

**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JANUARY 12, 2023  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Thursday, January 12, 2023, in the Boardroom of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Instructional Support Center, located at 10300 Jones Road, Houston, Texas.

**MEETING OPENING**

Board President Tom Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Tom Jackson, Julie Hinaman, Gilbert Sarabia, Debbie Blackshear, Dr. Natalie Blasingame, Scott Henry and Lucas Scanlon.

Board President Jackson recognized Boy Scouts from Troop 277 – Lucas Kudla, Roger Hildreth, Matt Chambray, John Sarazin and from Troop 901, Joshua Morgan. Mr. Jackson also recognized Girl Scouts from Troop 111063 – Olivia Morgan and Troop 112096, Meredith Krauss.

Dr. Kevin Pigg, Senior Pastor of Crossbridge Christian Church, delivered the invocation.

The following Cypress Falls High School AFJROTC cadets presented the colors for the meeting: Carrying the Texas Flag, Cadet Iyannae Gonzales; on the Texas rifle, Cadet Aleah McIntyre; carrying the American Flag, Cadet Veronica Ortega and on the American rifle, Cadet Isaias Linares. These cadets presented the colors under the direction of Chief Master Sergeant Reginald Murrell, U.S. Air Force (retired).

Board Vice President Julie Hinaman read the District’s Vision and Mission Statement.

Board President Jackson announced that the Board would proceed with the **Remarks and Recognitions** portion of the agenda.

**1. Remarks and Recognitions**

**1.A.** Superintendent Dr. Henry made remarks and announcements regarding the honors and achievements earned by staff and students in recent weeks and provided information regarding District and community events or items of interest.

Dr. Henry introduced speakers Leslie Martone, Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce President, and Bryan Henry, Cypress Families for Public Schools representative who, in honor of Board Appreciation Month, expressed their appreciation to the Board of Trustees for their countless hours of service to the district and the community.

Dr. Henry introduced speaker Meredith Krauss, a junior, of Girl Scout Troop 112096 – Post Elementary School – who, on behalf of all Girl Scouts in CFISD, thanked the Board of Trustees for making CFISD a place where girls can challenge themselves, be confident in who they are and make the community and the world a better place through Girl Scouts.

Dr. Henry shared that, in honor of Board Appreciation Month, AVP practicum students from Bridgeland and Cy-Ranch High Schools put together a video showing their appreciation for the Board of Trustees. Hairgrove Elementary School also put together a video showing their appreciation for the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Henry thanked the Cy-Fair High School culinary practicum students for preparing delicious treats for the Board of Trustees in recognition of Board Appreciation Month. Dr. Henry thanked all the campuses and the community programs for creating the wonderful decorations around the Boardroom, designed for the 2023 Board Recognition Month theme, “Forward, together.”

Mr. Jackson announced that the Board would proceed with **Board Comments**.

**2. Board Comments**

**2.A.** Any Board member may make a comment during this portion of the agenda, without prior posting being required. Comment items may not pertain to the character of any students, staff or Board member and may not be discussed or deliberated upon at this meeting.

**Board member Scott Henry** thanked everyone in the audience for speaking on the proposed boundary changes, especially the students, and he shared his appreciation for all the feedback and the positive discussions. Mr. Henry

also expressed his appreciation to Teresa Hull, Kristi Giron, Laura Lawless and their team for all the hard work done on the boundary proposal. Mr. Henry visited several campuses this past month and was asked to be in a school announcements video produced by the students.

**Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame** thanked educators and volunteers for a strong start to the second semester. Dr. Blasingame shared how eager she is to see the reading progress data, the discipline incident and response data and how budget and board monitoring objectives are impacting the outputs towards district goals. Dr. Blasingame stated that she is looking forward to the formation of the committee, “Portrait of a Graduate,” to ensure students reach these goals. Dr. Blasingame also said she is eager to discuss the possibility of becoming a District of Innovation.

**Board member Gilbert Sarabia** expressed his appreciation to the administration for all their hard work on the boundary proposal. “They are second to none.” Mr. Sarabia shared how resourceful the team has been throughout this tedious process. “They are simply the best.” He shared that he had been out and about enjoying various activities in the district and how well the district is moving along and recovering from prior years. Mr. Sarabia stated that he is hopeful the community and the district can work through some of the tough issues at hand.

**Board member Lucas Scanlon** gave a “shout out” to the boundary committee for all their hard work during this long process. He thanked the parents and the community, as well, for all their valuable input. Mr. Scanlon shared how the Board is preparing for the upcoming legislative session and how they will be taking trips to Austin to advocate for the district, for teachers, staff and administrators, while seeking the best for students. Mr. Scanlon stated that the Board will continue to listen to teachers, staff and the community and encouraged further discussions.

**Board member Debbie Blackshear** conveyed what a “treasure” it has been representing CFISD and all the families in this community as a Board member for the past eight years. Ms. Blackshear shared her disappointment in hearing the hurtful and disheartening comments made in previous Board meetings by patrons criticizing certain CFISD schools and the students who attend those schools. She encouraged parents to put a positive light on whatever decisions are made regarding the boundary changes for their children’s success. Ms. Blackshear assured the community that the Board is listening to all concerns for every child when making the best decisions for all students in CFISD. Ms. Blackshear shared that she recently visited Salyards Middle School the library at Bridgeland High School.

**Board member Julie Hinaman** shared since the last Board meeting, she attended two SPLC meetings, a DEIC meeting, joined CFISD leaders and volunteers in reading to students at Tipps ES, attended the December Brautigam Center graduation, the annual Lamkin ES Christmas party and the CFISD Wrestling Invitational. Ms. Hinaman participated in the annual Candy Cane Fun Run fundraiser, volunteered at the See to Succeed event at the Berry Center, joined CLC members at the State Capitol for opening day of the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and continued her weekly mentoring sessions at Cy-Falls, Cy-Park and recently added Cy-Ridge. Ms. Hinaman shared that, other than Mr. Jackson and Ms. Blackshear, the attendance boundary changes have been a new experience for her and other Board members. It has been a learning experience balancing the needs of the entire district, multiple campuses, individual neighborhoods and the students. Ms. Hinaman encouraged the community to pay attention to the bills going through this legislative session that could affect CFISD.

**Board member Tom Jackson** thanked Dr. Henry and his staff for the privilege of working with the administration as the Board charts a course for CFISD. Mr. Jackson thanked parents and voters for giving him the opportunity to represent the community. As his colleague, Mr. Jackson touched on CFISD being a fast-growth district and shared his experience with touring the state with other districts and their superintendents talking about the impacts of fast growth. One of the main topics was constant rezoning and the stress it puts upon parents, students, staff and campus administration. Mr. Jackson shared that he joined Ms. Hinaman at this past month’s SPLC meeting. He also visited McFee ES where their focus is community and culture and a purposeful approach to developing grit, Rennell ES, a school of distinction where their mission is to perform better today than they did yesterday and Sampson ES, a school of many distinctions, six consecutive years of distinctions, with a dynamic PE class that is taught in immersive Spanish – a very special school.

The Board proceeded with the **Action Items** portion of the agenda. **Action Items 3.A. and 3.C. through 3.J.** were moved to Consensus during the Board Work Session on Monday, January 9, 2023.

### **3. Action Items**

- 3.A.** The Board will consider approving the minutes of the December 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting.
- 3.C.** The Board will consider adopting a revision to the compensation plan to increase the lifeguard pay rate.

- 3.D. The Board will consider approving the Calendar Committee's recommendation for the 2023-2024 instructional calendar.
- 3.E. The Board will consider approving the issuance of Career and Technical Education (CTE) teaching permit to Joshua Greissman in lieu of standard teaching certifications as established in law.
- 3.F. The Board will consider approving construction proposals and contracts paid from Bond Funds to the recommended contractors and authorize the Superintendent or designee to execute all necessary documents related to such contracts as follows:
  - 3.F.1. 2022 Holbrook, Holmsley & Lee ES Renovations
- 3.G. The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.
  - 3.G.1. Banquet Chairs for Berry Center
  - 3.G.2. School Bus Driving Simulator Virage Simulation
- 3.H. The Board will consider approving a Donation Agreement between Cypress-Fairbanks ISD and the Yorkwood Civic Club for the donation of land to construct a cul-de-sac for the purpose of addressing traffic issues at Holbrook Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents.
- 3.I. The Board will consider approving the granting of a Water Meter Easement to the Barker-Cypress Municipal Utility District for water service to Metcalf Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents.
- 3.J. The Board will consider approving the granting of a Water Meter Easement to Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 264 for water service to Holmsley Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents.

Mr. Jackson asked if any Board member wished to remove one or more of these items for further discussion. Upon hearing no further discussion or comments, Mr. Jackson asked for a motion to approve the consensus action items as recommended or amended.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to approve the agenda items as recommended or amended.  
Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson announced that the following action items were placed on **Non-Consensus**.

- 3.B. The Board will consider approving attendance boundaries for Elementary #58, Elementary 59 and Middle School #20 and the modification of multiple attendance boundaries.

**Speakers:**

1. Shannon Viola made comments on boundary proposals affecting RC706, Canyon Lakes at Stonegate.
2. Darin Rupinski addressed the Board regarding the boundary proposal for Rennell Elementary School.
3. Alyssa Anderson shared her comments on the 11/10 proposal and asked the Board to vote yes to the proposal.
4. Erika Moore shared her comments on the 11/10 proposal and asked the Board to vote yes to the proposal.
5. Jamone Moore shared his comments on the 11/10 proposal and asked the Board to vote yes to the proposal.
6. Krystal Kinsey commented on the numerous zone changes for Stonegate.
7. Joseph Green addressed the Board on boundary changes.
8. Ryan Viola shared his opposition to rezoning of Postma to Copeland and Cy-Ranch to Langham Creek.
9. Ivy Smith shared her comments on the rezoning of Stonegate, thanked the boundary committee, the Cy-Falls principal and AP for showing her the grass can be greener on the other side.
10. Karolyn Payrovi requested the Board pause the move from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
11. Sophia Payrovi expressed her opposition on the move of Spillane from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
12. Huda Terraz stated she is not in support of rezoning Stonegate from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
13. Chris Sawyer addressed the Board on the utilization of the 12 high schools and a long-term plan solution for all residents of CFISD.
14. Astrid Azpeitia requested the Board pause the move from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
15. Maria Azpeitia requested the Board pause the move from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.

16. Nagesh Mishra thanked the Board for rezoning Bridge Creek to Cy-Ranch.
17. Bill Collier asked the Board to approve phase 1 and 2 immediately.
18. Jessica Morgan asked the Board to review and approve the Stonegate 1/9 request.
19. Kelly Sloan asked the Board to pause the rezoning of RC373 and 2173.
20. Avery Sloan discussed the pause to the rezoning of RC373 and 2173.
21. Steve Sloan discussed the pause to the rezoning of RC373 and 2173.
22. Cassidy Staggers discussed the pause to the rezoning of RC373 and 2173.
23. Heather Jones commented on the lack of notification regarding the rezoning of Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
24. Gopal Mitra expressed his concerns on the rezoning of Stonegate and asked that they still attend Cy-Ranch.
25. Satya Kamineni supports the rezoning of Bridge Creek students to Smith and Cy-Ranch.
26. Dionne Celestine addressed the Board on the number of students being rezoned to Cy-Falls.
27. Jasen Orme shared his opposition to the rezoning.
28. Jake Anderson addressed the Board on the new boundary proposal.
29. Chandu K addressed the Board on the new boundary proposal.
30. Bandita Sai addressed the Board on the recent school rezoning.
31. Armando Perlaza asked the Board to pause Stonegate children leaving Cy-Ranch.
32. Rubal Saran shared his views on being rezoned from Bridgeland to Cy-Ranch.
33. Kishore Kumar Bandlamuri shared his views on the rezoning.
34. Theodore Fritsche shared his opposition on the modification of the attendance boundaries moving Stonegate from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
35. Peyton Fritsche shared her opposition on the modification of the attendance boundaries moving Stonegate from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
36. June Matindu shared her opposition on the modification of the attendance boundaries moving Stonegate from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
37. Balaji Shanmuganandam spoke on the boundary changes impacting Bridge Creek.
38. Chaitanya Vardhan Kandula shared that Bridge Creek supports the Cy-Ranch proposal.
39. Kiara Anderson thanked the Board for listening to the community.
40. Kiran Kantheti shared that Bridge Creek supports the Cy-Ranch proposal.
41. J.D. Anderson requested the Board pause the move from Cy-Ranch to Cy-Falls.
42. Jean Marie Komgang discussed school zoning and boundary decisions.
43. Erin Byork shared that Bridge Creek supports the Cy-Ranch proposal.
44. Trinh Phan thanked the Board for listening to the community on the Cy-Ranch proposal for Bridge Creek.
45. Jeremy Lee shared his support for pausing Stonegate to Cy-Falls.
46. Monique Lee shared her support for pausing Stonegate to Cy-Falls.
47. Vivienne Lee shared her support for pausing Stonegate to Cy-Falls.

Mr. Jackson called for a recess at 8:05 p.m.

Mr. Jackson called the meeting back to order at 8:12 p.m.

Mr. Jackson announced that the administration would give a presentation and additional information, as requested by the Board of Trustees, on the boundary proposal.

Mr. Jackson called for a motion to approve this non-consent item as recommended or amended.

Board member Debbie Blackshear moved that the Board  
approve the attendance boundaries as presented.  
Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.

Mr. Jackson asked Ms. Blackshear for clarification as to which of the two proposals presented she was seeking approval from the Board and would that be the final recommendation of management that was presented. Ms. Blackshear responded, "correct."

**Motion passed by a 4 to 3 vote with Board Members Tom Jackson, Julie Hinaman, Debbie Blackshear and Gilbert Sarabia voting for the final recommended proposal and Board Members Dr. Natalie Blasingame, Scott Henry and Lucas Scanlon voting against the final recommended proposal.**

- 3.K.** The Board will consider making a determination that good cause did not exist as required by law for Dana Beard, Kailey Cutbirth, Kristine Denman, Ashley Fletcher, Darold Frederick, Chloe Henson, Zachary Herbst, Jillian Mitchell, Jordan Packman, and Richelle Smith to resign their respective employment contracts. [This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.074.]

Mr. Jackson called for a motion to approve this non-consent item as recommended or amended.

Board member Julie Hinaman moved that the Board approve the item as recommended or amended.  
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

**3.L.** The Board will consider giving notice to Yakira Dean that her employment with the District under a probationary contract has been terminated. [This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.074.]

Mr. Jackson called for a motion to approve this non-consent item as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame moved that the Board approve the item as recommended or amended.  
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson called for a recess at 9:21 p.m.

Mr. Jackson called the meeting back to order at 9:27 p.m.

Mr. Jackson announced that the Board would proceed with the **Citizen Participation** portion of the agenda.

## **5. Citizen Participation**

**5.A.** Per BED (Local), patrons may address the Board during the Regular Board Meeting under Citizen Participation on any matters of interest or concerns that are not posted agenda items. Individuals may only register to speak one time per meeting and must register in advance. Registration opens the day the agenda is posted to the district website, and the deadline for registering is 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. To register, individuals must click on the "Register to Speak" link found under the Citizen Participation heading in the agenda for that meeting on the district website. This electronic speaker form must be completed in its entirety. Any registered speaker who is absent from the meeting at the time for Citizen Participation forfeits the opportunity to address the Board at that meeting but may submit written comments to the Board.

### **Speakers:**

1. Lesley Guilmart, CFISD parent and president of former Cy-Fair Civic Alliance (now-Cypress Families for Public Schools), shared the vision of the Civic Alliance with the Board. Ms. Guilmart also shared the many accomplishments of the Civic Alliance and the impact the organization has had on the community.
2. Stacey DeMyer shared Governor Abbott's Proclamation for School Board Recognition Month. Ms. DeMyer also shared that she, along with several community members, have formed a political action committee committed to supporting school board candidates who will represent CFISD.
3. Julie Rix addressed the Board by asking that God be brought back into schools by placing bibles in libraries and teaching through the bible in classrooms, bringing back prayer, celebrating Christmas and Jesus and not by growing mental health programs.
4. Ryan Lam, senior at Bridgeland High School, addressed the Board regarding book bans. Mr. Lam gave examples of books which have mature content and remain in school libraries while books with LGBTQ+ content are subject to removal. He believes by removing these books it only ostracizes many students.
5. Tana Lam addressed the Board on her belief that CFISD teachers and librarians are being disrespected by the numerous book challenges recently filed by the community. Ms. Lam shared what each formal book review process entailed and requested that all formal requests be posted to the district website.
6. Dr. Tara Cummings addressed the Board on the new book policy and how damaging the book ban is to the district. Dr. Cummings feels extremists are spearheading the book bans and that their actions are very harmful by placing more work on teachers and librarians and vilifying "queer" students while dividing the community.
7. Chris Schweighardt shared that she recently attended a book banning and learned of a website that the community can research to identify books with questionable content and follow a "how-to" for book challenges. She believes this website and the book banning committee undermines parental rights, per CFISD policy EFB.
8. Alexi Swirsky shared her belief that CFISD libraries contain books with pornographic material, vulgar and profane language, obscene, offensive and inappropriate content for minors. Ms. Swirsky asked that these books be immediately removed from CFISD libraries and classrooms.

9. Dr. Garth Clark shared how well his son performs academically in CFISD. Dr. Clark also shared a troubling story of the inherent obesity in his family and how his son takes a scale to school to weigh his food to prevent obesity. Dr. Clark stated that because of the scale his son has been labeled a drug dealer at school.
10. Christy McCarthy, CFISD employee and parent addressed the Board regarding the scholarship program for high school seniors via the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Houston Metro Go Texan Cypress-Fairbanks subcommittee, which gives both academic and agricultural scholarships.
11. Melissa Rowell addressed the Board regarding the pornographic content in books in CFISD libraries. Ms. Rowell believes these books should be removed from all CFISD libraries. She also expressed her opposition to being called "extremists" when she is simply calling for removal of inappropriate books.

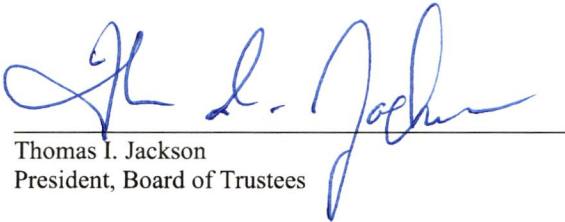
**6. Adjournment**

Board President Jackson thanked the viewing audience and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Board member Lucas Scanlon made a motion to adjourn.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.

Board President Jackson adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.



---

Thomas I. Jackson  
President, Board of Trustees



---

Gilbert Sarabia  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: February 13, 2023