

**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FEBRUARY 13, 2023  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, February 13, 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 and Scott Henry. Board member Lucas Scanlon was not present.

Board President Jackson recognized Boy Scout Adam Thomas from Troop 277 and Grace Handley of State Representative Tom Oliverson's office.

Dr. Patricia Ryan, Associate Pastor of Windwood Presbyterian Church, delivered the invocation.

The following Cypress Ridge High School AFJROTC cadets presented the colors for the meeting: Carrying the US Flag was Cadet Seidy Segovia, the US Guard was Cadet Tylen Senegal, carrying the Texas Flag was Cadet Alacia Dorsey and the Texas Guard was Cadet Alondra Amaya. These cadets presented the colors under the direction of Senior Master Sergeant James Core, U.S. Air Force (retired).

Board Vice President Debbie Blackshear 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 turned the floor over to Roy Garcia, Chief Officer for School Leadership, who introduced the following four new principals: Kia Willis, Wilson ES; Tyler Hart, Yeager ES; Dr. Felicia Hayes, Hopper MS and Dr. Renee Silliman, ES #58.

- 1.B.** The Board recognized students who earned seats in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State performing ensembles.

**Speaker:**

1. Tana Lam congratulated the TMEA All-State students, band directors and teachers for their hard work and accomplishments.

Joe Glass, CFISD Coordinator Secondary Music, recognized the TMEA All-State students.

- 1.C.** The board will recognize Bridgeland High School choir director, Christopher Fiorini, for receiving a State UIL Sponsor Excellence award.

**Speaker:**

1. Tana Lam congratulated Christopher Fiorini for receiving the State UIL Sponsor Excellence award.

John Morrison, CFISD Director of Fine Arts, introduced Dr. Bradley Kent, UIL State Music Director, who recognized Christopher Fiorini for receiving the State UIL Sponsor Excellence award.

Mr. Jackson called for a recess at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Jackson called the meeting back to order at 6:54 p.m. and 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** shared that he attended the CFISD Livestock Show and Sale and had the fortune to meet with the Governor's office, state representatives and state senators, along with their legislative directors, on his recent trip to Austin, TX. Mr. Henry stated that he will continue to make trips to Austin for the legislative session to advocate and build relationships on bills that are important and relevant to the community. He also shared his most recent experiences visiting campuses around the district.

**Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame** shared how Francone Elementary truly personifies a culture of celebrating students and helping them to be metacognitive about their goal setting and achievements. She shared comments on her visit to Jowell Elementary and how the staff works in unison to elevate instructional practices. Dr. Blasingame shared how appreciative she is of Horne Elementary and their laser focus on knowing each learner and differentiating to meet the needs of all their students.

**Board member Gilbert Sarabia** shared that he attended the CFISD Livestock Show and Sale and asked Board member Debbie Blackshear to elaborate on this being the largest FFA school show in the state of Texas and the largest in the country, with the best facilities. He also attended several athletic events. Mr. Sarabia concluded his comments by paying tribute to Cypress Creek High School softball coach Randy Kight who recently passed away. Mr. Sarabia read aloud a letter honoring Coach Kight from former Cypress Creek principal Jim Wells.

**Board member Debbie Blackshear** congratulated all CFISD Livestock Show and Sale students. Ms. Blackshear shared how the Livestock Show, the FFA program and facilities have greatly expanded over time and how much the program means to students. She shared the many aspects of the FFA program, including growing leadership, ethics and skills. Ms. Blackshear stated how grateful she is to Dr. Macias and Denise Kubecka for the highly organized and well-run event. She shared the honoring and dedication of the arena namesakes, Mike and Darlene Jarrar, during the Show. Ms. Blackshear gave a shout-out to Mark McShaffry of Backyard Grill for his fundraising efforts for the Show. In closing, Ms. Blackshear thanked the CFISD bus drivers for all they do for the district and students.

**Board member Julie Hinaman** shared that she has continued her weekly mentoring at Cy-Falls, Cy-Park and Cy-Ridge High Schools, attended an SSLAC meeting, supported the districtwide Rodeo Art Show, attended the Nutrition Services annual food tasting event, attended the Battle of Fry Road Cy-Ranch vs Cy-Springs basketball game, the Robotics competition at the Berry Center and the Cy-Ridge theater production of High School Musical. Ms. Hinaman also attended the Bobcat Vertical Horizons Showcase, the Community Connection with Cy-Fair volunteers, supported the Houston Metro Go Texans Committee Cook-Off, joined the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Jersey Village High School, attended a signing day for student athletes for Cy-Park High School, the elementary spelling bee, Cy-Ridge High School advanced academics banquet and joined students at Lamkin Elementary to welcome CFPD's newest officer and mascot - Officer Fairbanks. Ms. Hinaman attended the CFISD Livestock Show and Sale, joined fellow Trustees from across Texas in Washington, DC for the Texas Federal Advocacy initiative and lastly, celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cy-Springs High School. In closing, Ms. Hinaman shared her thoughts on a solution to changes to the STAAR and EOC tests.

**Board member Tom Jackson** shared that he attended an SSLAC meeting, heard a presentation by MD Anderson on the dangers of smoking and vaping, attended the CFISD Rodeo Art Exhibit and the TSTA winter social and listened to teachers and staff regarding their concerns. For Black History month, Mr. Jackson attended a tour of the Buffalo Soldiers downtown with students from various districts, including CFISD. He attended the Livestock Show and Sale and was honored to assist in recognizing Mike and Darlene Jarrar. Mr. Jackson enjoyed walking around the Livestock Show visiting with students and staff and participating in the freezer sale. He commented that the appreciation from students and parents was such an immense joy. Mr. Jackson also was a part of the Texas delegation for advocacy at the Texas Federal Advocacy initiative in Washington, DC. In conclusion, Mr. Jackson tipped his hat to all of CFISD's art students and teachers for enhancing creativity and joyful expression.

Mr. Jackson announced that the Public Hearing and Reports portions of the agenda were presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, February 9, 2023, however, there were two speakers for Item 3.A. under the Public Hearing section of the agenda.

**3.A.** The Board will hold a public hearing to discuss the 2021-2022 annual report of the Texas Academic Performance Report.

**Speakers:**

1. Kristina Woods addressed the Board by stating she believes there are striking disparities in the TAPR masters grade level for BIPOC students.
2. Jennifer Chenette addressed the Board on the results of the STAAR reading scores.

The Board proceeded with the **Action Items** portion of the agenda. **Action Items 5.A. through 5.G.** were moved to Consensus during the Board Work Session on Thursday, February 9, 2023.

**5. Action Items**

- 5.A.** The Board will consider approving the minutes of the January 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
- 5.B.** The Board will consider approving the budget amendments for the period of October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.
- 5.C.** The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.  
  
5.C.1. Career and Technology Equipment Repair Service
- 5.D.** The Board will consider approving the CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC Blanket Utility Easement to provide electrical service for the Ben Bradley Police Station Renovation.
- 5.E.** The Board will consider approving the CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC Blanket Utility Easement to provide electrical service for Elementary School 59.
- 5.F.** The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute a memorandum of understanding with Texas Women's University for student teacher placement(s).
- 5.G.** The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute a memorandum of understanding with the University of Houston for student teacher placement(s).

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 6 to 0 vote.**

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

- 5.H.** The Board will consider making a determination that good cause did not exist as required by law for Sharonda Ausbie, Marcus Ballentine, Doris Calvert, Carolyn Co, Sarah Coffman, Jordan Cortez, Megan Eppolito, Roshanell Francisco, Tammy Gilmore, Jonathan Leach, Carlos Perez, Colyncia Powell, Angela Reevely, Claudia Regalado, Scott Tarazona, and Hector Zapata 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 6 to 0 vote.**

- 5.I.** The Board will consider a Level III discipline appeal of a Level II (Cypress Falls High School) decision made by the Discipline Review Committee. (This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.071 and 551.082.)
- 5.J.** The Board will consider a Level III discipline appeal of a Level II (Cypress Park High School) decision made by the Discipline Review Committee. (This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.071 and 551.082.)

Mr. Jackson stated that **Items 5.I. and 5.J.** would be heard during an appeal hearing in closed session at the end of the evening's meeting.

Mr. Jackson announced that the Discussion portion of the agenda was presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, February 9, 2023. The Board would proceed with the **Citizen Participation** portion of the agenda.

## **7. Citizen Participation**

**7.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. Manasa Akula addressed the Board on the negative effects of the boundary changes to the Dunham Pointe community.
2. Heather Kresta addressed the Board regarding the bullying by teachers at Cypress Ranch High School.
3. Saul Zamarron requested the Board's assistance in exempting the increased rental rate for his church, which is currently using Matzke Elementary School.
4. Stacey DeMyer spoke in honor of National Counselor's Week and shared the unique ways counselors contribute to student success.
5. Victoria Zhang addressed the Board regarding racism in CFISD schools, in particular, Cypress Woods High School.
6. Hewan Abunei addressed the Board regarding the protest at Cypress Woods High School and why the "No Place for Hate" program was removed from the district.
7. Dr. Tara Cummings addressed the Board regarding religious extremism.
8. Kimani Salter addressed the Board regarding the student code of conduct at Cypress Woods High School.
9. Corleah Campbell addressed the Board on the lack of action taken against racially or ethnically offensive language and gestures towards others.
10. LaClaudia Hayes addressed the Board on racism reports made to the administration at Cypress Woods High School.
11. Kayla Smith addressed the Board on racism at Cypress Woods High School.
12. Sarah Syed addressed the Board on racist slurs and harassment against the Asian community and students attending McGown Elementary School.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Jackson thanked the audience for attending the meeting as well as those viewing from home and called for a motion to move into closed session.

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to move into closed session.

Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.

**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

Board President Jackson announced that the Board would reconvene in open session later that evening. Mr. Jackson adjourned the meeting to closed session at 8:07 p.m.

Board President Jackson reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:02 p.m. and announced that action would be taken on Agenda Items 5.I. and 5.J.

**5.I.** The Board will consider a Level III discipline appeal of a Level II (Cypress Falls High School) decision made by the Discipline Review Committee. (This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.071 and 551.082.)

Mr. Jackson called for a motion to uphold, amend or revert to the campus administration's original recommendation of 180 days at JJAEP of the Level II decision.



Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame made a motion to amend the Level II decision and reinstate the original recommendation of expulsion to the JJAEP for 180 days or as soon as the case is resolved.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- 5.J.** The Board will consider a Level III discipline appeal of a Level II (Cypress Park High School) decision made by the Discipline Review Committee. (This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.071 and 551.082.)

Mr. Jackson called for a motion to uphold, amend or reverse the Level II decision.

Board member Julie made a motion to uphold the Level II decision.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.

**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

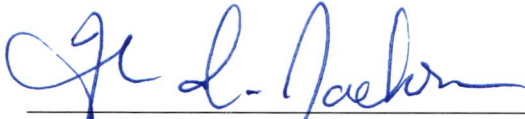
Board President Jackson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to adjourn.

Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.

**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

The February 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:06 p.m.



Thomas I. Jackson  
President, Board of Trustees



Gilbert Sarabia  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: March 6, 2023