

Pearland Independent School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 16, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Pearland Independent School District met in regular session on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at 1928 North Main Street, Pearland, Texas in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Government Code.

The meeting was also livestreamed on the district YouTube channel.

- Opening** **1.0** After noting that a quorum was present, President Murphy opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- Establishment of a Quorum** **2.0**
Trustee Sean Murphy, President
Trustee Jeff Barry, Vice-President
Trustee Rebecca Decker, Secretary
Trustee Lance Botkin
Trustee Crystal Carbone
Trustee Toni Carter
Trustee Kris Schoeffler
- Members Present** All Present
- Members Absent**
- Executive Council Present** Superintendent Dr. John Kelly
Deputy Superintendent David Moody
Chief Financial Officer Jorgannie Carter
Chief Academic Officer Dr. Nyla Watson
Senior Assistant Superintendent Dr. Brenda Waters
Assistant Superintendent Larry Berger
Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lisa Nixon
Executive Director for Human Resource Services Dr. Sundie Dahlkamp
Executive Director of Intermediate Schools Dr. La-Kesha Henson – Vaughn
Executive Director of Communications Kim Hocott
Executive Director of High Schools Kelly Holt
General Counsel Tanya Dawson
Chief Technology Officer Jon- Paul Estes
- Recording Secretary** Gina Guzzetta
- Closed Session** **3.0** – President Murphy convened the board in Closed Session at 5:02 p.m. in accordance with Section 551.001
- A. Section 551.071 - Private Consultation with the Board's Attorney Regarding any Item Listed on the Agenda

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- B. Section 551.072 – Discussing purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property
- C. Section 551.074 - Personnel Discussion
 - 1. Receive and Consider Investigation Report
 - 2. Employment of Professional and Instructional Personnel
 - 3. Review Resignations
- D. Section 551.076 Considering the Deployment, Specific Occasions for, or Implementation of, Security Personnel or Devices
- E. 551.082 – Consider Discipline of a Public School Child, or Complaint or Charge Against Personnel

Lisa McBride of Thompson and Horton, Board Counsel, participated in closed session, for the purpose of private consultation with the Board’s attorney.

Executive Director for Human Resource Services Dr. Sundie Dahlkamp participated in closed session with the board in regard to personnel hirings and resignations.

Superintendent John Kelly participated in closed session with the board in regard to all items.

Open Session 4.0 - The board reconvened in open session at 6:17 p.m.

Action on Closed Session Items 5.0 – No action taken in closed session

A motion was made by Secretary Carbone and seconded by Trustee Carter that the board accepts and approves the superintendent’s recommendation for Employment of Personnel as presented.

Motion carried 6-0. Trustee Schoeffler returned to the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Introductory Remarks Trustee Carbone reflected on her time in Pearland and her wish for unity in the midst of this pandemic. She concluded with a prayer for protection of all.

Public Comment 5.0 – A link to a public comment form was made available prior to the board meeting at: <https://www.pearlandisd.org/publiccomment>. The deadline to submit the completed form was prior to 4:45 p.m. on Monday, August 16, 2021 for anyone who wished to address the Board of Trustees on an agenda or non-agenda item.

Roland Choate, parent and medic nurse, asked to immediately enact a mask mandate for all staff, students and visitors.

Helen Shih, parent, Spoke of student withdrawals, political interests, employee pay, and urged Board to defy Governor Abbot’s order.

Mark Amspoker, parent, Requested a temporary mask mandate.

Dona Kim Murphy, parent, Discussed previous issues with district. Referenced teen suicide rates, special needs families with concerns for their children, mask mandate and virtual learning options.

Megan Robertson, parent, Urged board to maintain safety for our children, mask mandate, do not allow visitors, extensive cleaning, and virtual learning.

Yoon Hee Park, parent, Referenced hospitals, mandate masks. Mask and vaccinations are actions that affect each other.

Hannah Schoellkopf, parent, Referenced hospitals, set an example, and do what is right.

Amadea Barsan, student, Stated that we are not at the end of the pandemic, having virtual school allows the schools to not be at full capacity.

Zita Lim, parent, Concerned with infection and hospitalization rates that have risen. No room for social distancing when all are in attendance.

Tammy Calhoun, parent, Stated there was a parent lock out from Magnolia Elementary school and teachers were not teaching 3rd grade dual language. Parents need to be at the school to relieve the teachers and see what is happening in the classroom.

Nadia Siddiqui, parent and health professional, Concerned with the covid mitigation strategies for our district including masking and online learning.

Jennifer Buchanan, parent, Thanked the school board for prioritizing safety, masks should be required on school buses. Please update policies to allow virtual learning and open virtual learning academy.

Jennifer Fritz, parent, Discussed lack of safety measures, especially lower grades with unvaccinated children. Requested mask mandate, outdoor lunches and remote learning option.

Virawan Yawapongsiri, parent, Expressed concerns about sending her children to school because it is not safe.

Olleke Morgan, student, Shared she has a condition that effects breathing, has vaccination but does not feel safe. She wants to go back to school but does not feel safe without a mask mandate.

Ellison Schoellkopf, parent, Stated schools are a huge infection risk even with a mask, and urged Board to implement mask mandate and allow remote learning to be used at times.

Oluwatobi Adeyinka, parent, Urged board to work safely or not at all. Keep our kids safe while they learn. Teacher hiring needs to reflect the school population.

Alice Murphy, student, Shared going back to school with zero precautions is terrifying and risking health. Make decisions to keep us safe. Reflected on suicide rates as it correlated to GPA, not masks.

Emily Gibbs, parent, Expressed the lack of trust with the district, and urged Trustees to change their mind and keep our kids safe. She withdrew her 3 special education students due to lack of safety.

Jessica Shafer, parent, Demanded a mask mandate and virtual learning.

Michael Lemoine, parent, Expressed concerns about safety of students, teachers and custodians. Consider mask mandates for all students', especially for students who cannot get vaccinated.

Kristen Blackett, parent, Stated wearing a mask is traumatic for kids. Kids need to breathe fresh air and masks cause anxiety and tremendous psychological issues. Thank you for standing up for our rights.

Reetakshi Arora, parent Expressed need for virtual learning, she stated that vaccinated people can spread virus. We need a plan for the future; we need to protect our kids.

Archana Gautam, parent, Discussed kids, teacher and public safety during Covid. Covid is not regular flu, there are long term effects. She urged the Board to please listen for health and public safety.

Vidya Muthupillai, former student, Requested temporary mask mandate, allocate funding for remote learning and get ahead of the curve and prepare.

Rashmi Prab, parent, Requested an option for virtual learning

Donald R. Naylor, Jr., parent, Requested mask mandates for public schools to reduce transmission.

Terri Classen, tax payer and former teacher, Expressed concerns with wearing masks and why it is a challenge for students and teachers

Justin Rogers, parent, Commended everyone for speaking, expressed opposition to requiring masks in our school. Reported that rates of 0-17 year old deaths due to covid are low.

The board recessed at 7:34 pm and reconvened at 7:45 pm

**Report on
District
Matters
Relating to
COVID19
2021-2022**

Administrative Reports

9.A. - Dr. Kelly updated the board on related matters/developments that are occurring daily regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Legal opinions from TASB concerning masks on buses were summarized
- CDC recommends In Person learning for the coming school year
- Governor Abbot's executive order requiring masks in public schools
- Other districts may have the legal and financial resources to fight state requirements
- Staff and Students are "highly encouraged" to wear masks
- A group of parents are suing the state to mandate masks
- Governor has placed Covid related issues on the special session agenda.
- Plans by Senator Taylor to introduce during Special Session, a bill that will expand remote learning
- Those few districts who will employ limited remote learning for students –are doing so without state funding and relying on federal or local funds
- Pearland ISD can provide some short term virtual options for students that test positive for Covid
- The district will reinstate the "dashboard" feature from last year
- The district will reemploy many of the preventative measures from last year
- Maximizing social distancing within the constraints of 100% attendance on campus
- Applied to TEA to continue to serve as Covid testing sites
- Indicated willingness to serve as vaccination sites
- Will continue quarantining procedures
- Will continue to cooperate with Brazoria County Health officials to do necessary contact tracing
- Segregating non mask wearers from mask wearers is not feasible
- Anticipate that the variant will depress initial enrollment in August
- Will remain in daily/weekly contact with Houston area superintendents, health officials and others in order to determine best practices for the start of school
- Vaccination statistics for faculty/staff based on current survey

Trustee Carter spoke of recent Covid statistics and of number of emails received in regard to mask mandates and non-mask mandates.

Secretary Decker suggested a temporary mask mandate to start the school. We have an independent school district, but we cannot make necessary decisions. We need to protect everyone in this district. It is atrocious that our hands are tied. We should put some temporary measures in place. Issues were addressed regarding learning loss for students while they are out as well as concerns for teachers.

Dr. Watson spoke of the health of the students while they are out on Covid. There are resources available. Access to materials through Canvas and Seesaw will be available daily if they are physically capable. Not ideal but we will catch up for deficiencies when they return.

Dr. Dahlkamp spoke of staffing issues in regard to 2020/21 and the limits of extra staffing for Covid related issues identified during this discussion.

A discussion followed in regards to lunch plans and response to campus protocols. Mr. Berry requested uniformity across the district in regards to communication. Delaying school was also discussed.

Mr. Berger addressed the number of rapid tests in our possession and plans to test and mitigate if a positive test is determined. The processes at the elementary campuses were discussed. HVAC systems were discussed, to filtrate the virus especially in the cafeterias. Transition cleaning will not be as necessary due to new CDC guidelines. Extensive cleaning of campuses will still be required.

Dr Schoeffler noted there has been an uptick in vaccinations and a down trend in diagnosed cases in Brazoria County. He also shared his personal concerns about individuals presuming the board is responsible for Covid deaths by not implementing a mask mandate and assuming they do not care about the district.

**Proposed Tax
Rate Public
Hearing**

The board recessed at 9:04 pm and reconvened at 9:13 pm

8.A The board president determined if there are members of the public who wished to address the board. There were not any present. The purpose of this public meeting is to discuss the school district's tax rate that will be adopted. The required publication of this public meeting, the "Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate" was published in the Reporter News on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, in compliance with state law requiring the notice be published not less than 10 nor more than 30 days before the public meeting.

**Notice of
Intent to
Apply for the
20-22 CRRSA
ESSER III**

8.B That the board provide public notice and opportunity for public comment for the Notice of Intent to Apply for 2020-2022 CRRSA ESSER II Federal Grant. Pearland ISD is applying for the 2020-2022 CRRSA ESSER II Federal Grant as authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2021, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency. The District requests public comment on the application and tentative plans for use of the funds. No public comment was made.

**Notice of
Intent to
Apply for
2020-2021**

8.C That the board provide public notice and opportunity for public comment for the Notice of Intent to Apply for 2020-2021 Federal Block Grants, including Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Individual with Disabilities Act

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Federal Block Grants (ESSA) (IDEA), Perkins V, and Texas Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) by placing it on the agenda for a Public Hearing for Intent to Apply for Grant Funds. No public comment was made.

Consider Resolution Supporting “District of Innovation”

8.D That the Board allow any member of the public present to comment on the renewal of the Pearland ISD District of Innovation effort.

President Murphy closed the Public Hearing at 9:17 pm. There were no spectators present for any of the public hearing items.

Consent Agenda

President Murphy asked if members of the board would like to remove an item from the consent agenda.

Trustee Barry requested to remove agenda item 11.A.2

- A motion was made by Secretary Decker and seconded by Trustee Barry that items 11.A.1, 11.A.3, 11.A.4, 11.A.5, 11.A.6, and 11.A.7 of the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

11.A.1 That the Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, July 7, 2021 Special Board Meeting, August 2, 2021 Special Board Meeting and August 6, 2021 Special Board Meeting be approved as submitted.

Participate in Cooperative Purchasing

11.A.3 That the board of trustees approves the use of the Clear Creek ISD Interlocal Purchasing Cooperative for General Foods and Full Services Distribution’s contracts with Borden, Kurz and Labatt for the procurement of milk products, bread, groceries, produce, paper and chemical products for the 2021-2022 school year.

Purchases over \$75,000

11.A.4

- Ratification of purchase utilizing Buy Board Contract #579-19 for Telecommunications Equipment, Products, Services and Software with Tyler Technologies, Inc. for annual system management support and software fees in the amount of \$105,344. (Fund 199)
- Approval of purchase utilizing Choice Partners Contract #21/031KN-50 for Internet Access with PS Lightwave for dark fiber maintenance in the amount of \$81,300. (Fund 199)
- Approval of purchase utilizing OMNIA Partners Contract #R160201 for Technology and Interactive White Boards with CDW-G, LLC for lightspeed classroom management in the amount of \$77,910. (Fund 199)

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- Approval of purchase utilizing Buy Board Contract #644-21 for Audio Visual Equipment and Supplies with Ford Audio-Visual Systems, LLC for the auditorium light system at Dawson High School in the amount of \$125,420. (Fund 617) Detailed quote can be viewed at <https://adobe.ly/3m1H0TF>
- Approval of agreements between PISD and Shiloh Treatment Center, Inc. utilizing Pearland ISD Contract #19-0411-03 for Special Programs Contracted Services to provide adaptive behavior and life skills services to students with disabilities in the amount of \$288,596.80. (Fund 224) Detailed contracts can be viewed at <https://adobe.ly/2Vld0Rz>
- Approval of agreements between PISD and Avondale House utilizing Pearland ISD Contract #19-0411-03 for Special Programs Contracted Services to provide educational and speech therapy services to students within PISD's speech program in the amount of \$96,255. (Fund 224) Detailed contracts can be viewed at <https://adobe.ly/3xC0tfD>
- Ratification of purchase utilizing Pearland ISD Contract RFCSP #08-0228-13 for Institutional Software with Skyward Systems for annual license renewal fees in the amount of \$230,780. (Fund 199)

Review of Board Operating Procedures

11.A. 5 That the board of trustees approve the Board Operating Procedures (Rules of Conduct; Standard Rules) as presented.

TASB Update 117

11.A.6 That the board add, revise, or delete (LOCAL) policies as recommended by TASB Policy Service and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 117.

Student Code of Conduct

11.A.7 That the board approve the 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Change Dates for Board Meetings

11.A.2 Vice President Barry asked to pull this item.

- A motion was made by Vice President Barry and seconded by Trustee Carbone that the board of trustees approve the modification in the 2021-2022 school board meeting calendar: To move the following scheduled Regular Board Meetings from November 15, 2021 to November 9, 2021, Canvassing the Votes on November 15, 2022, January 11, 2022 to January 18, 2022, and May 10, 2022 to May 24, 2022

The motion carried 7-0.

Regular Agenda

Extend Covid Related Employee Sick Leave

8.B.1 –. Dr. Kelly spoke on the importance of having covid related sick leave especially for new teachers and staff who have not accumulated leave for such purposes.

- A motion was made by Vice President Barry and seconded by Trustee Botkin that the board of trustees approve the resolution to extend employee sick leave for lab confirmed cases of Covid – 19 requiring isolation until December 31, 2021

The motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing District Tax Rate

8.B.2 –CFO Carter stated administration recommends a tax rate of \$1.3152 per \$100 valuation for 2021, which is \$0.0033 below the 2020 tax rate. The change in the tax rate is as follows:

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	Inc.//(Dec.)
Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Tax Rate			
Tier One Rate (Maximum Compressed Rate)	\$0.8529	\$0.8396	(\$0.0133)
Tier Two Rate (Golden Pennies)	0.0400	0.0800	0.0400
Total M&O Tax Rate	\$0.8929	\$0.9196	\$0.0267
Interest & Sinking (I&S) Tax Rate	0.4256	0.3956	(0.0300)
Total District Tax Rate	\$1.3185	\$1.3152	(\$0.0033)

A decrease of \$0.03 is proposed for the I&S tax rate for fiscal year 2021-2022. When the 2016 Bond Election was called, it was anticipated that it would cost taxpayers a total of 7 cents; however, the I&S tax rate of \$0.3956 represents a total tax impact of 5 cents. Administration is working on defeasing debt during this fiscal year, which will enable us to further decrease the I&S tax rate next fiscal year.

A discussion followed with CFO Carter answering questions presented.

- A motion was made by Vice President Barry and seconded by Trustee Carter that the board of trustees adopt a resolution that the property tax

rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 1.3152, which is effectively a 1.22 percent increase in the tax rate.

NOTE: *The Tax Rate actually decreases by \$0.0033*

The motion carried 7-0 **FOR:** Trustees Carbone, Murphy, Decker, Botkin, Barry, Schoeffler and Murphy

8.B.3 –

**Order Calling
November 2,
2021 Election**

- A motion was made by Trustee Schoeffler and seconded by Vice President Barry that the board of trustees approve and adopt the Order calling the November 2, 2021 Voter-Approval Tax-Rate Election. Further, that the date to canvass these elections shall be set for November 15, 2021.

The motion carried 7-0.

**Joint Election
Contract for
November 3,
2020 Election**

8.B.4 - The Texas Election Code § 31.092 (a) permits a school district to contract with the county to perform election services using county polling places. The Texas Tax Code §26.08 (b), requires Voter-Approval Tax Rate Elections to be held on a uniform election date. Pearland ISD has the opportunity to participate in the county wide joint election to be held on November 2, 2021.

- A motion was made by Vice President Barry and seconded by Trustee Schoeffler that the board of trustees approve the Joint Contract for Election Services between Pearland ISD and the County Clerk of Brazoria County which allows the officials of Brazoria County to conduct and supervise the November 2, 2021, Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election

The motion carried 7-0.

Administrative Reports

**Quarterly
Investment
Report**

9.B In order to comply with Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code which is commonly referred to as the Public Funds Investment Act a copy of the Report of Investments was included in the agenda.

Administration is pleased to report that all investments were in compliance with the district's investment policy and pledged securities were sufficient to protect the district's funds at all times during the quarter ending June 30, 2021.

**Interim
Financial
Statement**

The attached Financial Statement Report provides the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 update for the eleven-month period ending May 31, 2021.

This report includes an Interim Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for all appropriated funds (i.e. General Fund, Food Service Fund, and Debt Service Fund).

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**Bond
Financial
Update**

9.C – An updated copy of the 2016 Bond Budget and Projections and Technology Bond Projects were included in the agenda.

The board reconvened in closed session at 9:59 pm

Adjournment 10.0 -The meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm.

We affirm that these minutes are official, complete and correct.

Sean Murphy.
President

Rebecca Decker
Secretary

Date Minutes Approved _____

Date Signed by Officers _____