



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 Meeting

March 9, 2009

7:30 p.m.

FISD Board Room

Board Presentations

Prior to the regular board meeting, the board honored the coaches, team members and families of Academic Decathlon, Swimming and Diving and Wrestling state qualifiers at a reception at the Maple Street Complex. All four high schools sent students to compete at the state level. Liberty High School won the medium school state Academic Decathlon title this year. FHS Coach and Academic Decathlon program Coordinator Scott Greenwood was honored as Academic Coach of the Year by the Academic Decathlon Board. *See resolutions for details on accomplishments.*

Communications to and from the Board

Board member Brenda Polk informed the board that she acquired a superintendent evaluation tool at a recent board education event. The board has been talking about the need for a better evaluation tool for some time. President Dan Mossakowski thanked Polk for her efforts. The board will proceed with establishing a subcommittee to address the issue.

Two parents spoke to the Board, one regarding transportation issues and one regarding foreign language options.

Consent Agenda

The following items are considered routine by the board and were approved in one motion: tax office reports; budget amendments; payments to vendors, architects, and contractors; preferred Approved Vendor list; deductive change order for Scoggins Middle School; deductive change order for surveillance system; proposal to screen and recoat all secondary gym floors; approval of interlocal agreement with purchasing cooperative for Child Nutrition for USDA commodity processing; award for PSAT/SAT prep classes for FISD students; award for band uniforms for Frisco and Heritage High School; renewal of school finance consulting services contract; award for purchase of furniture, fixtures and equipment for Early Childhood School; award for purchase of furniture, fixtures, equipment, and curriculum supplies for Heritage High School; award for purchase of furniture, fixtures, and equipment for Lone Star High School; land exchange with Prosper ISD ([to align boundaries – no students living in area](#)); policy on non-school use of school facilities regarding election day signage; revision of board policy FEC (local) on attendance regarding family trips and vacations; revision to Board Policy EIAB (local) grading/Progress Reports to Parents regarding academic penalties for unexcused absences; evaluation form for District Testing Coordinator/504 Coordinator; evaluation form for District Testing Coordinator/504 Coordinator; newly revised evaluation form for Executive Director of Technology and Information Services; purchase of software for directory services migration; act on resolution for schools and libraries universal services (e-rate) for 2009-2020; consultation for services for file/print migration; purchase of antivirus software for 2009-2020 school year.

Joint City/District Situational Awareness for Emergency Response

Assistant Superintendent Doug Zambiasi and Curt Balogh, a representative of the City of Frisco, updated the board on the SAFER project, a joint situational awareness for emergency response effort. This project combines the talents and services of the city and the school district to respond in the case of a major emergency. Zambiasi and other FISD professionals are meeting regularly with city emergency personnel to develop SAFER protocol. The board praised the project which includes a comprehensive GIS system of the Frisco School District, video streaming of floor plans and computer aided dispatch with a mapping program. This will allow school officials and emergency teams to communicate and respond quickly and efficiently in case of an emergency situation. The program will now work on geocom software installation, policy and procedures, training and a joint planning for a full system test. The school board responded very positively and praised the effort. Once the project is up and working, the district will discuss possible efforts for FISD campuses in neighboring communities that are served by the Plano, McKinney and Little Elm emergency services.

Audit Consultant report

A report was presented by a representative of independent consultant from Weaver and Tidwell. The district has used an independent, outside consultant to enhance internal financial and asset protection controls. Weaver and Tidwell brought another in a series of reports designed to advise the board on ways to improve the business office and accounting functions. The audit has identified areas of potential risk in the district and recommended changes in protocol, many of which have already been put into place. The audit is ongoing and still has areas to evaluate. The FISD board of trustees asked for the independent audit following issues of abuse in other Texas school districts.

Budget Report

Dr. Rick Bankston presented the preliminary budget, which is still in developmental stages. This month the budget was presented after personnel requests by campus principals and other administrators had been reviewed and revamped. Frisco is in a unique situation in that the community is still experiencing growth – though it is mostly commercial construction. Dr. Bankston provided a series of slides to show the board several possible scenarios that could be implemented once the final reports are available from the Collin and Denton County Appraisal Districts. The slides showed percentage of increases in budget areas and revenue increases based on a range of student growth from 8-11 percent.

Student Residency and Campus Eligibility

Assistant Superintendent Doug Zambiasi asked the board to consider adopting formal policy that would make the requirements for campus assignment based on residency more enforceable. The new policy allow a student to live with someone other than a parent, but they would have to attend the school in the zone where one of their parents resided. The board discussed the issue at length regarding extenuating circumstances. The topic will be on the agenda for consideration and action next month.

Construction

SHW architect Trey Laird continued to discuss design of a proposed administration building with board, particularly the front elevation. The board approved summer projects to be let in competitive sealed bids.

Personnel

Teresa Wilkinson, current principal at Anderson Elementary School, has been named as the principal of the new Allen Elementary. Wilkinson joined Frisco ISD in 1998 as a teacher at Smith Elementary. She became Assistant Principal at Anderson in 2004 and principal in 2006. Wilkinson's degrees are from the University of North Texas; she has been an educator since 1986.

Karen Fischer, currently a special education coordinator for FISSD, has been named principal for the new Early Childhood School. Fischer joined FISSD in 2006, coming from Coppell ISD where she held the same position. She has been a diagnostician and a special education teacher. Her degrees are from the University of North Texas and Southeast Missouri State. She began her education career in 1985.

The district will reopen the elementary principal vacancy posting to fill the Anderson Elementary Principal position as soon as possible.

The board also accepted resignations and approved contract extensions for assistant principals, coordinators, specialists, teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses. The board also voted to terminate a probationary contract of an employee. The issue had been discussed in an earlier posted closed session in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.072 real property and 551.074 personnel matters.

Instructional support team reports

Dr. Debra Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, informed the Board that TEA changes in the English/Language TEKS will result in a need for extensive curriculum realignment in June. Math and Science teachers will also be busy in the summer continuing the work on CBA and the electronic resource guides. Teachers will be paid an hourly rate for the work and Nelson says she hopes to use fewer teachers than past years.

Rick Burnett, Executive Director of Human Services, announced that the SOC center will be increasing its classroom needs by converting non-classroom space into classrooms, in order to meet the needs of the program. If the new administration building is delayed because of the economy, the SOC space issues will need to be addressed in creative ways, including the consideration of flex scheduling.

Melissa Fouche, Executive Director for Technology and Information Services, informed the board that the Technology Department has had discussions with Curriculum and Communications and is investigating student email accounts for secondary students provided by a free service that would also allow collaborative space on the internet for projects and interactive learning.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2009