

**SCHOOL DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HUGHES SPRINGS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

March 8, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Van Hall, Presiding

Members Present

Robert Johnson	Van Hall
Robyn Shelton	Billy Willis
Scott Nelson	Phillip Chapman
DeAnna Putman	

Members Absent

None

School Personnel Present

Sarah Dildine, Superintendent

Guests

(See attached list)

1. OPENING ACTIVITIES

- 1.1 CALL** to Order/Declaration of Quorum by President Van Hall *{Gov't Code 551.001 (6), 311.013 (b)}*
1.2 INVOCATION given by Robert Johnson; Pledge of Allegiance lead by Billy Willis

The Board moved to 3. PRESENTATIONS:

3.1 Certification of Unopposed Candidates for General Election of School Trustees on May 1, 2021

Secretary to Superintendent Nita Clark read for the Secretary of the Board the Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the Election on May 1, 2021, of School Trustees. Incumbents DeAnna Putman, in Place 4 and Scott Nelson, Place 5, will be declared elected and installed at the May 10, 2021, Regular School Board Meeting.

3.2 PUBLIC HEARING FOR TAPR REPORT

Curriculum Director Theresa Jennings presented an overview of the Texas Academics Performance Report for 2019-2020. The report included updated information regarding the school districts not being rated due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, district and campus performance profiles, accreditation status, performance objectives, and PEIMS financial standard reports for 2018-2019. The TAPR Report is available for viewing at the administrative building with the curriculum director.

1.3 PUBLIC COMMENT

{HSISD Policy BED}

Lytha Thomas, a parent, signed the form to address the Board regarding students wearing masks at school in light of Gov.Greg Abbott's declaration regarding this issue. Ms. Thomas asked the Board to consider letting parents make the decision whether their students wore masks at school.

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

{HSISD Policy BE}

Consent Agenda Items Considered:

- 3.1 CONSIDERATION** to Approve Minutes of Meeting on February 9, 2021 *{HSISD Policy BE}*

3.2 CONSIDERATION to Approve Budget Amendments (as needed) *{HSISD Policy CE, Education Code 44.006}*

There were two budget amendments; one taking money from student travel moving funds to maintenance building supplies for backpack hooks, and another moving money from the padding account to maintenance and operating supplies for vaping detection expenses.

On motion by DeAnna Putman, seconded by Robyn Shelton, it was moved to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried on a 7 to 0 vote.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 CONSIDERATION to Approve Cancellation of General Election on May 1, 2021

{HSISD Policies BBBA & BBBB; Election Code 2.053(a)(e)}

On motion by Robyn Shelton, seconded by Billy Willis, it was moved to approve the Cancellation of Election for a general election to be held on May 1, 2021, to elect trustees for Places 4 and 5, currently held by DeAnna Putman and Scott Nelson. Motion carried on a 7 to 0 vote.

5.2 CONSIDERATION to Approve a Resolution Related to Winter Weather Emergency

{TEC Section 21/401(c-1); Education Code 11.151 (b)(d);HSISD Policy BAA}

On motion by Phillip Chapman, seconded by DeAnna Putman, it was moved to approve the resolution stating that employees will not have to make up the workdays from February 16th to 19th, 2021, when school was closed due to a major snow storm that week. Motion carried on a 7 to 0 vote.

5.3 CONSIDERATION to Approve Waiver for Missed School Days

{TEC 25.081; HSISD Policy BAA; Education Code 11.151(b) (d)}

On motion by Phillip Chapman, seconded by Scott Nelson, it was moved to approve asking TEA for a waiver of the four days of instruction missed during the week of the snow storm, so as to not use any built-in minutes for student instruction, in the event they may be needed later in the year.

5.4 CONSIDERATION to Approve Action for Hughes Springs ISD Regarding Executive Order GA-34 Issued by Gov. Greg Abbott and Covid-19 Update for Public Health Guidance Issued by Texas Education Agency

{TGC Section 418.012; THS Code, Section 18.082 (e)}

The Board discussed the options available to the District for deciding how to continue for the rest of the school year following the announcement by the Governor to remove the mandate for wearing a mask and to evaluate the Public Health Guidelines. Board members were given the results of a survey indicating what other school districts in the area were planning. On motion by Robyn Shelton, seconded by Robert Johnson, it was moved to continue requiring masks per the HSISD District Health Guidelines dated December 4, 2020, and to reevaluate the issue at the April 12, 2021, board meeting. It was also decided to send out a survey to only the parents of students for opinions or suggestions prior to April's meeting about wearing masks. Motion carried on a 7 to 0 vote

The Board moved back in the Agenda to Item 2. HEARING FOR STUDENT/PARENT GRIEVANCE

Mr. Jason Johns, parent of student Corey Johns, had requested an open session hearing to appeal a Level Two decision rendered by Superintendent Sarah Dildine. Both Mr. Johns and Mrs. Dildine had ten minutes each to make their presentations. Following their arguments, the Board entered a closed session to deliberate at 6:55 p.m. Returning to open session at 7:12 p.m., Robert Johnson made a motion to uphold the decision made at Level Two. Robyn Shelton seconded the motion, which passed on a 7 to 0 vote.

6. **CLOSED SESSION**, as authorized by Texas Government Code Chapter 551.001 through 551.146, shall be declared by the Board of Trustees when necessary, during the course of the meeting at the time, date and place of this notice. The Board may close this meeting to consult with its attorney on any item posted on this agenda in order to receive legal advice or to maintain the attorney-client privilege. The Board may also close the meeting to consult with its attorney on any other matter when the attorney's professional and ethical duty to the Board requires a confidential communication. *The Board entered Closed Session at 7:13 p.m. and reconvened at 7:44 p.m.*

6.1 PERSONNEL (Action)

Consider Employment, Resignations, Reassignments, Transfers, Substitute Teacher List, Extended Leaves, Additional Positions, and Other Personnel Matters

1. CONSIDERATION to Approve Contracts for Campus Principals, Assistant Principals, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Athletic Director

6.2 CONSULTATION with Attorney *{when necessary}* There was no consultation. *{Education Code 25.092}*

7. **RECONVENE**

Open meeting to vote on matters considered in executive/closed session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, to take action necessary regarding any items listed above.

7.1 PERSONNEL (Action)

1. CONSIDERATION to Approve Contracts for Campus Principals, Assistant Principals, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Athletic Director

On motion by Robert Johnson, seconded by Billy Willis, it was moved to renew for one more year the contracts for high school principal Brian Nation, junior high school principal John "Rusty" Duke, elementary principal Brenda Fincher, and athletic director Chris Edwards. Scott Hanes will be offered a one-year term contract for 202 days as an administrator. Michael Thomasson's contract will renew for an additional year with an additional ten days and testing coordinator responsibilities added. Assistant Secondary Principal Ben Scharnberg and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Theresa Jennings have both submitted notices of retirement and therefore, no contract is needed. Motion carried on a 7 to 0 vote.

8. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

{HSISD Policy BE and BJA}

8.1-8.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sarah Dildine advised the Board the enrollment on Friday was 1143, and there are currently 7 students enrolled in virtual classes, six of them in the elementary and one in high school. Once again, HSISD students have advanced to regional, state or international competitions in Power Lifting, One-act Play, and DECA. Students in Health Science have earned CNA certifications and other students have earned certifications in Microsoft. Junior high school cheerleader tryouts are this week. TEA announced that funding will not be based on attendance as it usually is, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

8.8-8.14 Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Jalyn Setser gave the Board the following information as of February 28, 2021.

1. Financial Summary

- a. General Funds
 - i. Revenue - \$7,668,575 (Estimated Revenue - \$13,150,000)
 - ii. Expenditures - \$5,699,779 (Budget - \$13,150,000)
- b. Food Service
 - i. Revenue - \$217,123 (Estimated Revenue - \$442,000)
 - ii. Expenditures - \$226,220 (Budget - \$517,000)

2. Monthly TEA Foundation Payments

- a. Feb 2021 payment - \$462,171
- b. Mar 2021 - \$925,383

3. Tax Collections

- a. Cass County - \$1,889,242 (Levy - \$2,130,000)
- b. Morris County - \$460,635 (Levy - \$669,000)

4. Investment Accounts

- a. Certificates of Deposit (FNB) - \$3,300,000
- b. Lone Star Investment Pool - \$493,000

5. Cash Position

- a. Bank Accounts - \$6,164,000
- b. Investments - \$3,793,000
- c. Total - \$9,957,000

6. Fund Balance as of August 31, 2020 (Audited)

- a. Unassigned - \$3,305,887
- b. Non-spendable for Inventory - \$82,890
- c. Committed for Construction - \$2,500,000
- d. Committed for Capital Expenditures for Equipment - \$850,000
- e. Committed for Self Insurance - \$15,706
- f. Other Committed - \$1,167,000
- g. Total - \$7,921,000

Mrs. Setser advised the Board they could discuss the possibility to raising the micro-purchase threshold for Federal Funds to \$49,999. She also informed them, that even though the district is compliant with the State Comptroller's Property Value Study for 2020, they must be compliant for two successive years.

9. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

9.1 Questions asked of and by Board Members

{HSISD Policy BE}

President Van Hall read thank you notes from Malinda Zamarippa and family and from Scott Hanes and Chris Evans for donations in memory of family members to the Superintendent's Scholarship Fund.

9.2. Adjournment

On motion by Scott Nelson, seconded by Robert Johnson, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7 to 0.

Van J. Hall, President

Robyn Shelton, Secretary

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