



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

7:30 p.m., February 11, 2008 - Regular Meeting of the Board

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the Board members hosted a reception to honor the dedication of the 100 crossing guards in FISD. Due to their commitment (no matter the weather) students are assisted in getting to and from school safely each day and their day is made better by the care of these willing workers.



Recognition

The Board and Administration recognized the outstanding accomplishments of two students who have been placed in the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band. This is the highest honor achieved by band students in the state, and places them among the top one percent of all band students. Senior Devin McDaniel (alto saxophone) of Centennial High School was honored along with his band director Tim Linley. Freshman Jung Choi (clarinet) of Frisco High was honored along with his band director Ken Ringel.

Consent Agenda

These items are considered to be routine by the board and were approved under one motion: tax office reports; budget amendment; payments to vendors, architects and contractors, preferred approved vendor list; deductive change order for Frisco High School and Griffin and Roach Middle School for controlled access system; landscape maintenance contract for 2008-2009 school year; digital marquee bids for elementary schools; surveillance system and card access system contract; recommendation for award of roofing contractor services through Northwest ISD using EPCNT purchasing cooperative; recommendation for award of audio visual equipment through Rockwall ISD using EPCNT purchasing cooperative; recommendation of award for purchase of furniture, equipment and supplies for Career and Technical Education Center; recommendation of award for purchase of furniture, equipment, and supplies for FISD Transportation Center West; recommendation of award for purchase of furniture, equipment, and supplies for FISD Sam Carter Service Center Annex; recommendation for award of the district furniture contract renewal; district representative for Lone Star Investment Pool; energy management resolution and energy conservation guidelines; staff development waiver; purchase of five, 77-passenger buses; selection of vendor to supply network equipment; telecommunications installation; Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) consultant; approval of credit recovery software; Board Local Policy CBA State and Federal Sources and CFB (local) Accounting Inventories; Board Local Policy Update 82; maximum class size waiver request (This waiver request for the spring semester is for 18 out of 667 sections that exceed 22:1. The two schools opening in the fall will relieve the campuses that exceeded the 22:1 ratio.)

Issues related to the May 10 Board of Trustees Election

Annually at the meeting at which the call for election of board members is scheduled, the board president reviews the training credits for all current board members. Mr. Minett announced all Frisco ISD board members currently meet or exceed training requirements. The Board approved resolutions regarding voting changes, the Order of Election and the joint election contract and agreement with the City of Frisco, City of Plano, Plano ISD, and CCCCD, along with cost estimates. Mrs. Keri Miller, assistant to the Superintendent and Board, reviewed the information and utilized maps to illustrate the voting precincts and polling places. Voting changes outlined in the resolution include software upgrades to voting equipment by the Collin County Elections Administration, additions and revisions to early voting sites in the City of Plano, expansion of voting sites into the City of McKinney, and realignment and splitting of voting precincts in Denton County. All of these changes are made to ensure continued improvement of the voting process.

Presentation by District Truancy Specialists

Specialists Gary Brazil and Jody Lyons gave a presentation on their work this year in reducing truancy. This is the first year for a formal program; previously the assistant principal was responsible for following up on truancy concerns. Their efforts are aimed at increasing attendance to improve academic performance and student success; re-empowering parents through intervention, and also assisting with reducing opportunity for delinquency and improving funding

potential. Truancy can be an indicator of issues related to the home environment, substance abuse, crime and/or lack of academic progress which can lead a student to believe dropping out is easier than catching up. The truancy officers are working with the campuses to develop consistent communications and strategies. At the elementary level, they have organized attendance committee meetings to examine the most efficient procedures for attendance issues. At the secondary level they are planning an end-of-year review of guidelines and procedures. One pilot program being started is through Liberty High School, to court order truant students to peer tutoring with the National Honor Society students. The hope is to reconnect the students with peers and the school. Currently the truancy officers work within three courts – Collin County JP court, Denton County JP court and Frisco Municipal Court in order to help with caseloads and speed the process. This year they have filed 9 elementary cases, 12 middle school cases and 109 high school. They have made 121 home visits/interventions. Interventions at the school level include conferences, phone calls, home visits, tutorials, detentions, Saturday Schools, counseling, scheduling changes and attendance contracts. The officers stated that many parents are relieved to understand the law and their rights and to have some assistance and regaining control of situation. Truancy can be situational or generational and their goal is to break the cycle.

Discussion of Administrative Guidelines for Student Transfers

The Board discussed the need to revisit the guidelines that allow for the automatic approval of students to complete the fifth grade at a school after an area has been rezoned to another school. This practice causes confusion in people assuming that there is a similar rule for 8th graders. There has been a guideline that allows a 7th grade transfer student to remain as an 8th grader at an out of zone school, which will be removed. The guidelines are normally not necessary due to the fact that when a new school opens, it normally leaves the previously overcrowded school below 90 percent capacity so that many transfer requests can be allowed. Students who have completed the 11th grade at a high school and move their senior year are allowed to finish the 12th grade at the same high school. There are no other high school transfers except for extenuating circumstances. The Board would like more information regarding numbers of 5th grade students who seek transfer to stay at a school compared to the number that could reasonably be expected to be granted under the 90 percent rule. The item will be on the agenda for discussion again at a later meeting. Any changes would not impact the 2008-2009 school year.

Naming of Elementary School #28 on Legacy Drive south of Main Street

The Board Subcommittee for Facility Naming met and discussed considerations for the name of Elementary #28. As FISSD has named many schools in the last 10 years, there has been a mix of naming schools for early pioneers who influenced education and progress in the area with more modern day leaders who have impacted FISSD students through teaching and volunteer efforts. The Board approved the naming of the new school to open in 2009 for William and Abbie Allen, early pioneers of education, whose legacy lived on through the work of students and the funds they left to better the world through education.

William Harrison Allen was born in Kentucky on March 18, 1834, and came to Texas as fast as he could by way of Kansas in 1855. A well-educated young man, he had dreams of becoming a landowner and speculator in Texas – but it turned out that an education in literature and science had not protected him from being the victim of a land fraud scheme, as the government issued certificates were apparently easy to counterfeit.

After this set back, he resolved to turn to teaching to improve his finances and to help bring about an intellectual and moral change in Texas. Area historians believe Allen's first school in a one-room, clapboard courthouse was probably located in what is now Gainesville in the Cross Timbers Region. While teaching, he also studied law and considered a future in politics – eventually deciding to become a Methodist Episcopal Church minister, receiving his license to minister in 1860. He preached in Blank Station, Texas, near Sabine Pass in 1862 and from there went to war. After the Civil War, Allen became a circuit-riding preacher. He began to amass his fortune buying land and cattle and continued teaching, eventually establishing Allen Academy in the Bethel area in the 1870s. In 1882 the school was sold to Bethel Methodist Church.

Allen and his wife, Abbie Mayes of McKinney, did not have children of their own, but many of the students boarded with the Allens. Persons of note who attended what was commonly called "Uncle Billy's School" were Dr. I.S. Rogers, Dow Bacchus, and members of the Clark family.

Allen was renowned for his scholarly work. He authored three books during his lifetime and successfully ran for state senate. (An interesting note - The community of Erudia, that was located in the northern area of present day Frisco on the Collin/Denton county line and was home to another early school, was named for a character in one of his books.)

Allen died in 1908, and his will stipulated that upon the death of his wife, his estate should be used to fund the education of poor students at Southwestern University. The Allen Memorial student endowment is still in existence today. In addition, Abbie left a significant sum to Southern Methodist University to be used for professors' salaries, although that fund is no longer in existence.

Construction Issues

Richard Wilkinson, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Finance, stated that progress has been made at Scoggins, Stafford and the CTE and that the district staff has confidence that the timelines for completion will be met. In addition, he stated that the bid for Allen Elementary has come in over budget under the Construction Manager At-Risk delivery method and he would like to re-bid under competitive sealed proposal which is the district's preferred method except under extenuating circumstances. The additional circulation needed, the unique site and the additional square footage created with a two-story design can account for some overage in cost estimates, but Mr. Wilkinson was not comfortable with pricing that came to nearly \$4 million over budget without a re-bid.

The Board also approved the purchase of a 30 acre site to accommodate a future elementary and middle school in the Lawler Tract. The site is south of Jereme Road extended (CR 68) and east of Coit.

Personnel Recommendations

The Board approved the hiring of four principals to open two new elementary schools and two middle schools this fall. The following educators were selected from an outstanding pool of candidates to lead in the opening of these new schools.

Robin Scott, currently principal of the Acker Special Programs School, has been named as principal of Stafford Middle School. An educator for 13 years, Scott joined FISD in 2002 as an assistant principal at Staley Middle School. Prior to 2002 she worked in Plano ISD as an administrator, an Academic Specialist and a Special Education teacher. Her bachelor's degree is from TCU and her master's is from TWU.

Barbara Warner, currently an assistant principal at Staley Middle School, will be the principal at Scoggins Middle School. Warner joined FISD in 2005 as a literature teacher. Her previous teaching experience was in the Dallas ISD as a high school English and ESL educator. Her principal internship was at an elementary school. Warner's bachelor's degree is from Ball State and her master's degree is from TWU.

Susan Murphy has been named principal of Elliott Elementary School. A veteran educator of 24 years, she is currently assistant principal at Christie Elementary. Murphy has worked in FISD for 10 years, eight of those as an elementary teacher and an Accelerated Reading/Math Facilitator and Instructional Specialist. She also was the elementary summer school principal for two years. Her bachelor's degree is from East Central University, Oklahoma; her master's is from University of Houston/Clear Lake.

Kellie Rapp has been named principal of Tadlock Elementary School. Rapp is currently assistant principal at Smith Elementary School and also held this position at Rogers Elementary. An educator for 14 years, Rapp taught in Keller ISD prior to joining FISD in 1998 as music teacher at Rogers. In addition, she was instrumental in forming the All-City choir in 1999 and was the principal for the 2007 Elementary Summer School. Her bachelor's and master's degrees are from the University of North Texas.

The Board also approved the contract extensions of the Assistant Superintendents and Assistants, Executive Directors, Directors, and Principals. They also extended the Superintendent's contract and gave him a 6.5% raise.

The Board heard a level three grievance appeal from a former employee and voted to uphold the level two findings.