District's

2007-2008 Tax Rate by

Written Ordinance

Motion 1

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson that the property taxes be decreased by the adoption of the tax rate of \$1.04005 for Maintenance and Operations by written ordinance.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion 2

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price that property taxes be decreased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.17500 for Interest and Sinking by written ordinance.

Motion carried with all in favor.

007-077
Budget Amendment
#4 and #5

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to approve Budget Amendment #4 and Budget Amendment #5 as reflected on the attached spreadsheet, as presented and as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

007-078
Additional Pay for
Volunteer Bus Drivers in case
of an Evacuation

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Tom Ivey to increase the amount of payment for volunteer bus drivers if they are used during an evacuation from \$300 to \$500, as recommended by the administration.

Motion carried with all in favor.

007-079
Architect Contract

Dr. Bergman requested that the Architect Contract be tabled until the September 18 meeting.

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Shirley Price to table action on the Architect Contract until the September 18 meeting.

Motion carried with all in favor.

007-080
Addendum to the Durham
Transportation Contract to
Include Kids First Head Start
Students

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson to approve an addendum to the Durham Transportation contract for 2007-2008 to include Kids First Head Start student transportation.

Motion carried with all in favor.

007-081
Greater Gulf Coast
Cooperative Shared
Services Agreement

A motion was made by Estelle Holmes and seconded by Ted Robinson to approve, sign, and execute the Greater Gulf Coast Cooperative Shared

Services Agreement in which Hitchcock ISD, Damon ISD, Kendleton ISD, Danbury ISD, and Needville ISD are provided special education programs and a system of direct and support services to eligible students and of which Hitchcock ISD will continue to act as the fiscal agent and its superintendent continues to serve as the Chairman of the Management Board.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Pat Turner and seconded by Tom Ivey to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda J. Taylor
Recording Secretary

Monica Cantrell, President

Estelle Holmes, Secretary