

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

**APRIL 8, 2021  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Thursday, April 8, 2021, 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: Debbie Blackshear, Bob Covey, Julie Hinaman, Tom Jackson, Dr. John Ogletree and Gilbert Sarabia. Board member Don Ryan was not present.

Board President Covey recognized CLC members Ryan Irving and Frances Romero who were in the audience.

**1.B.** Dale Smith, Lead Pastor of Cy-Fair Christian Church, delivered the invocation.

**1.C.** Under the direction of Master Sergeant Christopher Soto, retired United States Air Force, the following Cypress Woods High School AFJROTC cadets presented the colors for the meeting: Cadet Lt. Colonel Eric Duhon, Cadet Lt. Colonel Journey Ortiz, Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kimberly Norris and Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Austin Letterman

**2. Vision and Mission Statement**

**2.A.** Board member Julie Hinaman 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.** The Board recognized Chairita Franklin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, for receiving TASBO's RISE Award.

**Presenter:** Tracy Ginsburg, TASBO Executive Director

**3.B.** The Board recognized Business and Financial Services for receiving TASBO's Award of Excellence in Financial Management.

**Presenter:** Tracy Ginsburg, TASBO Executive Director

**3.C.** The Board recognized CFISD 1st and 2nd place high school classroom winners of the 2021 TASB Student Video Contest.

**Presenters:** Georgan Reitmeier -TASB, Bob Covey, Dr. Mark Henry

**3.D.** Dr. Henry made remarks and announcements including the honors and achievements earned by staff and students in recent weeks.

Board President Covey called for a recess at 6:23 p.m.

Board President Covey called the meeting back to order at 6:33 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.)

There were no public comments this evening.

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 Debbie Blackshear** announced that she had the honor of throwing out the first pitch on the new softball field at Cypress Ranch High School for the Cy-Ranch/Bridgeland game. She stated how all the ballfields in the district were absolutely amazing and that she was very proud of the district for providing such great facilities for our students. Ms. Blackshear said this was another example of how CFISD provides opportunity for all students while making sure they have the best facilities – no matter whether you are in theater, fine arts, FFA or athletics. The new fields are a part of the 2019 bond funds. She gave kudos to the administration and Ray Zepeda for their input. In that same week, Ms. Blackshear visited Ault Elementary School with Mr. Jeff LaCoke and gave a shout-out to her favorite kindergarten teacher, Julie Cooney, who does an amazing job. Ms. Blackshear went on to say how great it was to get out and visit schools and see how each campus operates. She said it was fun to see the innovative ways that teachers are teaching the curriculum. Ms. Blackshear concluded her comments by sharing that she participated in the school district safety committee meeting where they discussed the damages various schools sustained during the ice storm. "It's been a good month and there is a lot coming up with the end of the school year. I feel like there is a normalcy coming. Thank you."

**Board member Dr. Ogletree** announced that he had the pleasure of visiting Adam, Danish and Hemmenway Elementary Schools and Rowe Middle School since the last Board meeting. Dr. Ogletree commented on the excellent leadership, amazing cooperation and comradery and teamwork shown by all the teachers and staff at these schools. The students were all engaged in learning and it was a great sight. As Dr. Ogletree walked through the halls of Adam Elementary, he was delighted to see all the upgrades that have been made to the campus. He commented that whether a school is 20 years old or 2 years old, this district takes care of all campuses. "So many things are happening in our district, and it is well."

**Board member Tom Jackson** commented how it has been a full year since the onset of the pandemic and that multiple schools in the district would have been closed, but none have due to the plan developed from input from different parties, implemented with flexible fidelity, strongly supported by students and parents and bolstered by the community supporting the concept by slowing the spread and responders quickly tending to those in need. "Tonight, I tip my hat to all who helped diminish the impact of the pandemic." Mr. Jackson encouraged all to consider taking the vaccine against Covid-19, as he has already done. Mr. Jackson shared that he recently visited Kirk and Robison Elementary Schools and that Kirk is nearly 90 percent on-campus learning. Both schools are still observing strict safety protocols. He went on to say how he witnessed the joy in the body language and the happiness of students on campus. "Of course, we know that learning is enhanced when it is face-to-face." Mr. Jackson stated that CFISD was identified as being one of the 10 best financially run districts in the state of Texas and yet a bill has been passed to punish the fiscal responsibility of the district. "It is amazing that elected officials who claim to be friends of public schools would seek out the very best to punish for being good stewards." In closing, Mr. Jackson shared how he, like his colleagues, threw out the first pitch at a Cypress-Falls ballgame. And how this district's facilities are the envy of the state where state tournaments can be held, and it is all done in a financially prudent fashion. "Thank you to the community, thank you to the senior leadership and to the campus leadership for keeping our students and staff safe."

**Board member Julie Hinaman** expressed how much she is looking forward to graduations this year. Couple of weeks ago, Ms. Hinaman had the opportunity to spend time with high school students who are a part of the Superintendent's Student Leadership Academic Council. These students are actively participating and are engaged in powerful and relevant dialogue on topics that impact school policies and culture. "I am proud of these amazing students." Mr. Hinaman stated that one of the most important ways to ensure their positive future impact is to support their right to vote. At her dismay, a bill was filed this legislative session that would do away with voter volunteer deputy registrars, like Ms. Hinaman. Not only does it do away with local voter registration drives, but it also does away with high school voter registrars. This would affect how we encourage our eligible students to vote. Ms. Hinaman went on to say that out of 6,700 bills this legislative session, almost 900 bills have to do with public education. She expressed her appreciation for the organizations that support and advocate for local schools who are tracking these bills and keeping everyone informed. Ms. Hinaman gave a brief summary of some of these bills, including bills on graduation committees, charter schools, funding based on tests and the TEA Commissioner. She also discussed the federal stimulus funds that congress allocated to public schools in Texas, which are nowhere to be found. These are taxpayer dollars which are supposed to help schools pay for the extensive costs of dealing with the pandemic and address the learning needs of students. "Local school districts governed by locally elected trustees should receive their duly allocated federal funds immediately. Governor Abbott, it's time to do the right thing."

**Board member Gilbert Sarabia** echoed the sentiments of his fellow trustees. Mr. Sarabia shared that since the last Board meeting, he visited Robinson Elementary School. Students are energized, the school is thriving, and everyone is following all the safety protocols. Mr. Sarabia shared that he has yet to visit a campus that wasn't following the district's safety protocols. He is very proud of the district's campuses for doing such a great job ensuring staff and students are safe. Mr. Sarabia shared how more and more families are coming to our district, which is a reflection on how well the district performs, how our administration and educators perform. Mr. Sarabia announced that he too threw out a first pitch on Cypress Ridge High School's new baseball field. "I've been coaching 20-something years in the Houston area, and I've seen many college baseball fields, and we are second to none. The dugouts are gorgeous, and the fields are great. I don't know how anybody can make an error ... it's so great!" Mr. Sarabia stated that the "district is rolling" and that we have a lot of good things going on. He has been following the Cy-Creek girls basketball team throughout the state run for the past four years and expressed what a wonderful group of young ladies they are. Mr. Sarabia paid tribute to Richard Martin, past TSTA president and CFISD employee for over 30 years, who recently passed away. He was a gentleman and cared about the district and his co-workers very much. Mr. Sarabia sent condolences to his family. Mr. Sarabia concluded his comments by asking everyone to keep up the good work and be safe.

**Board member Bob Covey** shared how he and his granddaughter threw-out the first pitch at a Cy-Woods ballgame. The fields are phenomenal. Mr. Covey announced that the National School Board Association – NSBA is having its annual conference, virtually, at this time. And of great and most impressive importance is that Aldine ISD Trustee Dr. Viola Garcia was sworn in yesterday as president of NSBA. Mr. Covey went on to say that it has been a long time since Texas has had this role and congratulated Dr. Garcia for her election. "Viola is an amazing woman." Mr. Covey expressed how proud he is of all the great things going on in the district – women's basketball, soccer games advancing, one-act plays advancing, track and field in full swing and baseball starting up. Many great accomplishments in the district. Mr. Covey stated that public education is the best choice for education in Texas. He announced that he had finished his school visits for the year and thoroughly enjoyed visiting Wilson, Lamkin, Holbrook, Walker, Swenke, Keith and Copeland Elementary Schools, Anthony and Salyards Middle Schools, Cy-Falls and Cy-Woods High Schools throughout the year. "We are making each school, no matter the zip code, the best education for each and every student. Opportunity for all is what we believe in and we push for." Mr. Covey stated that he also attended the SSLAC and how "phenomenal" these young people are. In closing, Mr. Covey shared that he participated in a Zoom meeting with TEA Commissioner of Education Mike Morath and one of the talking points was how to address the academic gaps due to Covid-19. In mentioning CFISD's Camp Summit, Commissioner Morath commented that CFISD's curriculum department was, without a doubt, one of the best in Texas and possibly the entire country. "So, kudos to Dr. Macias and her team."

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.)

1. Sharell Marlitz addressed the Board on the district's protocols on quarantining and the mask mandate.
2. Kamili Wade-Reescano addressed the Board on support for the community's mental health.
3. Todd LeCompte addressed the Board on the district's mask mandate.
4. Nikki Cowart addressed the Board on state funding and "local" pay raises for all staff in CFISD.
5. Jennifer McDaniel addressed the Board on the district's mask protocol.

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the following **Consensus Action Item**.

**7. Action Items - Consensus**

**7.A.** The Board will consider approving the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

**Presenter:** Holly Reichert

Mr. Covey asked if any Board member would like to remove this item for further discussion. Since no further discussion was necessary, Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve the consensus item as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr. Ogletree made a motion to approve.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

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

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the following **Non-Consensus Action Items**.

**8. Action Items – Non-Consensus**

**8.A.** The Board will consider the adoption of Orders Authorizing the Conversion of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2015 B-1, 2015 B-2 and 2017 A-1 to a new rate period; authorizing the preparation of a remarketing memorandum; and enacting other provisions relating thereto.

**Presenters:** Karen Smith, Terrell Palmer, Jonathan Frels

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.A. as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson made a motion to approve.

Board member Dr. Ogletree seconded.

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

**8.B.** The Board will consider the adoption of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Unlimited Tax School Building and Refunding Bonds, which may be issued in one or more series levying a tax and providing for the security and payment thereof; providing for the award of the sale thereof in accordance with specified parameters; and enacting other provisions relating thereto.

**Presenters:** Karen Smith, Terrell Palmer, Jonathan Frels

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.B. as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson made a motion to approve.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

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

**8.C.** The Board will consider approving the superintendent's contract recommendations to issue probationary, term and annual contracts for the 2021-2022 school year for teachers, administrators and paraprofessionals.

**Presenters:** Dr. Mark Henry, Dr. Deborah Stewart, Chairita Franklin, Marney Collins Sims

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.C. as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr. Ogletree made a motion to approve.

Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.

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

**8.D.** The Board will consider approving on second reading additions, revisions or deletions to district policies:

**Presenters:** Dr. Deborah Stewart, Teresa Hull

8.D.1. DCD (LOCAL) Employment Practices: At-Will Employment (Revise)

8.D.2. DCE (LOCAL) Employment Practices: Other Types of Contracts (Revise)

8.D.3. GF (LOCAL) Public Complaints (Revise)

8.D.4. GKA (LOCAL) Community Relations: Conduct on School Premises (Revise)

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.D. as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson made a motion to approve.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

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

**8.E.** The Board will consider approving the district instructional material recommendations for Dual Credit Speech courses.

**Presenter:** Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.E. as recommended or amended.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to approve.

Board member Dr. Ogletree seconded.

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

**8.F.** The Board will consider approving the District instructional material recommendations for the following Mathematics courses: AP Calculus, AP Statistics, Algebra, Algebra.

**Presenter:** Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.F. as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson made a motion to approve.

Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.

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

**8.G.** The Board will consider approving the District instructional material recommendations for the following courses: Human Geography AP, European History AP, AP/DC United States History, AP/DC Macroeconomics, AP/DC Psychology, DC Sociology.

**Presenter:** Dr. Linda Macias

Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.G. as recommended or amended.

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve.  
Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- 8.H.** The Board will consider approving the District instructional material recommendations for the following courses: AP Physics I & II, AP Physics C.  
**Presenter:** Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.H. as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson made a motion to approve.  
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- 8.I.** The Board will consider approving the District instructional material recommendations for Pre-K.  
**Presenter:** Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.I. as recommended or amended.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to approve.  
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- 8.J.** The Board will consider approving the innovative course offering for Special Education – Braille Reading and Writing.  
**Presenter:** Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.J. as recommended or amended.

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve.  
Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- 8.K.** The Board will consider the approval and execution of the plat for the Elementary School No. 58 site.  
**Presenter:** Roy Sprague

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.K. as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr. Ogletree made a motion to approve.  
Board member Tom Jackson seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

- 8.L.** The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.  
**Presenters:** Bill Powell, Matt Morgan

8.L.1. Furniture and Equipment

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.L. as recommended or amended.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia made a motion to approve.  
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 6 to 0 vote.**

**8.M.** 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:

**Presenter:** Matt Morgan

8.M.1. 2019 New Administration Building and Visual & Performing Arts Center

8.M.2. 2020 Elementary School No. 57

8.M.3. 2019 Wells ES Renovation

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 8.M. as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr.Ogletree made a motion to approve.

Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.

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

**9. Superintendent's Briefing**

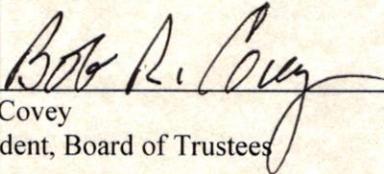
**9.A.** Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry provided information regarding district events and items of community interest.

**10. Closed Session**

No Closed Session

**11. Adjournment**

Board President Covey adjourned the April 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 7:41 p.m.



Bob Covey  
President, Board of Trustees



Debbie Blackshear  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: May 10, 2021