

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

January 11, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Van Hall, Presiding

Members Present

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

Members Absent

DeAnna Putman

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 Robert Johnson

1.3 PUBLIC COMMENT *{HSISD Policy BED}*

There was no public comment.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 School Board Appreciation

District principals Brenda Fincher, elementary, John “Rusty” Duke, junior high, and Brian Nation, high school, each presented the board members with gifts and words of appreciation for their dedication to the Hughes Springs schools.

2.2 Cass County Appraisal District Q & A

Byron Terry, local businessman and member of the CCAD Board of Directors, was present for the Zoom meeting with Gary Zeitler and Carla Pope-Osborne, HSISD tax attorneys and Linda Norell, interim chief appraiser for CCAD. They were present at the request of the Board to discuss the fact that HSISD is out of compliance with the State Comptroller’s Property Value Study for our 2019 tax values. HSISD’s local tax values must be within 5% of the State’s value to be considered “valid”. This is important to the community because the district’s state funding is partially driven by local property values. For 2019, two Cass County schools’ values were considered “invalid” – Hughes Springs ISD and Queen City ISD.

Currently, the District is in the first year of the two years of grace that are allowed. It is expected that the 2020 values will be invalid as well. These values are to be released at the end of January 2021.

If the 2021 values are invalid, HSISD will no longer be in the grace period and will need to hire tax attorneys to appeal the values to the State. Had HSISD been penalized for the 2019, over \$330,000 would have been lost in State funding.

Members of the HSISD Board of Trustees spoke to the appraisal district regarding the importance of having the property values correct for 2021. Trustees have no control over the

values; they are set by the appraisal district. The tax value of property in this school district is 85% of that set by the State, meaning that HSISD is 10% short of compliance. The value must be within 5% of the state’s value. The largest gap in value is in the category of Rural Residences at 82.56% of that of the State.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** *{HSISD Policy BE}*

Consent Agenda Items Considered:

3.1 **CONSIDERATION** to Approve Minutes of Meeting on December 14, 2020. *{HSISD Policy BE}*

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

There were no budget amendments.

On motion by Scott Nelson, seconded by Billy Willis, it was moved to approve the consent agenda items. Motion carried on a 6 to 0 vote.

4. **AGENDA ITEMS**

4.1 **CONSIDERATION** to Approve a Waiver from TTESS and TPESS Student Growth Measure for the 2020-2021 School Year. *{HSISD Policy BF}*

On motion by Phillip Chapman, seconded by Robyn Shelton, it was moved to approve the waiver due to the State’s changes made to testing and accountability because of the pandemic. Motion carried on a 6 to 0 vote.

5. **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 6:47 p.m. and Reconvened at 7:08 p.m.**

5.1 **PERSONNEL (Action)**

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

- 1. Superintendent’s Evaluation, Contract and Compensation

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

6. **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.

6.1 PERSONNEL (Action)

On motion by Robert Johnson, seconded by Robyn Shelton, it was moved to extend Superintendent Sarah Dildine's contact one year, for a term of three years commencing on July 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2024. Motion carried on a 6 to 0 vote.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

(HSISD Policy BE and BJA)

7.1-7.7 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sarah Dildine advised the Board the enrollment on Friday was 1142, up ten students from the end of the first semester. There are currently 7 students enrolled in virtual classes, all of them in the elementary.

7.8-7.14 Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Jalyn Setser gave the Board the following information as of December 31, 2020.

1. *Financial Summary*

- a. General Funds
 - i. Revenue - \$4,542,470 (Estimated Revenue - \$13,150,000)
 - ii. Expenditures - \$3,639,936 (Budget - \$13,150,000)
- b. Food Service
 - i. Revenue - \$149,527 (Estimated Revenue - \$442,000)
 - ii. Expenditures - \$158,823 (Budget - \$517,000)

2. *Monthly TEA Foundation Payments*

- a. Dec 2020 payment - \$891,324
- b. Jan 2021 - \$887,723

3. *Tax Collections*

- a. Cass County - \$559,208 (Levy - \$2,130,000)
- b. Morris County - \$177,464 (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 - \$4,981,000
- b. Investments - \$3,793,000
- c. Total - \$8,774,000

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

- a. Unassigned - \$3,305,585
- 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

8. CLOSING ACTIVITIES

8.1 Questions asked of and by Board Members

{HSISD Policy BE}

There were none.

8.2. Adjournment

On motion by Billy Willis, seconded by Scott Nelson, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6 to 0.

Van J. Hall, President

Robyn Shelton, Secretary

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