

**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MAY 8, 2023  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Board of Trustees convened in Regular Session on Monday, May 8, 2023, in the Boardroom of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Mark Henry, Ed.D. Administration Building, located at 11440 Matzke Road, Cypress, Texas 77429.

**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, Debbie Blackshear and Scott Henry. Board members Dr. Natalie Blasingame and Lucas Scanlon were not present.

Board President Jackson recognized Grace Handley with State Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson's office, along with Levi Simmons of Boy Scout Troop 533.

Chris Hall, Associate Missions Pastor, Houston Northwest Church, delivered the invocation.

The following Jersey Village High School AFJROTC cadets presented the colors for the meeting: Carrying the U.S. Flag was Cadet Captain Edward Moehle, on Right Guard was Lt. Colonel Cody Chang and on Left Guard was Cadet Airman Ashton Penigar. These cadets presented the colors under the direction of Senior Master Sergeant Nellie Hardy, U.S. Air Force (Retired).

Board President Jackson read the District's Vision and Mission Statement and then proceeded with the **Remarks and Recognitions** portion of the agenda.

Mr. Jackson, with the consent of his fellow Board members, rearranged the Remark and Recognitions portion of the agenda to begin with Roy Garcia, Chief Officer of School Leadership, introducing the new principal of Cypress Creek High School – Martin Drayton.

Mr. Jackson turned the floor over to Superintendent Henry to announce Christina Cole in her new position as Chief Officer of School Leadership upon Roy Garcia's retirement, and Matt Morgan in his new position as Chief Operations Officer upon Roy Sprague's retirement.

Mr. Jackson continued with the Remarks and Recognitions portion of the agenda in the following order:

**1. Remarks and Recognitions**

- 1.B.** The Board recognized the grand and reserve champions named at the 2023 CFISD Livestock Show.
- 1.C.** The Board recognized Mike and Darlene Jarrar of Jarrar & Company Inc. as the winners of the Volume Buyer Buckle for the 2023 CFISD Livestock Show.
- 1.D.** The Board recognized Audio-Visual Production students who placed 2nd at the state and national level in recent competitions.
- 1.E.** The Board recognized Cypress Ridge High School student Hoai Nguyen who won 1st place in the FCCLA Culinary Arts Competitor category.
- 1.F.** The Board recognized TAFE students who won 1st and 2nd place in the TAFE Teach Tomorrow state competition.
- 1.G.** The Board recognized Cy-Fair High School AFJROTC Cadet Lainey Simmons who was recently recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution for the SAR Enhanced ROTC award at the State Society Conference.
- 1.A.** The Superintendent made remarks and announcements regarding the honors and achievements earned by staff and students in recent weeks and provided information regarding district and community events or items of interest.

Superintendent Dr. Mark Henry announced his retirement, effective December 2023. Dr. Henry spoke of his years in CFISD and public education and thanked everyone for their prayers and support over the years and expressed what an honor it has been to serve the district. Dr. Henry shared how much he loves the people in this district.

Mr. Jackson stated that Dr. Henry is undoubtedly the pre-imminent superintendent in the state of Texas. Mr. Jackson also shared that the search for the new CFISD superintendent would begin with the Board soliciting requests for qualifications from superintendent search firms. Once the responses have been received, the Board will make a selection of a firm in a Special-Called Board meeting to begin the process. The process will, in part, include community input.

Mr. Jackson expressed his appreciation for Dr. Henry's service to CFISD. He stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside Dr. Henry, "a man of high integrity and ambition."

Mr. Jackson called for a recess at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Jackson called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m. 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.

### **Speaker:**

1. William Ely expressed his interest in the legislature's political debate around parental rights and school choice. Mr. Ely also shared his concerns with TASB undermining parent-child relationships with their training and recommendations.

**Board member Scott Henry** thanked all those involved in preparing the new building, especially those involved in organizing the last two Board meetings. Mr. Henry announced that it was Teacher Appreciation Week and a very special time to celebrate and show appreciation for all the hard work and dedication of CFISD teachers. He stated that this week is a good time to recognize teacher's contributions and express heartfelt gratitude for all they do. Mr. Henry shared that he attended the CFISD retirement celebration and is looking forward to attending the CFISD graduations. Mr. Henry encouraged all graduating seniors to finish strong by showcasing their hard work, dedication, and presence.

**Board member Gilbert Sarabia** touched on the random problems with social media and how it affects the day-to-day operations on each campus, more specifically, the false alarms referred to as "swatting." Mr. Sarabia also shared what a well-trained police department CFISD has and how much better they are equipped to handle any problems that may come up at campuses. Mr. Sarabia encouraged parents to trust that the CFISD police department will do their job to protect students. Mr. Sarabia wished everyone a great summer!

**Board member Debbie Blackshear** shared some of the year-end events she had recently attended – the monthly CLC meeting, Cy-Falls baseball game, and how much she enjoyed attending the CFISD retirement banquet and visiting with the retirees. Ms. Blackshear shared a heartwarming story about her grandson, Brandon, and how he began in CFISD at the age of three through the PPCD program. Ms. Blackshear shared how through a very special teacher, Ms. Julie Cooney, Brandon learned to speak and sign the alphabet. Ms. Cooney, along with many great teachers, including Brandon's Ag teacher, were instrumental in helping Brandon and his family learn valuable lessons to help and support Brandon become the young man he is today – a CFISD graduate, a leader in his FFA Chapter of four years who has raised multiple animals with multiple grand and reserve awards. Ms. Blackshear reminded everyone that it is Teacher Appreciation Week and expressed her gratitude to all the "Julie Cooney's" out there who have made such a difference in their student's lives. Ms. Blackshear also thanked nurses, custodians and all other staff members who have established great relationships with students. Ms. Blackshear concluded her comments by sharing how much she is looking forward to the graduation ceremonies and wished everyone a great and safe summer.

**Board member Julie Hinaman**, along with 75 other trustees around Texas, met with state legislators in Austin this past month on the common goal of increasing the basic allotment for districts. Also, this past month, Ms. Hinaman attended the Gulf Coast Association of Area School Boards, continued her mentoring of high school students throughout the district, visited Truitt Middle School, attended the student education Technology Expo, participated in the first annual Walk for the Village, attended the CFISD Retirement Banquet, the districtwide art show, the annual VIPS Appreciation Luncheon, and the DEIC meeting. Ms. Hinaman joined in the celebration of future educators signing day with hundreds of students who signed letters of intent to receive their degrees in education. Ms. Hinaman volunteered at the Carlton Center, planting flowers in the garden with students, attended the Cypress Ridge Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and attended the Charity Seven-on-Seven football tournament held at Cypress Park High School. Ms. Hinaman thanked everyone in the Cy-Fair ISD family and shared how proud she is of all the students in CFISD.

**Board member Tom Jackson** shared since the last Board meeting that he made 20 distinct and separate stops around the district, many of which were visiting with the AFJROTC programs. Mr. Jackson also attended the CFISD Retirement Banquet where he found two common threads amongst those retiring – the love of students and their service with integrity. Mr. Jackson expressed the joy he received attending the VIPS Appreciation Luncheon and speaking with those who contribute to CFISD “in ways that money cannot buy.” Mr. Jackson attended the most recent Safety and Security Meeting which covered items regarding the state audit covering the district’s continued safety success at phase one. He attended the DEIC meeting, The River Flows Foundation adoption of Lee Elementary School, the Technology Expo, as well as the visual arts show. Mr. Jackson shared two programs in the district that are near and dear to his heart – the HUNCH program, a joint venture between NASA and high schools, and middle school Robotics. Mr. Jackson shared information about his tour of the artwork displayed in the new MHAB building and the objectives, creativity and talent of these young elementary, middle school and high school students. Mr. Jackson attended the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Willbern Elementary School. Mr. Jackson concluded his comments with a “tip of the hat” to mothers everywhere for what they do for everyone.

The Board proceeded with Items 3.A., an update on Item 3.B. and Item 3.D. of the reports portion of the agenda. Item 3.C. was presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, however, there were speakers for this agenda item.

Mr. Jackson rearranged the Reports portion of the agenda as follows:

**3.D.** The Human Resources department provided an oral report on the Board Monitoring System objectives.

**3.A.** The Administration presented an oral report on the preliminary budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Speakers:**

1. Ayse Indemaio expressed her concerns on the preliminary budget, most specially, Title IV.
2. Melissa Rowell shared her concerns on district spending and the budget for the new year.
3. Danielle Cockrell asked the Board to revisit the budget pertaining to staff raises should legislators authorize additional staff funding.

**3.B.** The administration provided a report on the High School Health Course for local credit.

**Speakers:**

1. Courtney Wyatt addressed the Board on the importance of the required high school health course.
2. Brad Beerwinkel addressed the Board on the need for health as a required course in CFISD.
3. Nicholas Johnson addressed the Board on the importance of health on the CFISD curriculum.
4. Roman Duran asked the Board to consider not removing the health class and shared his personal learning experience from the countless subjects within the course.
5. Frances Romero asked the Board to consider retaining the high school health course as a required course for graduation.
6. Monica Dean addressed the Board on the removal of the school health course in CFISD.
7. Stacey McDaniel addressed comments made during the Board Work Session regarding the health requirement.
8. Clark Denson addressed the Board on the agreed upon changes within the health curriculum.
9. Judi DeHaan addressed the Board on the health course as a graduation requirement within CFISD.
10. Linda Nuttall shared her reasons against making the health course a mandatory class.
11. Jennifer Chenette addressed the Board on the importance of the health class for all students and how it serves an important function, providing life skills.
12. Kristina Woods addressed the Board on the importance of accuracy within the health curriculum.

**3.C.** The administration provided an oral report on the work of the Portrait of a CFISD Graduate Advisory Council.

**Speakers:**

1. George Edwards encouraged the Board to maintain the original Portrait of a Cy-Fair Graduate as it truly represents the characteristics and needs to be successful in the world today.
2. Debra Edwards expressed her opposition to the proposed Portrait of a Cy-Fair Graduate and shared her concerns that the current document waters down the spirit of the original document.
3. Julie Rix shared her belief that the Portrait of a Graduate should be abolished, and public education should focus on the basics of academics.
4. Todd LeCompte commented on the characteristics of a Portrait of a Graduate based on the business world today.
5. Judi DeHaan offered suggestions on what the Portrait of a Graduate document should look like.
6. Jennifer Chenette shared her opinions on what the Portrait of a Graduate document should look like.
7. Melissa Rowell shared her comments on the Portrait of a Graduate and keeping the document as is.

The Board proceeded with the **Action Items** portion of the agenda. **Action Items 4.A. through 4.F.** were moved to Consensus during the Board Work Session on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

#### **4. Action Items**

- 4.A. The Board will consider approving the minutes of the April 10, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.
- 4.B. The Board will consider approving the budget amendments for the period of January 1 through March 31, 2023.
- 4.C. The Board will consider approving the TEKS Certification 2023-2024 Form.
- 4.D. 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.D.1. 2023 Jarvis Transportation Center Electric Bus Charging Stations
  - 4.D.2. 2023 Thornton MS Paving Improvements

#### **Speaker:**

- 1. Melissa Rowell urged the Board to table their approval for the electric bus infrastructure and the purchase of electric buses and to spend more time researching the pros and cons, especially the safety of electric buses.
- 4.E. The Board will consider awarding bids and contracts and/or authorizing purchase orders as recommended in the posted agenda item.
  - 4.E.1. Practices and Procedure Review and Cybersecurity Assessment Quote
  - 4.E.2. Property and Workers' Compensation Stop Loss Insurance
  - 4.E.3. Yearbook Services
- 4.F. The Board will consider approving the District's Hazardous Traffic Conditions Resolution as required by TEA to receive supplemental transportation funding.

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 Gilbert Sarabia seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

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

- 4.G. The Board will consider making a determination that good cause did not exist as required by law for Patricia Babineaux, Jennifer Banegas, Steffani Galagaza, Stephanie Hollis, Leslie Jack, Julia Roberson, Carrie Rogers, Pamela Shin, and Marcas Stephens to resign their respective employment contracts. [This item was discussed in closed session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.]

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.  
**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

- 4.H. The Board will consider approving the superintendent's recommendation to give notice to Megan Swanson that her employment with the District under a probationary contract is proposed for termination and authorize the President of the Board to notify Ms. Swanson of the proposed action pursuant to 21.103 of the Texas Educator Code. [This item was discussed in closed session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.]

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

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve the non-consensus item as recommended.  
Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

- 4.I. The Board will consider approving the superintendent's recommendation to give notice to Michelle Benson that her employment with the District under a probationary contract is proposed for termination and authorize the President of the Board to notify Ms. Benson of the proposed action pursuant to 21.103 of the Texas Educator Code. [This item was discussed in closed session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.]

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

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve the non-consensus item as recommended.  
Board member Scott Henry seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

- 4.J. The Board will consider approving the superintendent's recommendation to give notice to Rick Barrett that his employment with the District under a continuing contract is proposed for termination and authorize the President of the Board to notify Mr. Barrett of the proposed action pursuant to 21.156 of the Texas Education Code. [This item was discussed in closed session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.]

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 Debbie Blackshear seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

- 4.K. The Board will consider approving the superintendent's recommendation to give notice to Megan Dunn that it is proposed her employment with the District under a term contract be non-renewed. It is further recommended that the President of the Board notify the teacher of the proposed action to terminate her employment pursuant to 21.206 of the Texas Education Code. [This item was discussed in closed session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.]

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

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve the non-consensus item as recommended.  
Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

- 4.L. The Board will consider approving the superintendent's recommendation to give notice to Clover Bolden that her employment with the District under a probationary contract is proposed for termination and authorize the President of the Board to notify Ms. Bolden of the proposed action pursuant to 21.103 of the Texas Educator Code. [This item was discussed in closed session on Thursday, May 4, 2023, pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.]

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

Board member Debbie Blackshear made a motion to approve the non-consensus item as recommended.  
Board member Gilbert Sarabia seconded.  
**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

Mr. Jackson announced that the **Discussion** portion of the agenda was presented at the Board Work Session on Thursday, May 4, 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. Jennifer Fung addressed the Board on the teacher turnover at Gleason Elementary School and called for a review of this turnover.
2. Linda Nuttall addressed the Board on the problems with the Request for Formal Reconsideration of Library Materials policy and procedures.
3. William Ely addressed the Board on the Formal Reconsideration of Library Materials policy.
4. Clark Denson shared his comments on the library book policy.
5. Julie Rix shared her concerns on school violence.
6. Sandra Rowland-Munoz provided an update concerning the mental health issue involving her son and how well he is doing today.
7. Todd Blum shared his concerns on teacher losses and teacher quality.
8. Ayse Indemaio expressed her concerns on CFISD book review committees and the removal of certain books not suitable to children.
9. Ryan Lam thanked the district and his teachers for a great year.
10. Monica Dean addressed the Board on the renewal contract for Chromebooks and what the status is on the return investment of this technology to the district.
11. Vi Mar High shared her concerns on the teacher turnover at Gleason Elementary school and the lack of communication to parents regarding teachers not returning to the classroom.
12. Nikki Cowart asked the Board to stand together on what is at stake with the proposed legislative bills and amendments for public education. Ms. Cowart also commented on pay raises, recruiting and training and quality employee retention and respect.
13. Todd LeCompte shared his concerns regarding the number of fights and poor behavior in schools across the district.
14. Mark Goloby shared his views on the TASB organization and asked the Board to consider withdrawing their involvement in TASB.

**7. Closed Session**

No closed session.

**8. Adjournment**

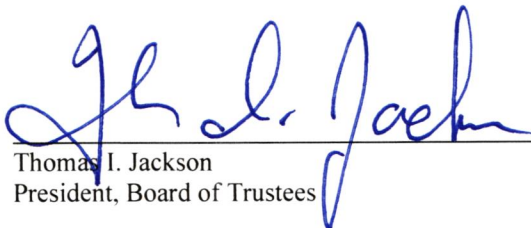
Board President Jackson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

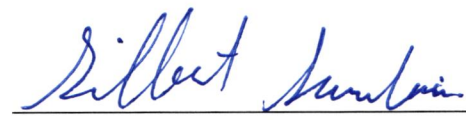
Board member Julie Hinaman made a motion to adjourn.

Board member Debbie Blackshear seconded.

**Motion passed by a 5 to 0 vote.**

The May 8, 2023, Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:16 p.m.

  
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Thomas I. Jackson  
President, Board of Trustees

  
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Gilbert Sarabia  
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: June 20, 2023