



Board Highlights

Frisco Independent School District

6942 Maple Street Frisco, Texas 75034

Board Members: Richard Beaver - Cindy DePaolantonio - Laura Ellison - Renee Ehmke - Dan Mossakowski - Buddy Minett - Brenda Polk

*Regular Board Meeting
April 20, 2009*

Recognitions

The board honored powerlifting students with resolutions at the April board meeting. The board honored State Powerlifting Champion Geramy Alexander of Wakeland who took first place in his weight division and other students who competed at state including, Rachel Verich and Pamela Morales of Centennial High School, who each placed third in at state in their weight division; Davidson Venancio of Liberty High School who placed fourth at state in his division; and Wakeland's Sonny Khokhar who placed fourth at state in his division. Superintendent Rick Reedy also praised the coaches and families of these athletes.

Communications to and from the Board

A parent and a student both addressed the board and expressed their support for an at-will employee involved in a level-three appeal hearing.

Consent Agenda

The board considers the following items routine and approved them in one motion. The consent agenda items approved included: tax office reports; budget amendments; payments to vendors, architects, and contractors; award for Preferred Approved Vendor List; purchase of student agenda/planners for 2009-2010 school year; award of fire sprinkler/life safety systems inspections; award of risk management brokerage services; two-year extension of bank depository contract; renewal of contract for secondary student pictures; band instruments for Heritage High School; turf replacement bids for Memorial Stadium; competitive sealed proposal for natatorium scoreboard replacement; purchase of Heritage High School language lab; purchase of cubicles and furniture/fixtures/equipment for Lone Star High School; award for purchase of furniture for libraries and training room; award for purchase of maintenance equipment; contract for summer technology project; contract for document cameras; contract for new projectors; approval of Region 10 services; vendor to supply servers, printers, and computers; vendors to supply networking and administrative software; selection of vendor to supply network equipment; addition to Board Policy FFG (Exhibit); Student Welfare regarding district and county contact information; revision to Board Policy GKD (Local): Nonschool Use of School Facilities regarding election day signage; revision to Board Policy FEC (Local): Attendance regarding non-school trips and vacations; revision to Board Policy EIAB (Local): Grading/Progress Reports to Parents regarding academic penalties for unexcused absences; changes to Board Policy FFAC (Local): Wellness and Health Services regarding district procedures and protocol; n addition to Board Policy FDB (Local): Admissions regarding student transfers; revision to Board Policy DEA (Local): Compensation and Benefits regarding definition of district workweek; award for Career and Technical Education Center legal studies equipment and supplies; recommendation for student data analysis software contracts; Internet-based supplemental reading program for 28 elementary schools and Early Childhood School; shared services agreement with Plano Regional Day School for the Deaf; newly revised evaluation forms for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Executive Director of Technology and Information Services, District Test Coordinator/504 Coordinator, and Special Education Instructional Coach; and for district grant writer to procure scholarships for Frisco ISD students.

Presentation of Overflow Options for Wakeland High School

As all high schools do in FISD in the year prior to a new school opening, Wakeland High School is projected to be over capacity with 2,130 students this fall. Although Lone Star High School is available

for use, there are not enough students in the natural zone for that school to open it for full use at this time. By the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year there will be about 600 students in grades 9-11 and the school will open as Lone Star High School at that time. Karen Kraft, currently associate principal at Frisco High School, has already been named as the principal of Lone Star High School.

In the interim, Dr. Mike Farish, Principal of Wakeland High School, along with Kraft and other Wakeland staff members, have been meeting to formulate a plan to utilize available space at Lone Star for overflow, rather than bringing in several double portables to meet the needs of students. Portables are expensive to construct and lease. In addition, portables do not expand commons space, such as the cafeteria.

The plan presented to the Board at the April board meeting will minimize movement of students and staff to reduce transportation costs. It will also take advantage of available space without opening the entire building, which minimizes utility concerns. The plan also limits the amount of additional personnel needed.

In looking at space needs in an overflow situation, the biggest concerns are for core class sizes, science lab space, athletic needs and lunch room capacity. The current proposal will consider the following and will only involve the 9th grade students:

- All 9th graders will have classes at Wakeland High School and all will be connected to WHS for socialization and campus activities;
- Not all 9th graders will have classes at Lone Star, however, 9th grade athletic periods will be at Lone Star. About 250-300 students per class period will have classes at LSHS.
- Spaces used at Lone Star will consist of at least 12 classrooms (3-4 science labs and 8-10 core classes – ELA, social studies, science, math), athletic areas, the library and cafeteria
- Students shuttling between schools will do so in blocks. Classes will be arranged by morning and afternoon blocks, with students attending for two periods at a time. *For example, a student might have first period athletics and second period English and lunch at Lone Star on an A day, shuttling back to Wakeland for afternoon classes. On the B day they might have athletics and math in the morning, with lunch at Lone Star and then going back to Wakeland for afternoon classes.*
- Consistent scheduling at both sites for 9th graders will prevent loss of opportunity for electives, fine arts, or athletic classes.

The Board approved the concept of the plan and the administrators will continue to refine the program and communicate it to incoming 9th graders as the plan becomes final.

Employee Health Clinic

Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Doug Zambiasi updated the Board on his exploration of a possible Fisd health clinic for district-insured employees and visits made to clinics in Mesquite ISD and the city of Carrollton. Reports indicate that the clinics begin to break even after the first year to 18 months. Savings are realized by reduced claims to the self-funded plan. Due to convenience and the ability to get in and out more quickly for a routine office visit, employees tend to seek health care earlier and more often which can lead to better health, less time away from work and the prevention of more serious health issues. It is estimated that the clinic with one doctor, one nurse and a receptionist would see 32-40 patients a day. The district would provide a clinic site and waiting room furniture.

FISD Budget Report

Dr. Rick Bankston, FISD Director of Finance, addressed the board about his department's continued monitoring of the current state legislative session and bills that will have impact on school financing and

budget planning. Much is speculation at this time, but in building budget and revenue projections, he has been using a 10 percent student growth rate. Although the district can raise the maintenance and operations tax rate by four cents, planning has been using a two cent increase to meet a balanced budget of \$250.3 million, with about \$5 million of that being surplus for consideration of pay increases or fund balance. The goal this year has been to be able to put about \$5 million into the fund balance to bring it to \$48 million. It is recommended to have at least three months of operating funds in the fund balance, which would be \$55-60 million.

The staff and board are hoping to minimize tax increases to the community, if possible, in the current economic climate. Original personnel requests for next year were at 393 units, with 306 of those being approved and 87 being removed or denied. New personnel costs are at \$12.95 million. This year's budget projections are lean compared to previous years at a projected 5 percent increase in spending without any pay raise considerations. The district has received a very preliminary projection from the Denton and Collin County Appraisal Districts regarding taxable values, which have come up slightly and still show a relatively healthy increase compared to the rest of the county.

Elementary Laptops

Melissa Fouche, FISD Executive Director for Technology and Information Services, reported to the board regarding the district's plan to prepare for online testing in 2012. This coming year will be a big year for campus computer replacements, with 11 elementary schools being ready for the five-year replacement. In extensive meetings between Curriculum and Instruction and the Technology departments and also with the Board in a subcommittee meeting, the staff is proposing to change the standard to place three laptops in the back of the elementary classrooms rather than desktops. Besides changing this standard, the staff is also recommending these be Apple laptops for their ability to work into the curriculum and within education as we look at our 21st century learners. Leveraging off of the replacement schedule will allow the district to have 108-114 laptops available at the elementary campuses, which will allow for more mobile learning and on-line testing. Training for teachers will be imperative. The Board asked for feedback in making sure that this change makes a difference in learning.

Construction Reports

Richard Wilkinson, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Finance, reported that the Agricultural Project Center (Ag barn) is in need of improvements because of health and safety concerns. Even though Frisco has become more suburban students are still interested in Agricultural science classes and having show animals. Dr. Rick Reedy expressed his belief that Frisco needs to continue to support these classes, and Dr. Wes Cunningham, principal of the Career and Technical Education Center and coordinator of these programs, stated that he cannot say enough about what the programs provide regarding career exploration, leadership building and nurturing of responsibility. The program is growing in interest with 876 students enrolled this past year and 1,200 for this next year. Not all have projects, but with more space, that aspect would grow as well. Mr. Wilkinson stated that upgrades/expansion can be done in phases; to fully complete the cost is at \$790,000, which would bring the facility up to the standard and quality of what we expect to provide for all of our programs.

The Board also approved a plan for retrofitting lighting in several schools. The Buy Board pricing is much better than what was received previously. Based on utility savings, the district will get its money back within 1.5 years and will have better quality lighting. This also contributes toward the state reduction plan. They also approved the competitive sealed bid to extend Overhill Drive near Pink Elementary which will improve safety and circulation at the school.

Band/Color Guard physical requirement discussion

Rick Burnett, Executive Director of Student Services, reported back to the board concerning a question that had been raised by board members about requiring band and color guard students to undergo physicals prior to the beginning of summer practices their 9th and 11th grade years. UIL requires physicals for athletics. FISD requires physicals for those who want to try out for cheerleading and drill team.

Burnett stated that staff research has not produced any board policy in the state regarding this requirement and that no districts in our comparison group require such. Some Board members expressed concern about the fact that many students begin the band program in 9th grade without any prior background in strenuous physical activity in extreme heat. Staff will continue to research this issue and also consider organizing a physical day if the district decides to make this a requirement. Some Board members expressed concern for an additional cost to parents.

Instructional Team Reports

Dr. Debra Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, reported that the district will be piloting two courses, English IV and Geometry, during secondary summer school. These two courses were selected so that we may compare the online curriculum with the traditional FISD curriculum and also monitor the ease of working with the online teaching staff from the company. Karen Kraft, summer school principal, is working with high school counselors to identify students who may desire the online teaching environment as opposed to the traditional classroom setting. She is also monitoring legislative bills that will impact the state accountability system and changes that may occur to state graduation requirements.

Mr. Wilkinson provided a site and floor plan for Purefoy Elementary and stated that dirt should be moving this week. He also reported that 25 portable buildings will be used in the district this year, compared to 20 last year.

Mr. Zambiasi reported that his department is watching for increases that may occur in transportation allotments to school districts (there has been no increase in the per mile reimbursement amount for 20 years) and a bill that could eliminate the requirement for two annual bus evacuation drills.

The board approved the list of resignations and new hires presented by Dr. Linda Bass, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. She also announced that the district will celebrate its annual employee pin ceremony on May 4 at RoughRiders Stadium. Employees are encouraged to wear spirit shirts and jeans, no shorts.

Shana McKay Wortham, Director of Communications, reported that Kindergarten Roundup had been held. So far 2,500 kindergarten students have been enrolled for next year.

Dr. Reedy reported about two successful visits by state officials to the Career and Technical Education Center, one from Senator Florence Shapiro and another by the Texas Secretary of State. He also commented that he is watching several legislative bills closely as well as the state's plans for economic stimulus funds.

The board adjourned to hear a Level Three Grievance Appeal. Following a closed session to hear that appeal as is allowed by the Texas Government Code for personnel matters, the board returned to open session and voted to deny the appeal.

Next Meeting – May 18