

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

**MAY 10, 2021
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, May 10, 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, Don Ryan and Gilbert Sarabia.

Board President Covey recognized CLC member, Ryan Irving, who was in the audience.

1.B. Brian Offutt, Senior Pastor of West Houston Church of Christ, delivered the invocation.

1.C. Under the direction of Master Sergeant Herman J. Broussard, Jr., retired United States Air Force, the following Cypress Falls High School AFJROTC cadets presented the colors for the meeting: Cadet Jessenia Velasquez on the U.S. Flag, Cadet George Mousa on the Texas Flag, US Guard Cadet Ivan Coronado and the Texas Guard Cadet Karisma Aceves.

2. Vision and Mission Statement

2.A. 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

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

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. Daniel Cockrell addressed the Board regarding Agenda Item 9C – Superintendent's recommendation to adjust the compensation reflected in the District's compensation plan as necessary to utilize funds available under the Teacher Incentive Allotment.
2. Edward McIntosh addressed the Board regarding Agenda Item 9B - Budget amendments for the period of January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.
3. Nikki Cowart addressed the Board advocating a 4% pay raise and a retention stipend of \$1,000 for teachers.

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 expressed her gratitude for all the teachers who have loved and supported CFISD students with grace and patience. Ms. Hinaman shared how she mentors at-risk students at high schools in the district and saw how teachers have supported and loved these students with grace and patience. I am grateful for the resources that we share with our students and our families and look forward to continuing this as we go into the summer and next school year. Ms. Hinaman explained how this legislative session was felt to be a “do no harm” session – not a lot of focus on public education due to all that has been going on such as the power grid, the state budget with the recession, but that turned out to not be the case. “There is currently, possibly a lot of damage being done to public education.” Ms. Hinaman encouraged everyone to stay informed, to understand that public education is non-partisan. During this legislative session, we have seen champions for public education and those that have hurt public education. Those who cut down our teachers and school districts and try to take our local control and to concentrate power at the state level in a bureaucratic position instead of a locally elected position. “It’s not about the party, it’s how they vote and their values; and it’s not about promises made when they’re running for office, it’s how they act when they’re in Austin representing us.” Ms. Hinaman encouraged everyone to be informed, ask questions and to reach out to your elected officials.

Board member Dr. Ogletree shared how he had the privilege of recently visiting three outstanding elementary schools – Pope Elementary, led by Elizabeth Bradley, Wells Elementary, led by Cheryl Fisher and Duryea Elementary, led by Tomicka Williams. He stated that all three of the schools were quite impressive and led by very impressive leaders. Students were engaged and learning was taking place during a very difficult school year. Dr. Ogletree went on to say how the leadership has been challenged on every campus and also how commitment has been challenged as well. Overall, each principal shared that all the teachers have met the challenges and that they had poured out their hearts, given their time, resources and skills to make sure students were learning. Dr. Ogletree expressed how tragic it is that during this past tough year, a year that tested their commitment, their skills, that someone would dare to call them cowards or morally corrupt. “The teachers that I have seen and interfaced with, most of them are men and women of faith who are members of our churches, parishes, synagogues and mosques. Men and women who surely had to pray to make it through this school year, and to reach deep within their hearts to demonstrate a love that we wished we could see from politicians. They have loved our children and our children have experienced that love. I salute them.” Dr. Ogletree said that our nurses have been stellar, and our community should do whatever they can to support public education. “We’ve got a good thing here.” Dr. Ogletree also stated that the teachers and administrators should be applauded, they should be thanked, they should be prayed for. Dr. Ogletree shared how he enjoyed attending the National Merit Scholars recognition. He thanks God for us being able to approach a season of graduation. “Not even the pandemic could stop that.” Dr. Ogletree applauds the district and thanks God for our parents who have stood by and helped their children. “God bless you, every teacher and administrator of our public schools.”

Board member Don Ryan expressed how proud he was that the district recognized our spotlight teachers this year. Mr. Ryan stated how all the teachers and staff at each campus have gone way above and beyond during this uncertain year. Mr. Ryan said what stood out to him most, with all the uncertainty, was all the extracurricular activities that occurred and the over-the-top leadership in those departments. “Amazing!” Students got to participate in programs they love. A lot of those programs generated big scholarship dollars for many students so they could continue their education. Mr. Ryan expressed how proud he is for Dr. Henry’s leadership. The campus leadership across the district is phenomenal. “I am very grateful for those who have gone above and beyond, thank you.”

Board member Gilbert Sarabia started off by wishing a belated happy mothers’ day to all the mother’s watching this evening. Mr. Sarabia extended his gratitude to everyone for this tough year. Mr. Sarabia shared how he had attended several baseball games and was thrilled to see all the happy faces in the large crowds attending. He also gave kudos to all the principals for being at every school-sponsored event supporting their students. Outstanding for doing this. Mr. Sarabia thanked all teachers and employees for

going this tough year with superb leadership. He also thanked Tommy Ramirez and Frances Romero, CLC leaders, for being out there in the trenches fighting for public schools' rights. "CLC is a great group, and we are very blessed to have them in our corner." Mr. Sarabia expressed his concerns with the current legislature but appreciates those officials who voted for important school bills. He commented on the disgust with Mr. Bettencourt calling teachers cowards. "How dare Mr. Bettencourt call teachers cowards." Mr. Sarabia reminded everyone how their vote counts when going to the polls. "Thank you for being here tonight."

Board member Tom Jackson shared how outcome-based funding is ill advised and doesn't produce sustainable results with integrity. Student attainment can be impacted as outcome-based funding does not address the difficulties teachers, families and students face. Mr. Jackson made his annual JROTC visits across four districts and stated how these programs are a critical puzzle piece for enhancing student attainment. Mr. Jackson tipped his hat to Major Wanda Ewing, a SASI who personified all that is right and good with the teaching profession. Mr. Jackson shared that he recently attended the Salute to the Stars as a table sponsor and also attended his 11th consecutive National Merit Recognition celebration. "My heart thrills to see the continued emergence of excellence despite the pandemic as exemplified by our honorees, Beth Wade and the Berry Center staff, Marie Holmes and her staff, volunteers, and of course, our communication department. Well done to all!" Mr. Jackson thanked all who participated in the Fun Run to help create scholarship and grant funds.

Board member Debbie Blackshear expressed her joy that the district is beginning to see some sense of normalcy as it recently celebrated our Teachers of the Year at the Berry Center with Picnic Under the Stars, sponsored by the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation. Ms. Blackshear shared how the next evening, the National Merit Scholarship Recognition was held to honor those great students. Last week we enjoyed so many different staff appreciations, including teacher and staff appreciation and nurse appreciation. Ms. Blackshear shared that as a member of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, some years ago the church adopted Danish Elementary School, and as each year, she was excited to be a part of a group of women who furnished and served Carl's BBQ to the entire staff to show their appreciation and love to them for all they have done this year. In a couple of weeks, they will be doing the same service for ALC-East. We've had many great opportunities to visit with our teachers and show the love and appreciation they so deserve. "When I visit with teachers, as I said in the past, the word of the year, "resilient," comes to mind. I have seen the spirit of resilience, determination, of not giving up and not giving in by the entire staff of this school district. "I have so much admiration and love for all our educators, all of the different departments that support them, all the people behind the scenes. It has truly been a work of love and a work of hope that we have given to our students. My hat goes off to each one of you and my deepest gratitude for all that you have done." Ms. Blackshear stated how she is looking forward to graduation. "That is one of my most favorite events of the year to attend. Seeing how students celebrate graduation and seeing the culmination of work they have put forth and know that we have equipped them to go out into this world, whether it be trade school, a job or college, I feel like we have done the best job for our students." Ms. Blackshear concluded her comments with condolences to Clay Smith's family. Mr. Smith passed away last week. Ms. Blackshear shared what a great educator, coach, assistant principal and most importantly, what a great mentor he was to all the men and women he coached and worked with in the various schools. Mr. Smith had love in his heart for each individual and made a difference in their lives every day. "Here's to you Clay."

Board member Bob Covey shared how much this Board and the administration appreciate and respect the staff of this district. He reiterated how they appreciate and respect teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, the janitorial staff, the administration, the superintendent, everyone. "Everything that puts this school district on a level of excellence is beyond belief." Mr. Covey shared how this school district is looked at all over the state of Texas as and in many parts of the country as being a leader in the educational excellence that we practice. Mr. Covey stated that the district is fighting with legislators because they are putting charter schools as the "primadonnas" of education as if they do better than public schools. Research and reports that tell us that is not true. Mr. Covey expressed how great teachers and staff did this past year under the extreme conditions presented over the year. He is completely mystified that the legislature feels that it is important to run two different educational situations, paying more to charter schools than they do to public education. Mr. Covey shared his dismay and disagreement with one of the

senators from this area trying to push a bill through which will give him eminent power over districts, which will take away some of the power of the state board of education, our elected officials. This senator is not an elected official, he is an appointee of the governor. "I don't like some of the things that are being done right now, and I am very appalled at the statement that was made about teachers. I salute you; I have so much respect for you. Thank you for being here tonight."

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. Donna Lord addressed the Board on the ARP ESSR Funding.
2. Ayse Indemaio addressed the Board on Texas SB 2202 and the Critical Race Theory, Bridgeland High School's "Implicit Bias" video.
3. Melma Walker addressed the Board on the experiences and circumstances of this school year on teachers and students.
4. Fiest Elementary School Earthiens (Anna, Jenger, Joshua, Cassie, Maddie and Judy) addressed the Board on recycling.
5. Riley Schaudel addressed the Board on HB 699 – Riley's Rule – allowing students with chronic illnesses to not be punished for excess absences.
6. Todd LeCompte addressed the Board regarding the mask mandate.
7. Candice Bryant addressed the Board regarding vaccinations for Covid-19 of students on campuses.

Board President Covey called for a recess at 7:02 p.m.

Board President Covey called the meeting back to order at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the following **Reports**.

7. Reports

7.A. The Administration will present an oral report on the Preliminary Budget for the 2021-2022 school year.
Presenter: Karen Smith

7.B. The Administration will provide an oral report on Teacher Incentive Allotment.
Presenters: Teresa Hull, Core Advisory Committee

7.C. The Administration will provide the status of a virtual academy for the 2021-2022 school year.
Presenter: Dr. Linda Macias

7.D. The Administration will provide a report on cooperative purchasing fees paid by the District for 2019-2020 fiscal year.
Presenter: Bill Powell

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

8. Action Items - Consensus

8.A. The Board will consider approving the minutes of the April 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 Don Ryan made a motion to approve.
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.
Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

Mr. Covey announced that the Board would proceed with the following **Non-Consensus Action Items** and that the Board would hear **Agenda Items 9.K., 9.L. and 9.M.** at this time.

9. Action Items – Non-Consensus

9.K. 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

9.K.1. 2019 Middle School No. 20

9.K.2. 2020 Leonard Brautigam Center – CTE Additions

9.K.3. 2020 Transportation Center No. 6 – Detention Basin and Pump Station

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.K. as recommended or amended.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to approve.
Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.
Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

9.L. The Board will consider approving and authorizing the Superintendent or designee to enter into the miscellaneous professional service contracts related to the following project.

Presenter: Matt Morgan

9.L.1. 2019 Middle School No. 20

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.L. as recommended or amended.

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

9.M. The Board will consider approving a change order to the construction contract with ICI Construction, Inc. for additional work at the CFISD Exhibit Center.

Presenter: Matt Morgan

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.M. as recommended or amended.

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve.
Board member Tom Jackson seconded.
Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

9.A. The Board will consider nominations for the Region 4, Position F, large district member seat on the TASB Board of Directors.

Presenter: Don Ryan

Don Ryan nominated Bob Covey for the Region 4, Position F, large district member seat on the TASB Board of Directors.

Mr. Ryan asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.A. as recommended or amended.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to approve.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

- 9.B.** The Board will consider approving the budget amendments for the period of January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

Presenter: Karen Smith

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.B. as recommended or amended.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to approve.

Board member Tom Jackson seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

- 9.C.** The Board will consider approving the superintendent's recommendation to adjust the compensation reflected in the District's compensation plan as necessary to utilize funds available under the Teacher Incentive Allotment.

Presenters: Karen Smith, Chairita Franklin, Marney Sims

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.C. as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson made a motion to approve.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

- 9.D.** The Board will consider approving a request for a Texas Education Agency waiver for the 2021-2022 school year.

Presenter: Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.D. as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr. Ogletree made a motion to approve.

Board member Julie Hinaman seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

- 9.E.** The Board will consider approving a resolution to suspend portions of FMH (LOCAL) for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

Presenter: Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.E. as recommended or amended.

Board member Tom Jackson made a motion to approve.

Board member Dr. Ogletree seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

- 9.F.** The Board will consider approving a resolution to suspend portions of EIE (LOCAL) for the 2020-2021 school year only.

Presenter: Dr. Linda Macias

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.F. as recommended or amended.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to approve.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

9.G. The Board will consider approving the administration's recommendation for the 2021-2022 Open/Closed Campus Designations for student transfers.

Presenters: Teresa Hull, Kristi Giron

Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.G. as recommended or amended.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to approve.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

9.H. The Board will consider approving the Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification for 2021-2022.

Presenter: Kristi Giron

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.H. as recommended or amended.

Board member Gilbert Sarabia made a motion to approve.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

9.I. The Board will consider approving a Cost Sharing Agreement for the installation of a signal light.

Presenters: Roy Sprague, Matt Morgan

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.I. as recommended or amended.

Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to approve.

Board member Dr. Ogletree seconded.

Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

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

Presenters: Bill Powell, Paula Ross, Karen Smith

9.J.1. Ambulance & EMT Services for Athletic Games and Other District Events

9.J.2. Bank Depository Services, Request for Proposal

9.J.3. Building Materials and General MRO Supplies

9.J.4. Computer Devices, Components and Services

9.J.5. New Adoptions for Advanced Placement US History and Dual Credit Sociology

9.J.6. Property Insurance Renewal

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve non-consensus action item 9.J. as recommended or amended.

Board member Don Ryan made a motion to approve.
Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.
Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

(Agenda Items 9.K., 9.L. and 9.M. were addressed before Agenda Item 9A.)

Mr. Covey announced that before proceeding with the Superintendent's Briefing portion of the agenda the Board would proceed with the **Addendum** to the agenda.

ADDENDUM:

The Board will consider approving the granting of a Water Meter Easement to Barker-Cypress Municipal Utility District for water service to Lieder Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents.

Presenter: Matt Morgan

Mr. Covey asked for a motion to approve the granting of a Water Meter Easement to Barker-Cypress Municipal Utility District for water service to Lieder Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent or designee to negotiate the final terms and execute all related documents as recommended or amended.

Board member Dr. Ogletree made a motion to approve.
Board member Tom Jackson seconded.
Motion passed by a 7 to 0 vote.

10. Superintendent's Briefing

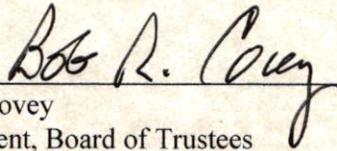
10.A. Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry provided information regarding district events and items of community interest.

11. Closed Session

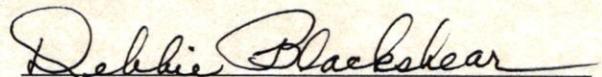
No Closed Session

12. Adjournment

Board President Covey adjourned the May 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 9:50 p.m.



Bob Covey
President, Board of Trustees



Debbie Blackshear
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: June 24, 2021