

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

December 11, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Van Hall, Presiding

Members Present

Billy Willis Phillip Chapman
DeAnna Putman Matt Golden

Members Absent

Scott Nelson
Robert Johnson

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 Phillip Chapman; Pledge of Allegiance lead by Billy Willis
- 1.3 PUBLIC COMMENT** Staci Killingsworth who is with Linebarger Attorneys at Law, spoke on reasons of why they should remain our delinquent tax attorneys. *{HSISD Policy BED}*

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- 2.1 GODWIN ARCHITECTS** presented to the board a preliminary program of spaces and scope for the Field House/Weight Room project.
- 2.2 MIKE ALLISON** with Red Tree Investments presented a possible investment strategy to the district, as the district would invest funds with a CD aggregator, which connects to over 500 banks nationwide to the highest Cd interest rates for our school.

3. HEARING:

{HSISD Policy BE; BEC; BED};

- 3.1 F.I.R.S.T. Report** (State Financial Accountability Rating) Jalyn Setser gives the explanation for this every year. This is our state financial accountability rating. HSISD is a 100 out of a possible 100. The FIRST report can be found here: District Status Summary (state.tx.us) *{HSISD Policy CCH}*

4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- 4.1 CONSIDERATION to Approve Minutes of Meeting on November 13, 2023**
- 4.2 CONSIDERATION to Approve Budget Amendments (as needed)**

On motion by Billy Willis and seconded by Matt Golden, it was moved to approve the minutes on November 13, 2023, approved by a 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs. We did have two amendments; 1) Reclassifying the PEIMS coordinators salaries from Function 41 (General Admin) to Function 53 (Data Processing) and also moved funds to purchase some new equipment (bars and plates) for the weight room.

. 5. AGENDA ITEMS:

5.1 CONSIDERATION to Approve 1st Semester CCSSA Invoice

On motion by Deanna Putman, seconded by Billy Willis, it was approved to pay our 1st semester fees of \$100,937. This is our Special Education Co-op. Motion carried on a 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs.

5.2 CONSIDERATION to Approve Revisions to Policy CDA (Local)

On motion by Matt Golden, seconded by Deanna Putman, it was moved to approve the CDA (Local) investment policy, there were 2 changes to this policy. 1) Is the maximum allowable maturity of an investment owned by the district, (it was changed from 12 months to 24 months). 2) The change was to the maximum dollar weighted maturity of a pool fund group of the district (it was changed from 180 days to 450 days). Motion carried 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs.

5.3 CONSIDERATION to Approve Resolution-Investment Pool Increase

{HSISD Policy BE}

On motion by Matt Golden, seconded by Deanna Putman, it was moved to approve the resolution. At the March 10, 1997, board meeting, the board had capped the amount of money that could be invested in the Lone Star Investment Pool to \$500,000 the resolution that the board passed on December 11, 2023, changes the cap. We now have a maximum of \$1,000,000 of the General Fund and \$80,000 of the Activity Fund invested in the Lone Star Investment Pool. This change was made to take advantage of the historically high interest rates. The Lone Star Investment Pool is currently paying over 5%. Motion carried on a 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs.

5.4 CONSIDERATION to Approve the Localized Policy Update Policy 122 as Required by Local Policy

{HSISD Policies Education Code 11.201 (d)}

Local Policies: CQB, CSA, DC, DP, EHB, EHBC, EHBCA, EIC, FEA, FFAC, FFB, FL

Legal Policies: AF, AIB, BBB, BBBA, BBBB, BBBC, BBC, BBD, BBI, BE, C, CCA, CDA, CDB, CHE, CJA, CK, CKA, CKC, KE, CKEA, KE, KE, CLA, CLE, CMD, CNA, CNC, CQA, CQB, CQC, CS, CSA, CSB, CSC, CV, DBAA, DBE, DEAA, DEC, DF, DG, DGC, DH, DI, DIA, DL, DLB, DMA, DP, EEB, EF, EFA, EFB, EHAA, EHAB, EHAC, EHB, EHBAA, EHBAB, EHBAD, EHBC, EHBCA, EHBG, EHBK, EHDD, EHDE, EHDF, EI, EIA, EIE, EIF, EKB, F, FA, FD, FDA, FDB, FEA, FEB, FEC, FED, FFAC, FFAF, FFB, FFBA, FFEA, FFG, FL, FM, FNCA, FNCC, FNCD, FNCF, FNCG, FNG, FO, FOC, FOCA, FOD, FODA, GBA, GBAA, GC, GKA, GKC, GKG, GRAC, GRB

On motion by Billy Willis, seconded by Phillip Chapman, it was moved to approve this update for Policy 122. This policy update is very big that came out of the latest legislative session. There are 12 local policies and 109 legal policies. This policy is also 900+ pages. Motion carried 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs.

5.5 CONSIDERATION to Approve Revision of Policy GKG (Local)

{HSISD Policies Education Code 11.201 (d)}

On motion by Billy Willis, seconded by Phillip Chapman, it was moved to approve, this is a new policy that was required because we chose (at the last board meeting) to allow chaplains to serve as volunteers in the district. Motion carried on a 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs.

5.6 CONSIDERTION to Take action to approve a contingent fee contract with Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins and Mott, LLP pursuant to Section 6.30 of the Texas Property Tax Code, said contract being for the collection of delinquent government receivables owed to Hughes Springs ISD and notice of said contract is posted with the agenda in accordance with Section 2254 of the Government Code.

On motion by Phillip Chapman, seconded by Billy Willis, it was moved to approve on hiring a new tax attorney firm. We have had an ongoing relationship with Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, and Mott for around 20 years, as they have always filed our tax value appeals and been remarkably successful at it. We have opted to move to them for all our tax services. They will now also be collecting our delinquent taxes. Motion carried on a 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs.

5.7 CONSIDERATION to Approve Red Tree Investments as Investment Advisor and American Deposit Management LLC as Approved Broker for FDIC insured investments.

On motion by Phillip Chapman, seconded by Matt Golden, it was moved to approve the district is opting to work with Red Tree & American Deposit Management on a CD aggregator for the district. This is to help us take advantage of the historically high interest rates. This strategy is estimated to garner the district around \$64,000 yearly in investment income. Motion carried on a 5 to 0 vote. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs.

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.

There was no closed session.

6.1 **PERSONNEL:** *{HSISD Policy DC}*
Consider Employment, Resignations, Reassignments, Transfers, Substitute Teacher List, Extended Leaves, Additional Positions, and Other Personnel Matters.

6.2 **CONSULTATION** with Attorney {when necessary} *No consultation.* *Gov’t Code §551.071*

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.

1.1 **PERSONNEL (No Action taken in Open Meeting)**

1.2 **CONSULTATION** with Attorney {when necessary}

8. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

{HSISD Policy BE and BJA}

8.1 Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Sarah Dildine gave the Board information on the following subjects:

- Enrollment was 1,116 as of last Friday.
- We just were allotted \$287,506 through the SAFE Grant, we will be applying and using that funding for additional security measures/upgrades, mainly a Silent panic Alert System.
- The district was selected by the state for field testing. That testing will occur in February for 5th and 8th Grades.
- Band Concert is Monday night at 7:00pm.
- DECA contest is January 12, 2024, at Region 8.
- Robotics hosted our first robotics contest here on November 18th, it was a big success. We will host another one January 13. 2024

- The TAPR report will be released by the state this week, but it will not have any accountability data in it due to the ongoing lawsuit over accountability. The SRC (School Report Card) has been delayed, again due to the ongoing lawsuit over accountability.
- Christmas Break Come quick!!!

8.2 BUSINESS Manager's Report as of November 30, 2023

Business Manager Jalyn Setser briefed the board on the current financial report.

1. *Financial Summary*

- a. General Funds
 - i. Revenue - \$3,435,202 (Estimated Revenue - \$14.45 million)
 - ii. Expenditures - \$3,567,047 (Budget - \$14.49 million)
- b. Food Service
 - i. Revenue - \$207,322 (Estimated Revenue - \$652k)
 - ii. Expenditures - \$176,212 (Budget - \$652k)

2. *Monthly TEA Foundation Payments*

- a. Nov 2023 payment – \$1,044,650
- b. Dec 2023 payment - \$1,048,718

3. *Tax Collections (2023 Tax Year)*

- a. Cass County - \$352,282 (2023 Levy – \$1.93 million)
- b. Morris County - \$18,220 (2023 Levy – \$491k)

4. *Investment Accounts*

- a. Certificates of Deposit (THNB) – \$3.84 million
- b. Checking (THNB) - \$0k
- c. Lone Star Investment Pool - \$495k

5. *Cash Position*

- a. Bank Accounts - \$5.371 million
- b. Investments - \$4.335 million
- c. Total - \$9.706 million

6. AUDITED Fund Balance as of August 31, 2023 (UNAUDITED ESTIMATE)

- a. Unassigned - \$5,029,575
- b. Non-spendable for Inventory - \$36,381
- c. Other Restricted - \$0
- d. Committed for Construction - \$2,500,000
- e. Committed for Capital Expenditures for Equipment - \$850,000
- f. Committed for Self-Insurance - \$25,675
- g. Other Committed - \$1,167,000
- h. Total - \$9,608,631

9. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

9.1 Questions asked of and by Board Members

{HSISD Policy BE}

Board was reminded of scheduled board training at Region VIII on December 7.

9.2 Adjournment

On motion by Billy Willis, seconded by Phillip Chapman, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5 to 0. Robert Johnson and Scott Nelson were absent due to their jobs. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Van Hall, President

Phillip Chapman, Secretary

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