



# 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

## **July 28 and August 11, 2008, FISD Board Meetings**

### ***Facility Tour***

The FISD Board of Trustees toured the new Career and Technical Center in July. The \$33 million new facility will open August 25 and house secondary level career training classes that will prepare students for specific careers after high school.

### ***Regular Meeting***

The FISD School Board approved a rather extensive consent agenda that included these items: approval of tax reports; payment to vendors, architects and contractors; the Preferred Approved Vendor List; Student UIL, Athletic and Catastrophic Insurance; extension of library supply contract, approval of trained appraisers for PDAS; temporary middle school transportation for Griffin Middle School; recommendation of window cleaning proposal; copy paper contract, approval of local policy update 83; the district-level planning and decision making process; board policies pertaining to complaints; an agreement for irrigation controls; approval of reading acceleration licenses; purchase of transportation items such as fuel, bus parts, tires, and repairs services; Board subcommittee assignments; canine detections contract; student code of conduct; approval of unit prices for HVAC controls; construction financial auditor for Lone Star High School; workers compensation insurance; agreement to waive 60-day notice for Town of Little Elm Tax Increment Refinance Zone public notice; act on expedited TEA waiver request for early release days for high school students during semester exams.

### ***July Board Recognition***

Randy Spain, principal of Centennial High School, and Jim Kazanski, former assistant principal of Staley Middle School, were recognized for being named as Outstanding Principal and Assistant Principal in Region 10, an honor given by their peers in the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

### ***Curriculum Presentation***

Dr. Debra Nelson presented information on the online curriculum resource project and the tasks that remained to bring it to completion. The program, which has been a major effort on the part of the Curriculum Department and the faculty who have been actively working on it, will increase the rigor in the subjects of math and science by providing teachers with on-line teaching plans that will coordinate the teaching efforts of the entire district. This project has a wide-reaching scope that will assist every teacher and improve the efforts to reach every student on an individual level. (*see powerpoint*)

### ***Frisco Economic Development Corporation***

Richard Beaver was elected as the board representative on the FEDC.

## **August Regular Board Meeting**

***Reception:***

The Frisco Board of Trustees honored the new administrators for 2008-2009 at a reception prior to the August 11 monthly board meeting.

***Regular Meeting***

The August meeting of the Frisco school board was a night for good news. The meeting kicked off with congratulations from Dr. Rick Reedy to the board for being selected as the Region 10 representative for the 2008 TASA Outstanding School Board recognition program. The board is now a candidate for consideration as one of the five honor boards that will be announced at the TASA/TASB Joint Convention in September.

Reedy noted that Region 10 is one of the largest of the state education support service regions (with more than 80 school districts) and that to be selected to represent it is a great honor. Communications Director Shana Wortham also added her congratulations adding that the recognition for the work the board does is long overdue.

“This is a great honor and our Board is very deserving of this recognition,” Dr. Reedy said. “They deal with many issues, not the least being rapid growth, but their primary focus is always on ways to improve learning, increase opportunities and foster individual student success.”

***Communications to the Board***

Jeremy Starritt, Environmental Services Coordinator for the City of Frisco, presented FISD with the Environmental Leadership Award for Recycling and Waste Minimization Award from the Recycling Alliance of Greater DFW. The honor was recently awarded to Frisco and the school district for their partnership and leadership in recycling. Starritt praised the district and board for being forward-thinking. He noted that FISD is the first school district in the nation to collect non-rechargeable batteries. The city works closely with the PTA Council, Diane Miller of FISD, and campus environmental coordinators.

***Consent Agenda***

The Board approved a consent agenda that included items such as the tax office reports; the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll; payments to district vendors, architects, and contractors; preferred approved vendor list and extension of contracts; a budget amendment; renewal of professional services contract for assistant supervisor for construction services and consultant for student services; a service and maintenance agreement for security cameras; newly trained appraisers for PDAS (Professional Development and Appraisal System); FISD board representation at 2008 TASB Delegate Assembly; update to Board Policy FO Student Discipline; award for time and attendance keeping system; temporary middle school transportation for Stafford; card access proposal for existing middle schools; and an agreement for education of nonresident students.

***Title I Public Hearing***

Mia Bennett, Director of Special Programs, presented the overall planning budget for Title I student programs. The overall budget is \$182,694. There are five FISD schools designated as Title I campuses.

***Accountability Results***

Dr. Debra Nelson, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, announced that FISD is once again a Recognized District. Without detracting from this achievement, Nelson also presented initiatives and programs that are being put in place to address cohort groups and improve areas where there are gaps in achievement.

Nelson explained that the district will continue to work on improving math and science scores. "We've improved but we are not where we need to be," Nelson observed. New programs such as the Curriculum Resource Guide, increased staff development and individualized mentoring of students should help improve scores in the future, according to Nelson and Katie Kordel, the Director of Secondary Instruction.

Nelson also pointed out that the state's accountability rating system is flawed due to the fact that it does not address improvement by cohort student groups over time.

### ***Parent Involvement Plan for District High Schools***

Communications Director Shana Wortham addressed the board about plans for increasing parent involvement and communication at the high school level. Principals at the high schools currently use a variety of ways to keep parents informed including the district and campus websites, the marquees, the school messenger service, the home access center, the family connection program and the school newsletters. FISD is working to expand the current Constant Contact e-mail list management service for parents who prefer e-mail. Each campus will have their own account to allow each school to manage email communications with parents and the community. Parents may sign up for general e-mails or for specific groups that are specific to their student. Campus surveys of parents by secondary schools have indicated that e-mail is the preferred method of communication. The Communications Department has also been working to improve the interactive electronic calendar system at both the District and Campus level. Each high school will have a staff person dedicated to updating the calendar daily, Wortham explained. Campuses are also developing additional parent volunteer venues. Dr. Reedy asked the board to report to the Communications department if they or other parents notice calendar issues or other communication problems.

### ***Construction Reports***

Board members had several questions about current construction. Heavy rains and other problems have caused delays in construction this year. Assistant Superintendent Richard Wilkinson reported that Elliott, Tadlock, Scoggins, Stafford and the Career and Technical Education Center campuses will be ready for occupancy in time for school to start, though there are issues with the track at Stafford and the West Transportation Service Center parking lot is delayed.

### ***Memorial Scoreboard***

The Board voted to pay \$550,000 up front for the installation of a new scoreboard at Memorial Stadium. The scoreboard has already had a portion of its cost (\$200,000) accepted by sponsors and a marketing firm working with the District says that once the scoreboard is up and visible it will be able to find other sponsors that will make up the cost to the district over the next few years. Board members agreed that it will be easier to secure sponsors with an existing scoreboard.

### ***Instructional Support Team Reports***

**Curriculum and Instruction:**

Debra Nelson reminded the board of the Meet the Teacher and Curriculum Nights planned for the fall and also announced that the writers of the math and science electronic binder project will be honored on August 21 at 5:30 p.m. prior to the special school board meeting.

**Facilities and Planning:**

Richard Wilkinson reported that a public meeting on Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) report is set for September 8. The district has a 100% Superior rating but is hoping for a final report on its rating in September.

**Administrative Services:**

Assistant Superintendent Doug Zambiasi reported that the district is working on its next phase of the security program; card reader access systems have been installed in new construction and older campuses will be retrofitted in the coming months.

**Human Resources:**

Assistant Superintendent Linda Bass reported staffing is going well and that the Beginning Teachers Academy was serving 151 first-year teachers.

**Technology:**

Executive Director for Technology and Information Services Melissa Fouche reported that she is investigating wireless technology in preparation for the day that on-line testing becomes reality. Fouche said the district would want to be proactive rather than reactive to on-line testing.

**Communications:**

Wortham announced September 14 the dedication dates for as Elliott Elementary and Tadlock Elementary and September 21 as the date for Scoggins and Stafford Middle Schools dedication ceremonies.

***July and August Administrative Hires******New Associate Principals in Frisco ISD***

*David Alexander* who has degrees from Stephen F. Austin University and Texas A&M University at Commerce, will be the Co-Associate Principal at Centennial. He has been assistant principal at Centennial. He joined the district in 2005 and has 17 years of experience.

*Tony Farmer*, who has degrees from East Central University of Oklahoma and Texas State University, will serve as Co-Associate Principal at Centennial. He joined FISD in 2006 and has been an assistant principal at Centennial. He has 23 years of experience.

*Karen Kraft*, who has degrees from the University of North Texas, will serve as Associate Principal at Frisco High School. Kraft has been an assistant principal at Frisco High School. She joined FISD in 2002 and has 21 years of experience.

*John Burdett*, who had degrees from Auburn University, will be Associate Principal at Liberty High School. He has been an assistant principal at Liberty and joined FISD in 2006. He has 13 years of experience.

*Jerry Littlejohn*, who has degrees from Centenary College and the University of North Texas, will be Associate Principal at Wakeland High School. Littlejohn has been assistant principal at Wakeland. He joined the district in 1992 and has 19 years of experience.

***New Assistant Principals in Frisco ISD***

*Sherry Crawford*, who has degrees from Grambling State University and the University of Texas at Arlington and 18 years of experience, will be an Assistant Principal at Wakeland.

*Howard Hughes*, who has degrees from the University of North Texas and University of Phoenix, Irving, and six years of experience, will be a new Assistant Principal at Wakeland High School.

*Alicia Maphies*, who has degrees from Michigan State University, California State University and the University of North Texas and eight years of experience, will be an Assistant Principal at Centennial High School.

*Matt Sears*, degrees at the University of Texas Permian Basin and Sul Ross State University and nine years of experience, will be an Assistant Principal at Griffin Middle School.

*Phyllis Marshall*, who has degrees from Winston-Salem University and Tarleton State University and eight years of experience, will serve as an elementary assistant principal.

*Nancy Small*, degrees from Oklahoma State University and Tulsa University, will be Coordinator of eFinance.

*Charlotte Caskey*, who has degrees from Louisiana State University, and Texas A&M University at Commerce, will be the Advanced Academic Coordinator for FISD. She has 10 years of experience.