

**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, September 12, 2022, 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.

Mr. Jackson recognized CFISD namesakes Carolyn Spillane, Debbie Emery and Sue McGown, along with CLC members Tonia Jaeggi, Stacye Anderson and Nancy Frankel.

Board Vice President Julie Hinaman announced the changes in the meeting agenda and explained the new procedures for audience participation regarding Agenda Comments, formerly referred to as Public Comments, and Citizen Participation as per BED Regulation.

Reverend David Welch, Lead Pastor of Bear Creek Church, delivered the invocation.

The following Cypress Creek High School AFJROTC cadets presented the colors for the meeting: On left rifle was Cadet Second Lieutenant Elijah Perry, Cadet Second Lieutenant Carrie Tucaling carried the American Flag, Cadet Staff Sergeant Melissa Gonzales carried the Texas Flag is and on right rifle was Cadet Airman Ka'myia Morales. These cadets presented the colors under the direction of Senior Master Sergeant, retired USAF, John R. Schwartz.

Board member Scott Henry read the District's Vision and Mission Statement.

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

1. Remarks and Recognitions

- 1.A.** Chief of Staff, Teresa Hull, made remarks and announcements regarding the honors and achievements earned by staff and students in recent weeks and provide information regarding District and community events or items of interest.

Chief Officer for School Leadership, Roy Garcia, introduced the new principal for Adam Elementary School, Carrie McCollister, and the new principal for ALC West, Derrick Crowder.

- 1.B.** The Board recognized ICI Construction for their donation of funds to purchase school supplies for economically disadvantaged students.

- 1.C.** The Board recognized Tonia Jaeggi, A. Robison Elementary School volunteer, for being one of the Texans honored by the State Board of Education with the Heroes for Children award during the SBOE meeting in August.

- 1.D.** The Board recognized Langham Creek High School student, Nitya Kodali, as a recipient of the 2022 Student Heroes Award.

- 1.E.** The Board recognized the following campuses who earned all possible distinction designations in the 2022 state accountability system: Hairgrove ES, Farney ES, Arnold MS, Cook MS, Smith MS and Spillane MS.

Speaker:

1. Dr. Tara Cummings shared her deep appreciation and offered her congratulations to Spillane MS and all other campuses for earning all possible distinction designations in the 2022 state accountability system.

Mr. Jackson announced that Dr. Henry would not be in attendance this evening because his father had undergone quadruple by-pass surgery.

Mr. Jackson called for a recess at 6:51 p.m.

Mr. Jackson called the meeting back to order at 7:01 p.m.

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 the staff and principal for the McGown Elementary School tour and all who were involved in the design and construction of the campus. Mr. Henry shared events he recently attended – parent orientation at a campus, an “outstanding” pep rally at the Berry Center and several high school football games. He stated that the band and cheer teams did a fantastic job during the games. Mr. Henry concluded his comments with a quote from Roger Staubach, “Spectacular achievements are always preceded by unspectacular preparation.”

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame highlighted Hairgrove Elementary School for their outstanding staff and leadership at the campus. Dr. Blasingame encouraged community partners, churches and organizations to adopt schools within the district. She gave examples of many ways partners who adopt schools can help each campus and help educate students. Dr. Blasingame expressed her appreciation for all campuses, administration and staff who were instrumental in helping CFISD reach an ‘A’ rating. Dr. Blasingame also thanked every teacher and staff member for building relationships that provide rigor and relevance to all students.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia thanked the administration and staff for the district achieving the ‘A’ rating. He also thanked the administration, staff and students for their outstanding work throughout the community. Mr. Sarabia shared that during recent events and activities he has spoken to many students and employees in the district and reassured them that their concerns are being heard by the Board and the administration. Mr. Sarabia also spoke on mentoring within the district, the many opportunities for staff and students and CFISD being a destination district – for success.

Board member Lucas Scanlon expressed his appreciation to all teachers, principals, paraprofessionals and staff for connecting with their students, which will help students overcome and believe in themselves. Mr. Scanlon shared his enthusiasm for the A-rating CFISD received while coming back from the pandemic. He shared what an “astounding” accomplishment it was teaching during this difficult time. Mr. Scanlon believes this was due to the connections that CFISD teachers have with their students. He encouraged teachers to continue to use creativity when making those connections.

Board member Debbie Blackshear thanked the businesses and churches for participating in the Bus Buddy program. Ms. Blackshear also shared the good things that happen and come out of businesses and churches adopting schools and what a great program it is to be involved in. She gave kudos to the district’s Transportation Department for doing a great job in spite of needing bus drivers. Ms. Blackshear congratulated former board member, Bob Covey, for receiving an honorary lifetime membership award from the Gulf Coast Association of School Boards. She congratulated everyone for the district’s A-rating and mentioned that she has attended football games every week of the season thus far.

Board member Julie Hinaman echoed the comments of her colleagues on the A-rating and shared how the result of the rating happened during a very challenging time. Through speaking to many teachers and principals, Ms. Hinaman feels the new school year is off to a strong start. She gave a shout-out to new and returning teachers and assured them they have the full support of the Board. Ms. Hinaman reported that she enjoyed volunteering as a Bus Buddy. Ms. Hinaman gave facts, comments and voiced her opposition to the new charter school that is planned to open in the Bridgeland community. She concluded

her comments by reminding the community that September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Board member Tom Jackson shared his most recent stops around the district – serving two afternoons as a Bus Buddy and attending both the executive session and the public portion of the district safety meeting. Mr. Jackson reported that he and his colleagues will be touring the facilities of the JJAEP and ALC this week. He shared that he attended the Gulf Coast School Board meeting. Mr. Jackson addressed comments that were made during the BWS Thursday evening regarding mixed race dating and the absence of black students in AP classes. Mr. Jackson spoke on student growth in the district and the achievement of being one of the highest performing districts in Texas. Mr. Jackson tipped his hat to Joseph and all the other bus drivers who transport CFISD's students to and from school. He thanked senior campus leaders for providing guidance and support and also to classroom educators and support staff for their guidance and support.

Mr. Jackson announced that Agenda Items **3.A.**, **3.B.** and **3.C.** under the **Reports** portion of the agenda were presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, September 8, 2022. The following patron registered to speak on Agenda Item 3.C.

3. Reports

3.C. The administration will provide an oral report on the 2022-2023 Board Monitoring System.

Speaker:

1. Stacey DeMyer expressed her concerns about “closing the gap” data not being shared with the public before the board meeting. Ms. DeMyer also shared her concerns regarding the existence of racial inequities in the district.

Mr. Jackson announced that the Board would proceed with the **Action Items** portion of the agenda. Agenda items **4.A. through 4.H.** were moved to **Consensus** during the Board Work Session on Thursday, September 8, 2022.

Mr. Jackson passed the duty of reading the Agenda Items 4.A. through 4.D. to Board Vice President Julie Hinaman.

4. Action Items

4.A. The Board will consider approving the minutes of the August 8, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

4.B. The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.

- 4.B.1. College Readiness & Career Interest Tests
- 4.B.2. Portable Restroom Rentals
- 4.B.3. Trailers and Associated Equipment

4.C. The Board will consider approving the Water Supply Agreement between CFISD and HCMUD 172 for water service to various district facilities and authorize the Superintendent or Designee to negotiate the final terms and conditions and execute the agreement and any related documents.

4.D. The Board will consider approving on first reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:

- 4.D.1. DMA (LOCAL) Professional Development: Required Staff Development (Add)
- 4.D.2. DP(LOCAL) Personnel Positions (Revise)
- 4.D.3. FFBA (LOCAL) Crisis Intervention: Trauma-Informed Care (Revise)
- 4.D.4. FFG(LOCAL) Student Welfare: Child Abuse and Neglect (Revise)

Speaker:

1. Dr. Tara Cummings advised the Board on the difference between childhood sexual abuse, grooming and sex trafficking and the representation of the LGBTQ community.

Mr. Jackson read the remaining agenda items.

4.E. The Board will consider approving on second reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:

4.E.1. DBB (LOCAL) Employment Requirements and Restrictions: Medical Examinations and Communicable Diseases (Revise)

4.E.2. EED (LOCAL) Instructional Arrangements: Student Schedules (Revise)

4.F. The Board will consider approving the renewal agreement with Lone Star College to facilitate the training for Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification for Practicum of Health Science Students.

4.G. The Board will consider approving the affiliation agreement between Cypress-Fairbanks ISD and Memorial Hermann Health System and its affiliates.

4.H. The Board will consider approving the issuance of Career and Technical Education (CTE) teaching permits to applicants in lieu of standard teaching certifications as established in law.

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 consensus action items as recommended.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

Mr. Jackson announced that **Agenda Item 4.I.** (below) was withdrawn by the complainant.

4.I. The Board will consider a Level IV appeal (Frank) of a Level III decision. [This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.074.]

Mr. Jackson announced that **Discussion Items 5.A.** and **5.B.** were discussed in closed session at the end of the Board Work Session on Thursday, September 8, 2022, however, the Board would return to closed session on **Item 5.B.** at the end of tonight's Board meeting.

5.B. The Board will discuss the duties of a public official. [This item will be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.074.]

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

6. Citizen Participation

6.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. Danny Sale addressed the Board regarding teacher retention and teacher compensation and the use of the quarter system to maximize the use of facilities while offering staff and faculty greater compensation.
2. Felece Lewis Jones shared her concerns with fees charged in middle and high schools. Ms. Jones expressed how these fees greatly impact the economically disadvantaged. She asked the Board to reconsider these fees so as not to penalize parents/students who cannot afford the fees.
3. Julie Rix questioned the 'A' rating received by CFISD. Ms. Rix asked the Board to return to the basics of education, put prayer back into schools and offer school choice.

4. Jen Williams shared her concerns over the pressure of STAAR testing for students and teachers, the tough conditions that teachers are having to perform under, and the expectations placed on teachers.
5. Dr. Tara Cummings shared her concerns with certain extremist parental groups. Dr. Cummings shared her vision of CFISD as inclusive and equitable, respecting teachers and staff, a district for everyone.
6. Jennifer Lorenz, volunteer for Demand Action for Gun Sense, shared information on a nonprofit nonpartisan organization named The Violence Project.
7. Lisa Hart addressed the Board regarding her daughter's academic future. Ms. Hart shared her daughter's mental health struggles and is requesting the district contract with HCDOE so her daughter may attend a sober high school and complete her senior year.
8. Todd LeCompte, representing the Texas Civic Alliance, spoke highly of the CFISD Bus Buddies program, Watch Dog Dads, mentorship programs, annual See You at the Pole events and student-led DIY events. Mr. LeCompte encouraged the community, especially dads, to volunteer for these events.

7. Closed Session

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the Board should determine that a closed session of the Board should be held or is required in relation to any item included in this notice, then such closed session as authorized by Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code (the Open Meetings Act) will be held by the Board at that date, hour and place given in this notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this notice as the Board may conveniently meet in such closed session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Sections 551.071 through 551.084, of the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Jackson called for a motion to move into closed session on **Discussion Item 5.B.**

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to move into closed session.

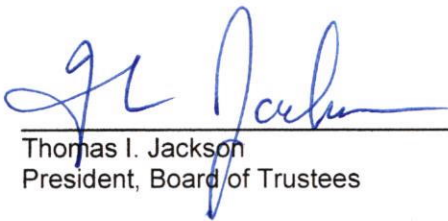
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

8. Adjournment

Board President Jackson thanked the viewing audience and adjourned the meeting to closed session at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Jackson adjourned the Regular Board Meeting in closed session at 8:58 p.m.



Thomas I. Jackson
President, Board of Trustees



Gilbert Sarabia
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: October 10, 2022