

**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**APRIL 10, 2023**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, April 10, 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, Dr. Natalie Blasingame, Scott Henry and Lucas Scanlon. Board member Debbie Blackshear was not present.

Board President Jackson recognized Grace Handley with State Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson's office.

Dr. Kevin Pigg, Senior Pastor, Crossbridge Christian Church, delivered the invocation.

The following Cypress Woods High School AFJROTC cadets presented the colors for the meeting: Cadet Lt. Colonel Colby England, Cadet Lt. Colonel Caiden Stewart, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Holden Palmer and Cadet Captain Izhin Talamantez. These cadets presented the colors under the direction of Master Sergeant Christopher Soto, U.S. Air Force (retired).

Board member Scott Henry 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.** 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.

Dr. Henry turned the floor over to Roy Garcia, Chief Officer for School Leadership, who introduced Christal Hammond as the new principal of Hemmenway Elementary School.

**1.B.** The Board recognized Haylie Stum from Bridgeland High School for being named the 2023 TAJE Texas Journalist of the Year.

**1.C.** The Board recognized Cypress Park High School student Nicole Lee as the Texas Forensic Association State Champion and her coaches Tammy Raley and Tamia Brice.

**1.D.** The board recognized teachers who earned their National Board Certification in December 2022.

Mr. Jackson called for a recess at 6:37 p.m.

Mr. Jackson called the meeting back to order at 6:45 p.m. and announced that Item 1.E. was presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, April 6, 2023. The Board proceeded 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 his enjoyable visit to the State Capitol with his fellow Board members while advocating on important issues concerning public education. Mr. Henry also shared that as a parent of a special ed child, he understands how important special education programs are and how they directly impact students in the district and the additional funding needed from the state for the success of these programs. Mr. Henry pledged, as his civic duty, to continue advocating for the students in the district and the values of the community.

**Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame** shared that she had the honor of serving on the Portrait of a Graduate committee. Dr. Blasingame shared a new book, "Great on Their Behalf" by Airick Journey Crabill, who writes about the responsibilities of a Board. Dr. Blasingame shared her wonderful experience in attending the Salute to the Stars,

honoring the teachers of the year, and expressed her appreciation to all the community members, vendors and sponsors for being a part of the Superintendent's Fun Run. She concluded her comments by thanking Mr. Jackson and Ms. Hinaman for organizing the recent trip to the State Capitol to meet with legislators.

**Board member Gilbert Sarabia** shared that he was unable to physically attend events for the past several weeks due to having Covid, but he did follow his colleagues and view events through social media. Mr. Sarabia applauded his fellow Board members for their visit to Austin and for making significant strides advocating for public education and funding.

**Board member Lucas Scanlon** shared that he has spoken with several teachers and administrators on creative plans to bridge the learning gaps that currently exist. Mr. Scanlon shared that within this creative planning there are four themes to be valued. The first being the one-on-one time teachers need to encourage students and reinforce expectations; the second is process efficiency by developing a methodical plan on reviewing the teacher/principal experience for the core systems and workflows; third, a focus on at-level attainment for ELA and math by engaging the community; and fourth, budget, and being in a better position going into next year's budget cycle.

**Board member Julie Hinaman** shared she continues to mentor students at two high schools. Ms. Hinaman attended a spiritual celebration at Wilson Elementary, a parent engagement event at Cy-Springs High School, the CFEF Salute to the Stars Gala, the National Merit Scholars Recognition, and she visited Labay Middle School as well as attended a committee meeting of a local political organization as a non-speaking guest and observer. Ms. Hinaman visited the Spring Craft and Garden Sale at the Carlton Center, attended a junior varsity track meet, and attended the kick-off meeting of the new ad-hoc Board committee focusing on Opportunity for All. Ms. Hinaman attended the districtwide elementary Name that Book competition, the SSLAC meeting and served breakfast at Thornton Middle School. She and Mr. Jackson participated in the district's school safety and security meeting, and she and her husband participated in the Superintendent's Fun Run. As a part of the Board listening tour, Ms. Hinaman attended the monthly CLC meeting, and along with her colleagues, visited the State Capitol. Ms. Hinaman also attended the Districtwide Educational Improvement Council meeting.

**Board member Tom Jackson** shared that since last month he has given over forty hours of Board service on his regular stops. Some of the highlights of his stops included attending the Salute to the Stars Gala, hosting Lowery Elementary and honoring their outstanding teacher. Mr. Jackson attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Pass in Review with almost a thousand AFJROTC cadets in attendance. He attended the National Merit Scholars Recognition, and for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Mr. Jackson attended the Superintendent's Fun Run. Mr. Jackson attended the VIPs meeting for a review of the Early Learning Centers and summer programs, the CLC meeting, as well as the Safety and Security meeting. Mr. Jackson thanked his colleagues for joining him for a 14-hour day visiting with representatives and senators at the State Capitol. Mr. Jackson tipped his hat to community services director Dawn Tryon and all who contributed to making the Superintendent's Fun Run such a great success.

Mr. Jackson announced that Items 3.A. and 3.B. of the Reports portion of the agenda were presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, April 6, 2023, however, there were speakers for both agenda items.

**3.A.** The administration will provide a report on Community Programs.

**Speaker:**

1. Stacey DeMyer recommended that the district's ELC's profits be used to expand the current programs, allowing more district staff to enroll their children in these programs while offering the programs at cost to district employees.

**3.B.** The administration will provide a report on the Teacher Incentive Allotment.

**Speaker:**

1. Danielle Cockrell shared her belief that the Teacher Incentive Allotment should be based on team achievement and not individual achievements.

**3.C.** The administration provided an update on the 88th Legislative Session.

**Speaker:**

1. Dr. Tara Cummings addressed the Board regarding the proposed current legislation that would impact CFISD.

The Board proceeded with the **Action Items** portion of the agenda. **Action Items 4.A., 4.B. and 4.D. through 4.J.** were moved to Consensus during the Board Work Session on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

#### 4. Action Items

- 4.A. The Board will consider approving the minutes of the March 6, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
- 4.B. The Board will consider adopting the Resolution to Modify Adjustment in Comptroller's Property Value Assignment for Granting a Local Optional Homestead Exemption.
- 4.D. The Board will consider approving the superintendent's contract recommendations to issue probationary, term, and annual contracts for the 2023-2024 school year for teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals.
- 4.E. The Board will consider approving construction proposals and contracts paid from Bond Funds to the recommended contractors and authorize the Superintendent or designee to execute all necessary documents related to such contracts as recommended in the posted agenda item.
  - 4.E.1. 2022 Cy-Fair HS Multisite Master Plan - Package 3
  - 4.E.2. 2022 Cy Ranch and Cy Lakes Natatorium Renovations
- 4.F. The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.
  - 4.F.1. Fertilizer and Pesticides
  - 4.F.2. Furniture and Equipment
  - 4.F.3. Portable Building Walkway Canopy Installations
- 4.G. The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing disposal of surplus technology equipment as recommended in the posted agenda item.
  - 4.G.1. Disposal, Recycling and Asset Recovery Services of Surplus Technology Equipment.
- 4.H. The Board will consider approving a resolution to suspend portions of FMH (LOCAL) for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.
- 4.I. The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with West Coast University for Speech Pathology Field Placement.
- 4.J. The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Phoenix 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 Scott Henry seconded.

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

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

- 4.C. The Board will consider adopting a resolution opposing any mechanisms that reduce public education funding.

**Speakers:**

1. Frances Romero shared her comments and support for adopting the resolution opposing any mechanisms that reduce public education funding, which are referred to as education savings accounts and vouchers.
2. Melissa Rowell shared her beliefs that competing with charter schools would make CFISD better and that parents should have the freedom of school choice.

President Jackson called for a motion to approve the non-consensus item as recommended or amended.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to approve the non-consensus item as recommended.  
Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.

Mr. Jackson shared with his colleagues that this would be the time for discussion, comments or questions.

It was determined through questions and discussion regarding ESAs for special education students that the current resolution, pending Board approval, opposing any mechanisms that reduce public education funding would be amended.

Board member Scott Henry made a motion to amend the current resolution in that it is not meant to impact any existing legislation.  
Board member Lucas Scanlon seconded.  
President Jackson called for a vote on the amendment.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

President Jackson stated that the motion has been made as amended and seconded.  
President Jackson called for a vote.  
**Motion passed by 5 votes in favor and 1 abstention.**

- 4.K.** The Board will consider making a determination that good cause did not exist as required by law for Lori Cortinas, Ashley Garcia, Ashley Las Marias and Monica Lugo to resign their respective employment contracts. [This item may be discussed in closed session pursuant to Section 551.074.]

Mr. Jackson noted that Sharon Quinilty's name was removed from the agenda item after the agenda had been posted.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to approve the non-consensus item as recommended.  
Board member Dr. Natalie Blasingame seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson announced that the **Discussion** portion of the agenda was presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, April 6, 2023. The Board proceeded 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. Aubree Adams offered her services to CFISD to provide education on marijuana and the legalized THC products associated with CBD that are available to parents and students through multiple outlets.
2. Patsy Gillham offered the services of the Licensing Foundation for Safe Police Response in support of the school district adding resources to the mental health program for students, families and staff.
3. Stacey DeMyer shared her concerns regarding the selection process for the invocation given during Board meetings. Ms. DeMyer also shared her concerns on the lack of diversity amongst religious leaders chosen.
4. Alexie Swirsky expressed her concerns regarding students' exposure to pornography and would like all materials pertaining to sex and sexual scenarios removed from district classrooms and libraries.
5. Lauren Dodge shared Be Smart, an organization which promotes responsible gun ownership, to reduce child gun deaths.
6. Jen Williams commented on the bystander intervention training for harassment and bullying that her organization, Cypress Families for Public Schools, is offering to the community.

7. Melissa Rowell addressed the Board on returning to reading, writing and arithmetic in schools instead of social learning.
8. Monica Dean expressed her concerns on the district's EFB Local policy on library books and the process for reviewing books for removal.
9. Nikki Cowart commented on the current legislative session and supporting an increase in public education funding and a statewide raise for all Texas school employees. Ms. Cowart stated fair pay, reasonable workloads and safe working conditions is deserved by all.

7. **Closed Session**

No closed session.

8. **Adjournment**

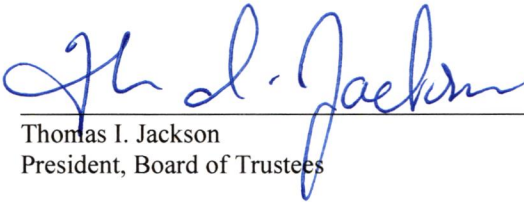
Board President Jackson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Board member Lucas Scanlon made a motion to adjourn.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.

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

The April 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

  
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Thomas I. Jackson  
President, Board of Trustees

  
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Gilbert Sarabia  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: May 8, 2023