

**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OCTOBER 12, 2020
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, October 12, 2020, in the Boardroom of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Instructional Support Center, located at 10300 Jones Road, Houston, Texas.

1. Call to Order

1A. Board President Bob Covey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Debbie Blackshear, Bob Covey, Julie Hinaman, Tom Jackson, Dr. John Ogletree, Don Ryan and Gilbert Sarabia.

Board President Covey recognized CLC members Stacye Anderson and Ryan Irving who were in the audience.

1B. Joel Mosier, Lead Pastor of Grace Life Baptist Church, delivered the invocation.

1C. The Langham Creek High School AFJROTC cadets, under the direction of Lt. Col. Paul K. Marks, United States Air Force, Retired, and Senior Aerospace Science Instructor presented the colors for the meeting. Those cadets were Cadet Alexa Zavala on U.S. rifle, Cadet Patrick Brannen carrying the American Flag, Cadet Thomas Zellner on Texas rifle and Cadet Nicholas Saenz carrying the Texas Flag.

2. Vision and Mission Statement

2A. Board member Gilbert Sarabia read the District's Vision and Mission statement for the benefit of the audience.

Board President Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the **Recognitions** portion of the agenda.

3. Recognitions

3A. The superintendent made remarks and announcements including the honors and achievements earned by staff and students in recent weeks.

Roy Garcia, Chief Officer for School Leadership, introduced and recognized Lanette Bellamy as the new Principal for Cypress Lakes High School.

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the **Public Comments** portion of the agenda.

4. Public Comments

4A. Patrons who have duly registered per policy BED (Local) may address the Board and make public comments on an agenda item during or before the board's consideration of the item. The Board may allow public comment on agenda items at all meetings. The Board will continue with the remaining agenda after the registered patrons have had an opportunity to speak. (To participate, registration is between 5:30 and 5:50 p.m. on the day of the Board meeting at the entrance to the CFISD ISC Boardroom.)

There were no Public Comments this evening.

Board President Covey called for a recess at 6:20 p.m.

Board President Covey called the meeting back to order at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the **Board Comments** portion of the agenda.

5. Board Comments

- 5A. 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 Julie Hinaman shared how she has had many opportunities to spend time with teachers and students over the last week or so through various events, including football games. She also shared how, after long-awaited months due to Covid-19, she finally got to see the student she mentors. Ms. Hinaman was delighted to see her mentee face-to-face and hear that she is doing well and being taken good care of by her teachers. Ms. Hinaman expressed how students, teachers, mentors and mentees have missed those connections with each other. Ms. Hinaman was also able to visit with one of the district's NAC teachers and listen to her experiences this year and the challenges of teaching in-person and remotely to new arrival students who are immigrants to the United States. She stated that in talking with teachers and students, she has heard what is working well and what is not working so well. Ms. Hinaman assured teachers that there is still work to be done to help them with the tremendous load that they are carrying. She understands the struggles of teaching virtually as well as in-person are very great. Ms. Hinaman encouraged campus leadership and district leadership to seek out ways to help teachers. She asked everyone to continue to follow the health and safety protocols – parents and students – so extracurricular activities may continue. She also encouraged everyone to vote. “Early voting begins tomorrow.”

Board member Dr. John Ogletree encouraged the Cy-Fair community to exercise their right to vote and asked the community not to vote against their own interests. Dr. Ogletree expressed what a good school district CFISD is and how this district is a proponent of public education. Dr. Ogletree advised the community to be careful of candidates who support and endorse charter schools. “Don’t vote against your interests.” Dr. Ogletree thanked God for the privilege of serving a district that believes it can reach and teach every student. “Our motto is *Opportunity for All*. You will not find that in charter schools.” Dr. Ogletree concurred that CFISD teachers are really struggling, and he asked the community to please keep them in prayer as they try and live up to that motto. Dr. Ogletree stressed how tough the current situation is but assured everyone that with community support, prayers and the administration monitoring this situation and making adjustment when possible, we will get through this.

Board member Debbie Blackshear shared that she too has visited with a number of teachers, nurses and students since the last board meeting and continues to share the concerns of our teachers, staff, parents and students about the current situation. Ms. Blackshear stated that there is no easy answer but believes that the CFISD administration is doing the very best they can with the situation at hand. Ms. Blackshear assured the community that the district is doing everything they can to work through issues that exist. “If there are solutions, I do believe this school district will find them. Thank you.”

Board member Tom Jackson shared how the words of Don McClean came to him this past weekend during a CFISD football game. “2020 was the year when the music almost stopped but because of you and your colleagues, the marching band took the field. Because of you, flautist played their delicate legato notes, the horns were properly boisterous, French and other foreign languages were spoken, math was learned, science experiments worked or went awry and so very much more. Because of you, our children have transportation and food, and because of you, they can learn at home or here on the various campuses blanketed in different layers of safety. Because of you, our students have a sense of normalcy, if only for a little bit of each day. And so, to the staff on campus, the campus leadership and the leadership here at central admin, I tip my hat to you for your courageous attitude. My dad taught me that courage was facing concerns and fears, and in fact, each of our employees do exactly that. Not just for our students but also for our community as well.” Mr. Jackson thanked the leadership for making accommodations for staff.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia echoed his fellow Board members by encouraging the community to vote. Mr. Sarabia shared how it has been one year since his mom passed away and that he knows she still gives him strength. Mr. Sarabia encouraged staff to be strong and assured them the Board and the administration are trying extremely hard to better the situation at hand. “We’re looking towards a positive manner. We want to keep trending better.” Mr. Sarabia expressed how happy he was to see parents and students posting on social media how they are going to games and events. He also shared how exciting it

is to see all the construction going on in the district. "It brings a light that I was not sure was going to be there about three months ago. It's very promising and kudos to everybody." Mr. Sarabia thanked all who came tonight to share their concerns. "There is always action being taken on comments. Comments do not go by the way say."

Board member Bob Covey shared how great it is to hear the positivity from the community. He assured staff that the Board and district listen to their needs. Mr. Covey shared how when going to places like HEB, he always asks the students who work there, "How are things going in school?" "Some of them are doing virtual and some are not, but they seem to be as positive as you possibly can be." Mr. Covey shared how he loves the idea that the district has an optimistic feeling that we are all going to get through this together. "And we will get through it together." Mr. Covey expressed his appreciation for the superintendent, the A-team and everyone out there who is working so hard. "Y'all are wonderful, thank you very much."

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the **Citizen Participation** portion of the agenda.

6. Citizen Participation

6A. Patrons who have duly registered per policy BED (Local) may address the Board regarding matters of concern/interest to the district, other than the character of any student, staff or Board member. The Board may not act upon any matter that is not listed under the action item portion of the agenda. (To participate, registration is between 5:30 and 5:50 p.m. on the day of the Board meeting at the entrance to the CFISD ISC Boardroom.)

1. Diana Alexander addressed the Board on CFISD staff needs and safety.
2. Gabriela Kulp addressed the Board on staff concerns regarding Covid-related issues.
3. Alissa Trevino addressed the Board on safety protocol and her children's remote learning.
4. Texas State Representative Jon Rosenthal expressed his support for public education.
5. Mariah Najmuoldin addressed the Board on the hybrid learning system and the burden on students and staff.
6. Natali Hurtado introduced herself as candidate for Texas House of Representatives, District 126.
7. Nikki Cowart, leader with AFT, spoke on election day and voting.

Mr. Covey announced that **Item 7A - Public Hearing** was presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, October 8, 2020, and the Board would proceed with **Item 8A** of the **Reports** portion of the agenda.

8. Reports

8A. In accordance with the Texas Education Code and the State Board of Education regulations, the President of the CFISD Board shall announce the name of each Board member who has completed, exceeded or who is deficient in the continuing education required under state law.

Mr. Covey stated that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Board of Education had waived the board training requirements for all districts until January 31, 2021. However, Mr. Covey reported that Board members Don Ryan, Debbie Blackshear, Julie Hinaman, Tom Jackson, Dr. John Ogletree, Gilbert Sarabia and himself, Bob Covey, remained diligent in their continuing board education and all **exceeded** their required board training hours and continue to do so.

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the **Consensus Action Items** portion of the agenda.

9. Action Items – Consensus

9A. The board will consider approving the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the following **Non-Consensus Action Items** that were moved to **Consensus** at the Board Work Session on Thursday, October 8, 2020.

10. Action Items – Non-Consensus

10A. The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.

- 10.A.1. Desk and Tabletop Protective Dividers
- 10.A.2 Zonar Annual Service Agreement

10B. The Board will consider approving a Continuing Education Workforce Agreement between Cypress-Fairbanks ISD and Lone Star College.

10C. The Board will consider approving and submitting to the Commissioner of Education a request for Maximum Class Size Waiver.

Mr. Covey announced that **Item 10D – Level IV Appeal**, that was to be considered in Closed Session at the Board Work Session on Thursday, October 8, 2020, was not held due to the absence of the complainant.

Mr. Covey asked if any Board member wished to remove one or more items for further discussion. No further discussion was needed, so Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve the consensus items as recommended or amended.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to approve.
 Board member Dr. John Ogletree seconded.
Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

11. Superintendent’s Briefing

11A. Mr. Covey announced that Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry would provide information regarding district events and items of community interest

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would consider the following **Addendum** to the agenda.

ADDENDUM

A. The Board will consider approving a waiver of the provision on DED (LOCAL): COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS: VACATIONS AND HOLIDAYS necessary for the District to allow for the extension of the use of earned vacation days.

Mr. Covey called for a motion to consider approving a waiver of the provision on DED (LOCAL).

Board member Don Ryan moved that the Board approve a waiver of the provision on DED (LOCAL): Compensation and Benefits: Vacations and Holidays necessary for the District to allow for the extension of the use of earned vacation days.
 Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.
Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

Adjournment

Board President Covey thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.



Bob Covey
President, Board of Trustees



Debbie Blackshear
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: November 9, 2020