

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Alpine ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Alpine ISD was held Wednesday, August 26, 2020, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Alpine High School - Library.

I. Call Meeting to Order

Board President Eddie Natera called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Adrian Billings, Justin Cross, Billy Ray Laxton, Mary McCallister, Eddie Natera, and Joe Portillo

Others Present: Becky McCutchen, Superintendent of Schools

Members Absent: Rachel Carvajal

II. Invocation

III. Pledges of Allegiance to the Flags

IV. Verification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law

This is to verify that the provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.041 in connection with public posting of meeting notice was met on August 21, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.

V. Open Forum - Public Comment

Mr. Rick Stephens addressed the Board on three topics:

1. Referencing HB 2840, cited the right to the public to address the Board during any open meeting. Requested the AISD Board of Trustees modify their policies to allow public comment during any portion of an open meeting, not limiting comments to Open Forum.
2. Demolition rates charged by the City of Alpine and the cost to Alpine ISD, cautioning the Board that the City of Alpine is not in a position to waive those fees, and may not be in a position to handle the large amount of demolition waste.
3. Construction Supervision – Referenced the need for proper leadership and oversight. Additionally, discussed the requirement for contact with the City of Alpine building code official.

VI. Consideration/Approval of Evaluation Committee's Ranking of Proposers for High School, Elementary, and Middle School Construction Projects

(Goals 2, 4)

Alan Wolfe, of Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper, reviewed the processes and procedures utilized by the Evaluation Committee for Ranking the Proposers for the High School, Elementary, and Middle School Construction Projects. He then reviewed the rankings of the committee, addressing construction companies' experience, previous projects, resumes of field superintendents and office project managers.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to accept the rankings as determined by the Evaluation Committee, with Imperial Construction ranked as the number one proposer.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

VII. Review and Consideration of Action Authorizing Superintendent to Negotiate Contracts for High School, Middle School and Elementary Construction Projects (Goals 2, 4)

Mr. Wolfe discussed the options for negotiations with the contractor.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to approve action authorizing the Superintendent to negotiate contracts for the High School, Middle School, and Elementary construction projects.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

**VIII. Review and Consideration of District Improvement Plan (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)
Presenter: Caroline Fox, Director of Curriculum and Special Programs**

Caroline Fox presented the District Improvement Plan for approval. Ms. Fox reviewed the plan, including committee members, funding amounts, highlighting changes, the needs assessment process, and strengths and weaknesses on identified needs.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to approve the District Improvement Plan, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

IX. Review and Consideration of Action to Approve Cafeteria Meal Charge Policy (Goals 1, 2)

Ms. McCutchen reviewed two proposals for changing the Cafeteria Meal Charge Policy. Option 1 allows for unlimited meal charges, but strongly discourages charging. Option 2 implements a ceiling of \$15.00 for meal charges, and offers an

alternative meal for students who have reached the maximum limit.

A motion was made by Joe Portillo, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve Option 2 for the Cafeteria Meal Charge Policy. However, the alternative meal will be included as a regular option on the meal line, being offered to all students.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

X. Review and Consideration of Ordinance to Approve Tax Rate for 2020-2021 (Goal 2, 4)

Presenter: Tucker Durham, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Durham reviewed the Certified Appraised Values, totaling \$ 538,263,838 for Maintenance and Operations Freeze Adjusted Taxable, and \$583,213,878 for Interest and Sinking Freeze Adjusted Taxable, as well as the proposed tax rate for 2020-2021. The proposed tax rate of \$ 1.0547 for Maintenance and Operation and \$0.240 for the payment of Principal and Interest on Debts, for a total tax rate of \$ 1.2947. This tax rate would effectively decrease taxes for Maintenance and Operations over last year's tax rate.

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Justin Cross, to approve the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer to approve the 2020 Ordinance to set the tax rate at \$1.2947, thereby decreasing taxes for Maintenance and Operations for the 2020-2021 tax year.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XI. Reports (Goal 2)

A. Chief Financial Officer

Presenter: Tucker Durham

1. Monthly Report

Tucker Durham reviewed the tax collections and financials for the month of July, 2020. Additionally, Mr. Durham discussed the current low interest rates and the impact it has on district assets.

2. Discussion of Financial Topics

No additional discussion

XII. Consideration of Budget Amendments (Goal 2)

None

XIII. Consent Items

The Board has been furnished with background material on each item and/or it has

been discussed at a previous meeting. Items may be withdrawn for individual consideration. All remaining items will be adopted by a single vote. Items withdrawn for separate discussion will be acted upon individually.

A. Board Minutes of Previous Meetings (Goal 3)

1. July 15, 2020 - Regular Meeting
2. August 5, 2020 - Special Meeting

B. District expenditures for month of July, 2020 (Goal 2)

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Adrian Billings, to approve the consent items, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIV. Review and Consideration of TASB Board Policy Update 115, affecting local policies as follows: (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

- BF(LOCAL): BOARD POLICIES
- DED(LOCAL): COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS - VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS
- DIA(LOCAL): EMPLOYEE WELFARE - FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
- DMD(LOCAL): PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND VISITATIONS
- EI(LOCAL): ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
- FB(LOCAL): EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
- FD(LOCAL): ADMISSIONS
- FEB(LOCAL): ATTENDANCE - ATTENDANCE ACCOUNTING
- FFG(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
- FFH(LOCAL): STUDENT WELFARE - FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION
- FMF(LOCAL): STUDENT ACTIVITIES - CONTESTS AND COMPETITION
- FNG(LOCAL): STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES - STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES
- GF(LOCAL): PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

Ms. McCutchen reviewed the proposed changes to policy.

A motion was made by Justin Cross, seconded by Mary McCallister, to approve Ms. McCutchen's recommendation to adopt TASB Board Policy Update 115, as presented.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XV. Annual Report of Board Member Continuing Ed Hours (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4)

Board President Eddie Natera gave the Annual Report of Board Members' Continuing Education Hours, as required by Texas Education Code §11.1519, and Texas Administrative Code §61.1. A copy of the announcement will be attached to these minutes.

XVI. Superintendent Report (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4)

A. Update on Issues Associated with COVID-19

Ms. McCutchen provided an update on issues associated with COVID-19, including current status of learning options, drafting of the Asynchronous Instructional Plan, self-screener form being utilized by all campuses and buildings, and protocols for daily operations. Additionally, Ms. McCutchen told Board members that Facility Use Requests for outside groups are not being approved.

B. Update on Board Self-Evaluation

Ms. McCutchen told board members that results of the Board Self-Evaluation are being compiled and will be presented in September.

C. Enrollment Report

Total enrollment stands at 973, with an ADA of 97.79 %.

Enrollment for the campuses is:

Alpine High School: 320 enrollment; ADA of 98.42 %.

Alpine Middle School: 288 enrollment; ADA of 97.15 %.

Alpine Elementary School: 365 enrollment; ADA of 97.76 %.

XVII. Closed Session - Pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code §551.074

The Board adjourned to executive session at 7:17 p.m.

A. Personnel - Hear and deliberate regarding Superintendent recommendations for personnel. Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Goal 1)

1. Employee Resignations or Retirements

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2020-2021

XVIII. Open Session: Consider and take possible action on Closed Session deliberations

The Board reconvened in open session, at 7:55 p.m., taking action on Closed session deliberations as indicated below.

A. Consider and Take Possible Action Regarding Personnel. Texas Gov't Code Section 551.074 (Goal 1)

1. Employee Resignations or Retirements

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Billy Ray Laxton, to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Gina Lancaster, Alpine High School teacher, effective immediately.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

2. Superintendent Recommendations for Employee Contracts for 2020-2021

A motion was made by Mary McCallister, seconded by Joe Portillo, to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer a one-year Probationary contract, with a certificate addendum to Graciela Galindo, as a teacher at Alpine Middle School.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

XIX. Schedule Future Meetings


- Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 5:30 pm. – Alpine High School Library, Regular Meeting

XX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Adrian Billings, seconded by Mary McCallister, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Motion carried – 6 – 0

The Board may retire to executive session at any time between the meeting's opening and adjournment for purposes of deliberating business as authorized in Texas Government Code, Title 5, Subchapter D, Sections 551.071-551.074 and 551.076. Action, if any, will be taken in open session. (Texas Government Code Chapter 551.102)


Board President


Board Secretary

Date of Approval: *September 16, 2020*

BOARD PRESIDENT'S SCRIPT – ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD TRAINING HOURS 08/26/2020

Board President:

Under State Board of Education Rule, completing required continuing education each year of service is a basic obligation and expectation of any sitting board member.

As Board President, I am required to announce the name of each member who:

- Has completed the required continuing education;
- Has exceeded the required continuing education; and
- Is deficient in meeting the required continuing education.

The requirements for training are measured as of the first anniversary of the date of the trustee's election or appointment or two-year anniversary of his or her previous training, as applicable.

There are seven training **areas** for board member continuing education:

1. Local District Orientation
2. Orientation to the Texas Education Code
3. Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code
4. Team Building
5. Additional Continuing Education
6. Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals
7. Identifying and Reporting Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

To the extent applicable to each board member, I will announce the completion or deficiency as to required training.

For members who still have time remaining to complete required training, I will announce those board members who have scheduled timely training and those who have not yet scheduled the training.

At the conclusion of this announcement, I will announce any board member's training in excess of the continuing education requirements.

Local District Orientation

The following first-year board members have completed the local district orientation training:

Billy Ray Laxton

Orientation to the Texas Education Code

The following first-year board members have time remaining to complete the Orientation to the Texas Education Code and have not yet scheduled this training:

Billy Ray Laxton

Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code

Note: If no members were required to complete the Post-legislative Update to the Texas Education Code training for the prior year, mark as "not applicable" and announce:

No board members were required to complete Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code training for the time period covered by this announcement.

The following board members have completed Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code training:

Adrian Billings
Rachel Carvajal
Justin Cross
Mary McCallister
Eddie Natera
Joe Portillo

Team Building

The following board members have completed the annual team-building training:

Adrian Billings
Rachel Carvajal
Justin Cross
Mary McCallister
Eddie Natera
Joe Portillo

The following board members were not members of the board at the time of the annual team- building training and therefore did not attend the training for the year:

Billy Ray Laxton

Additional Continuing Education

The following board members have completed the additional continuing education requirements:

Adrian Billings
Rachel Carvajal
Justin Cross
Mary McCallister
Eddie Natera
Joe Portillo

The following board members have time remaining to complete the additional continuing education requirements and have not yet scheduled this training:

Billy Ray Laxton

Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals

NOTE: This training must be completed every two years.

The following board members have completed the biennial training on evaluating student academic performance and setting goals:

Joe Portillo

The following board members have scheduled training to timely complete the biennial training on evaluating student academic performance and setting goals:

Adrian Billings
Rachel Carvajal
Justin Cross
Mary McCallister
Eddie Natera

The following board members have time remaining to complete the biennial training on evaluating student academic performance and setting goals and have not yet scheduled this training:

Billy Ray Laxton

Identifying and Reporting Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children

NOTE: This training must be completed every two years.

The following board members have completed the biennial training on identifying and reporting abuse and trafficking:

Adrian Billings
Rachel Carvajal
Justin Cross
Billy Ray Laxton
Mary McCallister
Eddie Natera
Joe Portillo

EXCEEDING REQUIRED CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Board Member Adrian Billings exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 1.25 hours.
- Board Member Rachel Carvajal exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 5.0 hours.
- Board Member Justin Cross exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 7.75 hours.
- Board Member Mary McCallister exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 7.25 hours.
- Board Member Eddie Natera exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 13.0 hours.
- Board Member Joe Portillo exceeded the required amount of continuing education training by 5.0 hours.

- Board Member Billy Ray Laxton has time remaining to complete his required amount of continuing education training.