



# BOARD REPORT

*BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING*  
August 10, 2020

The Brownwood ISD (BISD) Board of Trustees met for a regular session meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The session was called to order by BISD Board President Michael Cloy. Trustee Eric Evans gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by BISD Board President Michael Cloy.

## AUDIENCE FOR GUESTS

Music teacher, Jennifer Gwathmey, spoke on behalf of the teachers and staff at East Elementary to recognize their principal, Mrs. Dee Dee Wright. Gwathmey read aloud a collection of comments praising Mrs. Wright's leadership, educational knowledge, and sense of family which has proven to be a great fit for the campus. The 2020-2021 school year will be Mrs. Wright's second year as principal. Several East Elementary teachers and staff members were in attendance to show solidarity and express their appreciation for having Mrs. Wright as their principal.



**Above:** BISD Board President Michael Cloy and several East Elementary staff pose for a photo with East Elementary Principal, Dee Dee Wright.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS**

Deputy Superintendent, Liesa Land, provided an update regarding the return to school instructional options and how many have registered for face-to-face learning versus the remote learning option. Land broke down the total number registered for each option by campus, and then reported the combined percentage overall. As of Monday, August 10, 82.6% have selected face-to-face learning and 17.4% have selected remote. Instructional options have been registered for a total of 3100 students with over a week to go before school starts. Land also reported the number of teachers on each campus that will be assigned to the remote teaching option, as well as plans for curriculum including the use of Edgenuity, an online curriculum and learning platform which will help keep online and face-to-face learning aligned at the secondary level.

## **ASSESSMENT, DISTRICT & CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT REPORTS**

Land noted that due to COVID-19 and planning for remote and face-to-face instruction, full campus improvement plans are not yet complete. BISD administrators have published a detailed back to school plan which is updated regularly based on rapidly changing state and government guidelines. Information for “Meet the Teacher” events, as well as picking up schedules and devices, is being prepared and will be sent this week.

Land stated that East Elementary lost an opportunity to be removed from the designation of Improvement Required (IR) with the cancellation of the STAAR test due to COVID-19 last year. Mrs. Wright, along with the teachers and staff at the school, worked very hard through the year with this goal and Land indicated she was positive that East Elementary would have accomplished it. STAAR testing is still scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year, though it is uncertain how that will look for remote-learning students.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Superintendent Dr. Joe Young provided information about ongoing district planning, events, and updates regarding the return to school plan. BISD administrators continue to prepare for the upcoming year, and teachers returned this week and are training for the changes with remote learning, face-to-face instruction and more. Covocation will be held on Wednesday, August 12th through Zoom. The district’s Return to School Plan continues to be revised with the most recent information. Recent updates include the UIL Return to Play guidelines, instructions for technology, and student drop-off and pick-up guidance. Dr. Young noted that the Brown County Health Department will be working with the district and will handle responses to any lab-confirmed cases that may arise. If a case is confirmed, the community along with parents and guardians will be notified through the use of the School Messenger system, as well as other prepared communications. Additional details and responses to specific scenarios can be found in the district’s Return to School Plan. The most up-to-date version of the plan, along with FAQs, are available on the Brownwood ISD website.

## **DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Assessment, District and Campus Improvement Plan Reports:** Mrs. Land presented this report as a part of the Instructional Focus update (see above).

**Staff Handbook:** Board members were provided with copies of the 2020-2021 Staff and Student Handbooks. No changes were noted.

**Quarterly Financial Report:** Dr. Young provided the Quarterly Financial Report for review.

### **FIRST READING: TASB-INITIATED POLICY UPDATE 115:**

Dr. Young presented Policy Update 115 as promulgated by TASB. These updates match procedures that are currently in use by the board but provide clarifying language in particular codes. As noted in the Board Book, Update 115 focuses on updating and reorganizing several policies in the FFE series of the policy manual addressing student welfare. FFEA continues to focus on counseling, and a new code, FFEB, focuses on mental health provisions. In addition, several policies have been revised to incorporate new Title IX regulations. The updates to (LEGAL) policies are affected by changes in administrative rules and commissioner of education rulings. This update was presented as a first reading only, with no action on the item scheduled until next month.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

The District Improvement Plan serves as the blueprint for how the district will address the needs identified. The plan brings focus and coherence to reform activities and helps ensure unity of purpose, alignment, and clear accountability. These goals guide the creation of the plan. This plan covers all six BISD goals (Academic Achievement, Staff Quality, School Climate/Safe & Healthy School, College & Career/Graduation/Dropout Reduction, Parent/Community Engagement, and District Commitment). Trustee Tim Jacobs made a motion for approval of the District Improvement Goals and Objectives, as presented. Trustee Eric Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:**

The Student Code of Conduct for the 2020-2021 year was provided. No major changes were reported. This is an annual approval required by the state, and the Texas Association of School Boards provides the updated document each year, ensuring that it complies with all laws on student discipline. Trustee Evans motioned that the Student Code of Conduct be approved as presented, and Trustee Dr. Lisa Fowler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR PUBLIC NOTICE:**

The proposed budget is based on a tax rate of \$0.9664 for Maintenance and Operations and \$0.1451 for Interest and Sinking. This tax rate reflects a decrease of \$0.0036 in Maintenance and Operations and \$0.01 in Interest and Sinking for the 2020-2021 school budget year. Trustee Evans motioned that the proposed tax rate be approved as presented for public notice, with Trustee Codie Smith seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DESIGNATING AUGUST 27, 2020, AS THE DATE TO APPROVE THE 2020-2021 BUDGET AND TAX RATE:**

The date of August 27, 2020 was presented for approval as the date to approve the 2020-2021 BISD budget and tax rate. Trustee Jacobs motioned to approve the date as presented, with Trustee Diane Thompson seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PUBLIC FUNDS INVESTMENT POLICY RESOLUTION:**

A resolution for the Public Funds Investment Policy was provided for approval with no changes. Trustee Smith motioned that the policy be approved as presented, with Trustee Evans seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDER CALLING FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020 FOR PLACES 2, 4, AND 5**

An order was presented calling for the Board of Trustee election to be held on November 3, 2020. The first day to file for a place on the ballot is July 20, 2020. The last day to file for a place on the ballot is August 17, 2020. The Brown County Elections Office will conduct the election for the district. Trustee Evans motioned to approve the order calling for the Board of Trustee Election to be held on November 3, 2020 for Place 2, Place 4, and Place 5, with Trustee Roderick Jones seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The following items were listed for consideration on the Consent Agenda.

1. Approval of T-TESS Appraiser List
2. Approval of Teacher Appraisal Calendar
3. Approval of Property/Casualty Insurance for 2020-2021
4. Approval of Extension of Janitorial Contract for 2020-2021
5. Budget Amendments
6. Minutes from June 8, 2020 Board Meeting

Trustee Evans moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented, with Trustee Dr. Fowler seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The board moved into executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss personnel and security matters. They returned to open session at 8:28 p.m. No additional action was taken on executive session matters.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were made:

- BISD Convocation - August 12, 2020
- First Day of School - August 19, 2020
- Special Board Meeting - Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.
- Labor Day Holiday - September 7, 2020
- Next Regular Board Meeting - September 14, 2020

*The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*