

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

AUGUST 8, 2022  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, August 8, 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 CLC members Nancy Frankel, Frances Romero, Stacye Anderson and Ryan Irving. Mr. Jackson also recognized State Representative Jon Rosenthal, Grace Handley, District Director for Dr. Tom Oliverson, and Boy Scout Andrew Catchings of Troop 61.

Mr. Jackson 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.

David R. Rucker, Pastor of Adult Discipleship and Congregational Care, Cornerstone United Methodist Church delivered the invocation.

Board President Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.

Board member Lucas Scanlon 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. The Superintendent 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.
- 1.B. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Representative Will Hickman was unable to attend the meeting, so the Board will recognize Langham Creek High School student Nitya Kodali during the September Board meeting.

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** assured students that CFISD educators have been preparing for a successful school year. Mr. Henry shared the elements for student success, encouraging students to reach their full potential. He shared how teachers who inspire students, motivate students and guide them with short-term goals can accomplish amazing things, insuring a great future. Mr. Henry wished everyone "a great school year" and much happiness throughout the year.

**Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame** recently attended the New Staff Orientation at the Berry Center. Dr. Blasingame thanked the business community for their support of CFISD, the administration for guiding the Board through new Board policies, Chief Mendez and his department for the safety and security plan and the community for completing the recent Parent Survey. Dr. Blasingame commented on the library book policy and the need to take the necessary steps to implement the policy while honoring teachers' time.

**Board member Gilbert Sarabia** shared that he recently attended TASB's Summer Leadership Institute conference, which proved to be very informative for Board members. Mr. Sarabia visited with many parents and students over the past couple of weekends and feels confident it will be a good school year. Mr. Sarabia assured the viewing audience and the community that CFISD and the Board is listening to patron concerns.

**Board member Lucas Scanlon** discussed what the portrait of a CFISD student should look like. He assured the community that the Board is listening and will continue to foster a parent partnership throughout the year. Mr. Scanlon wished all staff, teachers and administration well wishes as the district moves forward with many great opportunities for good learning outcomes. Mr. Scanlon expressed how impressive the district's safety program is and assured stakeholders that the Board will continue to build a rapport with the community.

**Board member Debbie Blackshear** attended the "kick-off" session for the district's School Leadership Symposium, and she also attended the New Staff Orientation, both at the Berry Center. Ms. Blackshear expressed her appreciation to the new and existing staff who continue to choose CFISD as their district of employment. She expressed her understanding and empathy for all staff members for the ongoing changes in the district and for the difficulties Covid brought over the past two years. Mr. Blackshear shared that she attended summer school graduation as well.

**Board member Julie Hinaman** expressed her appreciation for the staff who worked so hard on the summer school programs for students and all the facilities personnel for getting campuses ready for the new year. Ms. Hinaman visited with the Junior Police Academy students at Spillane MS this past summer; she attended the Leadership Symposium, the CFEF Scholarship reception, summer school graduation and Professional Development welcoming new and returning staff members.

**Board member Tom Jackson** attended the Leadership Symposium, the CFEF Scholarship reception and the New Staff Orientation speaking with many staff members as they arrived at the Berry Center. Mr. Jackson shared that he attended the Summer Leadership Institute this past summer with his colleagues and recently attended the Safety & Security Committee meeting, along with attending summer school graduation. Mr. Jackson tipped his hat to those summer school graduating students who persevered despite roadblocks and challenges.

Mr. Jackson announced that Agenda Items **3.A.** and **3.B.** under the **Reports** portion of the agenda were presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, August 4, 2022. The following patrons registered to speak on these items.

### **3. Reports**

**3.A.** The administration provided a report on the results of the CFISD Survey administered to parents, staff and the community.

#### **Speakers:**

1. Stacey DeMyer, CFISD parent, addressed the Board on the recent Parent Survey regarding diversity in the community. Ms. DeMyer provided the Board a letter from the community requesting a DEI advisory committee be formed for DEI initiatives and to rewrite the Resolution condemning racism.
2. Kristina Woods, CFISD resident, addressed the Board regarding the increase in discipline reports, the effects of Covid on students, the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in CFISD, stress factors of teachers, high cost of college, gun violence and other problems students are facing today.

**3.B.** The administration provided a report on the CFISD Safety and Security measures for the 2022-2023 school year.

#### **Speakers:**

1. Kristina Woods, CFISD resident, addressed the Board on CFISD's safety and security procedures.

Mr. Jackson announced that the Board would proceed with the **Action Items** portion of the agenda. Agenda items **4.A. through 4.D.**, **4.F. through 4.M.** and **4.O. through 4.Q** were moved to **Consensus** during the Board Work Session on Thursday, August 4, 2022.

Mr. Jackson passed the duty of reading the following agenda items to Board Vice President Julie Hinaman.

#### **4. Action Items**

- 4.A.** The Board will consider approving the minutes of the June 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.
- 4.B.** The Board will consider approving construction proposals and contracts paid from Bond Funds and M&O Funds to the recommended contractors and authorize the Superintendent or designee to execute all necessary documents related to such contracts as follows:
  - 4.B.1. 2021 Black, Danish & Duryea ES Renovations
- 4.C.** The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.
  - 4.C.1. Contracted Educational Services and Professional Development Services
  - 4.C.2. Food Service Equipment for Nutrition Services
  - 4.C.3. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP Growth Enrollment for the 2022-2023 School Year
  - 4.C.4. Restaurant/Catering and Delivery Services
  - 4.C.5. Spirit Apparel and Promotional Items
- 4.D.** The Board will consider approving the Harris County easement dedication along Westfield Village Drive adjacent to M. Robinson Elementary and authorize the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents.
- 4.F.** The Board will consider a resolution approving the individual authorized to calculate the no-new-revenue tax rate, the voter-approval tax rate and other truth-in-taxation requirements.
- 4.G.** The Board will consider approving the 2022-2023 Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. Student Code of Conduct.
- 4.H.** The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute the renewal of the 2022-2023 Interlocal Agreement with Harris County for specialized services at the Academic Behavior School (ABS) West.
- 4.I.** The Board will consider approving the renewal of the 2022-2023 Interlocal Agreement with Harris County for school-based therapy services.
- 4.J.** The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute a memorandum of understanding with Nova Southeastern University for Speech Pathology Field Placement.
- 4.K.** The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute the renewal of the memorandum of understanding with the University of Houston, Main Campus, for licensed specialist in school psychology practicum/internship.
- 4.L.** The Board will consider approving the Interlocal Agreement with The University of Texas at Austin to obtain the services for Educational Coursework or Training (Project) for the twelve CFISD High Schools sites.
- 4.M.** The Board will consider approving on first reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:
  - 4.M.1. DBB (LOCAL) Employment Requirements and Restrictions: Medical Examinations and Communicable Diseases (Revise)
  - 4.M.2. EED (LOCAL) Instructional Arrangements: Student Schedules (Revise)
- 4.O.** The Board will consider authorizing the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Harris County First Responders for coordinated and uniform emergency response protocols.

4.P. The Board will consider approving a resolution pursuant to Education Code 28.004 to convene the District's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to recommend curriculum material for instruction.

4.Q. The Board will consider adopting the CFISD Bringing Out the Best Character Education Program.

**Speakers:**

1. Bryan Henry, CFISD parent and resident, addressed the Board on the character education program, *Bringing Out the Best*. Mr. Henry shared his concerns on HB3979 which he believes requires teachers to present both sides of controversial topics.

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 Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve the consensus action items as recommended.

Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson announced that the following **Non-Consensus Action Items** remained on **Non-Consensus**.

4.E. The Board will consider approving Board members to serve as delegate and alternate delegate to the 2022 Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) annual delegate assembly.

Mr. Jackson asked for nominations from the Board to serve as delegate to the 2022 TASB annual delegate assembly.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia made a motion to nominate Dr. Natalie Blasingame.

Board member Lucas Scanlon seconded.

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson asked for nominations for an alternate delegate to the 2022 TASB annual delegate assembly.

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to serve as the Alternate Delegate.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

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

- 4.N.1 BED (LOCAL) Board Meetings: Public Participation (Revise)
- 4.N.2 EF (LOCAL) Instructional Resources (Delete)
- 4.N.3 EFA (LOCAL) Instructional Resources: Instructional Materials (Add)
- 4.N.4 EFB (LOCAL) Instructional Resources: Library Materials (Add)
- 4.N.5 EHAA (LOCAL) Basic Instructional Program: Required Instruction (Add)
- 4.N.6 FM (LOCAL) Student Activities (Revise)
- 4.N.7 FNAB (LOCAL) Student Expression: Use of School Facilities for Non-School Purposes (Revise)

**Speakers:**

1. Stacey DeMyer, CFISD parent, shared her concerns on how policy EFB (Local) will negatively impact teacher's ability to teach as well as student literacy.
2. Kathrine Wells, CFISD resident and employee, shared her concerns on how policy EFB (Local) will be a "heavy lift" for teachers and not the very best learning instruction for students.

3. Veronika Skoda, CFISD student, shared her concerns on certain books not being available for students and other books being banned.
4. Diana Alexander, CFISD employee, shared her concerns on policy EFB (Local) and how it will show students that censorship is a lesson plan for the coming school year.
5. Kara McIntyre, CFISD resident, shared her concerns on policy EFB (Local) and censorship.
6. Jennifer Chenette, CFISD resident, shared her concerns on policy EFB (Local).
7. Bryan Henry, CFISD parent and resident, shared his concerns on the timing and implementation of policy EFB (Local).
8. James Post, CFISD parent and resident, shared his concerns on policy EFB (Local) and the suppression of information.
9. Alexi Swirsky, CFISD resident, expressed her appreciation for reading and feels the removal of certain reading materials is not censorship and rather it is protection and respect for parents' rights.
10. Jen Williams, CFISD parent, employee and resident, shared her concerns on policy EFB (Local) beginning with the lack of support for teachers through this process and the timeframe to complete the process.
11. Liz Graven, CFISD parent, shared her concerns on policy EFB (Local) and the extra burden this policy places on teachers and librarians.

Discussion was held on the date of implementation for policy EFB (Local). General counsel, Marney Collins Sims, suggested removing 4.N.4 EFB (Local) from the current motion, making a motion on the other dual reading policies, pass that motion then take EFB (Local) on its own.

Mr. Jackson asked for a motion to remove 4.N.4 EFB (Local) from agenda item 4.N. for further consideration.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to remove EFB (Local) policy from agenda item 4.N. for further consideration.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson then asked for a motion to approve 4.N.1, 4.N.2, 4.N.3, 4.N.5, 4.N.6 and 4.N.7.

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve.

Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson made a suggestion that an open discussion be held for further tweaking of 4.N.4 EFB (Local) before bringing this dual reading to a vote. With the Board's concurrence, further discussion was held to determine the timeframe for the implementation of EFB (Local) policy.

Board member Julie Hinaman opened a discussion on EFB-R. Ms. Hinaman shared her concerns that advanced readers in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades would be limited to only checking out books in the juvenile collection. Ms. Hinaman would like the regulation (EFB-R) to reflect that students in grades 4 through 6 would be able to check out fiction books from the young adult collection, with parent permission, so that they have the opportunity to read books that are better matched with their reading level. Dr. Macias, Chief Academic Officer, stated that she would review Ms. Hinaman's request with her team.

Returning to the discussion on EFB (Local), Mr. Jackson asked for a motion to approve 4.N.4 EFB (Local) in red line form, as presented this evening.

Board member Lucas Scanlon made a motion to approve.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson called for a motion to change the effective date of implementation of policy EFB (Local) to November 15, 2022.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to amend the policy to set an effective date of November 15, 2022.

Board member Lucas Scanlon seconded.

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson stated that there was an amended motion on the floor and called for a vote on the motion as amended. "Motion has been made and amended on 4.N.4, EFB (Local)."

**Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson called for a recess at 8:16 p.m.

Mr. Jackson called the meeting back to order at 8:23 p.m. and proceeded 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. Leslie Guilmart, CFISD parent and resident, spoke on the new character education program.
2. Kathleen Sharer, CFISD parent and resident, addressed the Board on the implementation protocols on policy EFB (Local).
3. Tanzanyika Williams, Cy-Fair TSTA NEA President, shared TSTA's vision, mission and value statements supporting public education.
4. Monica Dean, CFISD parent and resident, shared volunteer opportunities throughout CFISD, i.e., Bus Buddies, mentoring students and an upcoming DIY event for donating signs.
5. Nikki Cowart, CFISD parent and resident, addressed the Board on proposed policy changes and teacher shortages.
6. Bryan Henry, CFISD parent and resident, spoke on how much CFISD teachers care about books, literacy and children's education.

7. Mark Goloby, CFISD resident, addressed the Board on the "lack of discipline" in schools. Mr. Goloby also discussed town meetings for Board members to reach out to the community.

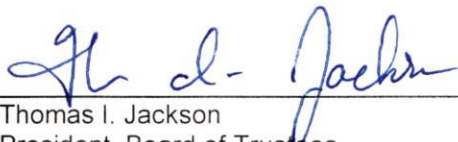
**6. Closed Session**

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.

No closed session was held.

**7. Adjournment**

Board President Jackson adjourned the August 8, 2022 Regular Board Meeting at 8:44 p.m.



Thomas I. Jackson  
President, Board of Trustees



Gilbert Sarabia  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: September 12, 2022