

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

**DECEMBER 14, 2020
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, December 14, 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

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

The following Board members were present: Bob Covey, Debbie Blackshear, Julie Hinaman, Tom Jackson, Dr. John Ogletree and Don Ryan. Board member Gilbert Sarabia was not present.

Board President Covey recognized CLC member Stacye Anderson who was in the audience.

1.B. Board member Dr. John Ogletree delivered the invocation.

1.C. The Jersey Village High School AFJROTC cadets, under the direction of Faye Hardy, Senior Master Sergeant, Retired, United States Air Force, presented the colors for the meeting. Carrying the US Flag was Cadet Captain Gabriela Lopez, carrying the Texas Flag was Cadet Captain Bryan Flores, on Right Guard was Cadet First Lieutenant Byanca Alvarez and on Left Guard was Cadet First Lieutenant Mariana Quezada.

2. Vision and Mission Statement

2.A. Board member Debbie Blackshear 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

3.A. Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry 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 Lloyd Turner as the new Principal for Aragon Middle School and Jason Tullos as the new principal for Hamilton Middle School.

Board President Covey called for a recess at 6:22 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 **Public Comments** portion of the agenda.

4. Public Comments

4.A. 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.)

1. Stacye Anderson addressed the Board on agenda items 9A, 9B and the Addendum. Ms. Anderson shared the community's unanimous support for the district and the Board of Trustees and thanked the Board for their efforts to keep students and teachers at the forefront of every decision during this unprecedented time while managing the financial impact prudently.

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

5. Board Comments

5.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 Julie Hinaman thanked everyone for all their hard work – teachers, principals, administrators, nutrition services, transportation, custodial services – for all their efforts during this long, hard semester. Ms. Hinaman wished everyone a very well-deserved, relaxing, recharging break and encouraged everyone to take care of themselves and each other. “Be sure to wear your masks, wash your hands, social distance and enjoy this time off with your families. And have a very merry Christmas.”

Board member Dr. Ogletree echoed what Ms. Hinaman said and wished everyone a very merry Christmas. “I pray that you have much joy and we will look forward to seeing you in 2021.”

Board member Don Ryan echoed what Ms. Hinaman and Dr. Ogletree said. Mr. Ryan stated how last Board meeting, there were several people out due to Covid-19 and how nice it was to see all these people back and healthy. “I am very grateful for that.”

Board member Debbie Blackshear expressed her deep appreciation for CFISD’s teachers, nurses, paraprofessionals, custodians, bus drivers, food service workers, counselors, administrators and all the many other district employees who have gone above and beyond the calling this school year. “You have done an amazing job; you have accomplished the unimaginable and the unbelievable. My wish for you is a merry Christmas and a healthy and blessed new year.

Board member Tom Jackson told a story of when he was in elementary school. “I remember a project where we needed to interview our parents regarding a historical event from their childhood. Both of my parents were born before the last pandemic and grew up with the lessons. All I remember from my mom was her comment that you look for joy and hope and my dad said that he learned to carry on. Back in March, I wondered and worried about where and how we would be as a district and a community come December. We are carrying on and doing those things as we should.”

Mr. Jackson shared that he attended the first half of the UIL marching band competition and was impressed with the marching and musicianship of our students but also the joy and pride evidenced by parents and others in the stands and the obvious excitement of the students on the field. “In touring campuses, I saw happy students in an environment constructed with safety measures in place. At Lieder Elementary the sense of community was pervasive with some classes in person only, some connect only and some hybrid. At Aragon the custodial staff sanitized the walls that our middle school students love to touch as history and science projects were coming to a close. At the Carpenter Center, we were caring for those who needed the most. It was obvious that all of the students I saw were happy to be in school.”

“Vaccines were delivered today in Houston which brings us hope and hope will sustain us for the next three very challenging months. When I am out in public, almost on a daily basis, community members express their support. I thank the community for their ongoing support of this district through nine difficult months, and I know that same support will be there for the next nine as well.”

“I tip my hat to the planning of senior management who prepared for the possibility of a black swan event, their flexibility in being able to pivot, and providing a stimulus, both fiscal and in time which created some joy and hope. I also tip my hat to the team effort of all of our employees in carrying on with our mission.”

Board Member Bob Covey recently visited Swenke Elementary, Keith Elementary and Salyards Middle Schools. Mr. Covey explained to the audience how each Board member visits approximately 15 campuses every year, and due to Covid-19, they were unable to visit the campuses until now. Mr. Covey wanted to see what it was like in the schools now. He was very proud of all the students he saw walking in lines

while social distancing and wearing their masks – following all the required protocol. “It was amazing. I understood from the teachers that they don’t have to stay on the kids – they keep their masks on. They are very aware, and they do it. I saw kids that were working together. I saw kids that were working virtual and they were working in a collaborative effort with those who were face-to-face. I was extremely impressed of what I saw in the schools. I saw a lot of happiness. I saw a lot of kids that felt like they were getting back to close to normal as possible.”

Mr. Covey shared that as a member on the TASB Board, which represents 1,200 school districts in Texas, he is aware that there is a move from certain committees to try and do away with the advocacy efforts for public education from entities like school districts, cities, towns, counties. The committee is trying to make the advocacy for public education a non-issue in that people are wasting taxpayer money. Mr. Covey stated that if they do something like that it will cost the district more money as we talk to our legislators advocating for public education. Mr. Covey explained how important it is to sustain our advocacy ability to be able to talk to our legislators and share with them what affects new bills in legislature might be on public education. Mr. Covey encouraged everyone to call their legislator and speak to them about this matter.

“I appreciate everything that we have seen this district do from March all the way up until now. I know it’s not been easy, and I know we’ve had challenges. I will say that I have seen this district rise to the challenge. I’ve seen their ability to be flexible and to re-look at whatever’s going on. I am extremely proud of everybody that is teaching our kids, which is our future. Merry Christmas and happy new Year.”

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

6. Citizen Participation

- 6.A.** 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.)

There was no Citizen Participation this evening.

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

7. Reports

- 7.A.** The administration will provide a Design Development Report on the progress of the design of the new administration building and visual and performing arts center.

Dan Grosz, CFISD Director Design and Facilities Planning, introduced PBK Architects representatives Eric Smith, Brandon Ross and Jorge Tiscareno who gave a formal presentation on the design development update for the visual performing arts center and new administration building.

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

8. Action Items – Consensus

- 8.A.** The board will consider approving the minutes of the November 9, 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, December 10, 2020.

Mr. Covey announced that **Agenda Item 9A**, Lead Safely Retention Stipend, was approved at the Board Work Session on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

9. Action Items – Non-Consensus

9.D. The Board will consider authorizing the superintendent to execute a memorandum of understanding with University of Texas at Dallas, and University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio for Speech Pathology Field Placement.

9.E. The Board will consider approving the attached list of facilities for Off-Campus Physical Education, Category I, for the 2020-2021 school year.

9.F. The Board will consider approving the Memorandums of Understanding and Interlocal Agreements with partner universities, colleges and alternative certification programs for student teacher placements for the 2020-2021 school year.

9.G. The Board will consider approving on first reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies.

9.G.1. FB (LOCAL) Equal Educational Opportunity (Revise)

9.G.2. FNG (LOCAL) Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances (Revise)

9.H. The Board will consider approving on second reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies.

9.H.1. BF (LOCAL) Board Policies (Revise)

9.H.2. DED (LOCAL) Compensation & Benefits: Vacations & Holidays (Revise)

9.H.3. DIA (LOCAL) Employee Welfare: Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment & Retaliation (Revise)

9.H.4. DMD (LOCAL) Professional Development: Professional Meetings and Visitations (Delete)

9.H.5. ED (LOCAL) Organization of Instruction (Delete)

9.H.6. EI (LOCAL) Academic Achievement (Revise)

9.H.7. FD (LOCAL) Admissions (Revise)

9.H.8. FDE (LOCAL) Admissions: School Safety Transfers (Revise)

9.H.9. FEB (LOCAL) Attendance: Attendance Accounting (Revise)

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

9.I.1. Automotive Fuels

9.I.2. Automotive Lubricants

9.I.3. Glass Repair Service (Building)

9.I.4. Lidding Film for Nutrition Services

9.I.5. Metal Fabrication and Repair Service

9.I.6. Physical Education Dress Wear

9.I.7. Security Courier Services

9.I.8. Shelf Stable Milk and Meals for Nutrition Services

9.I.9. Window Coverings

9.J. 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 follows.

9.J.1. 2019 Francone and Owens ES Renovations

9.J.2. 2020 Cy-Fair FCU Stadium Renovation

9.J.3. 2020 Cypress Ridge Detention Pond Improvements

9.J.4. 2020 Eldridge Ag Center Fans

9.K. The Board will consider the approval and execution of the plat for the Matzke Road realignment.

9.L.The board will consider granting a Temporary Construction Easement to Harris County for the construction of concrete sidewalks along adjacent roadways at Copeland ES, Holmsley ES and Langham Creek High School.

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 Debbie Blackshear seconded.
Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.

Mr. Covey announced that it was determined at the Board Work Session on Thursday, December 10, 2020, that the following **Non-Consensus Action Items** remain on **Non-Consensus**.

9.B.The Board will consider authorizing the Superintendent to add additional local leave (sick) days to Board policy DEC (local) for employees for COVID quarantine and isolation for the spring 2020 semester.

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve Item 9B as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr. Ogletree moved that the Board of Trustees authorize the Superintendent to add additional local leave days to DEC (local) for employees for COVID quarantine and isolation for the spring 2020 semester in the amount and for the duration determined necessary in the Superintendent's discretion.
Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.
Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.

9.C.The Board will consider waiving provisions in BE (LOCAL) BOARD MEETINGS for the remainder of 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve Item 9C as recommended or amended.

Board member Debbie Blackshear moved that the Board waive the provision in BE (LOCAL) providing for Board work sessions prior to regular board meetings for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.
Board member Tom Jackson seconded.
Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.

Mr. Covey announced that on Friday, December 11, 2020, the following non-consensus agenda item was added as an **ADDENDUM** to the December 2020 Board Meeting Agenda.

9.M.The Board will consider approving a resolution requesting Texas Governor Greg Abbott to include public school district personnel in the official Expert Vaccine Allotment Panel's definition of frontline workers.

Board members Tom Jackson and Bob Covey read aloud the Resolution.

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve Item 9M as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson moved that the Board approve a resolution requesting Texas Governor Greg Abbott to include public school district personnel in the official Expert Vaccine Allotment Panel's definition of frontline workers.
Board member Dr. Ogletree seconded.
Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.

Mr. Covey announced that following the **Superintendent's Briefing**, the Board would discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation in Closed Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

10. Discussion

10.A. The Board will discuss the superintendent's evaluation in Closed Session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

11. Superintendent's Briefing

11.A. Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry provided information regarding district events and items of community interest.

Board President Covey asked for a motion to move into Closed Session.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to move into Closed Session.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

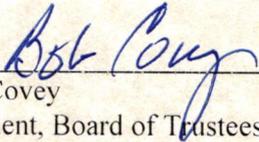
Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.

12. Closed Session

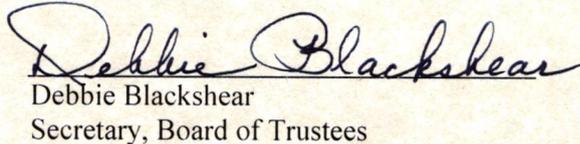
Board members convened in Closed Session at 8:10 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Board President Covey announced that the Board ended its Closed Session and adjourned the Board meeting at 8:57 p.m. on December 14, 2020.



Bob Covey
President, Board of Trustees



Debbie Blackshear
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: January 14, 2021