



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, October 13, 2008 - Board Room on Maple Street

Recognition

The board recognized the *Transportation Department* for its efforts to assist in the evacuation of Hurricane Ike victims. Transportation Director Karen Sadler noted that her department had been training for emergency situations such as this and that she was proud of the many volunteers who answered the call for evacuation drivers. Superintendent Rick Reedy noted that the drivers were “true heroes” because of their willingness to rush into the storm as others were rushing out.

Anderson Principal Teresa Wilkinson was joined by several staff members as well as a representative of Anderson PTA as the board of trustees recognized the campus for its Blue Ribbon designation. Reedy noted that this honor is very difficult to achieve and that teamwork between teachers, students and parents plays a major part in every school’s success.

Elliott Principal Susan Murphy introduced elementary science teacher and graduate of Frisco High School, *Nancy King Gardner*, who has been named the 2008 Elementary Science Teacher of the Year for Texas. Murphy noted that Gardner is an excellent resource for students and other teachers.

The *Frisco School Board* received a plaque noting its designation as the Outstanding School Board in Texas by the Texas Association of School Administrators. They also received individual commemorative plaques from Dr. Johnny Veselka, Executive Director of TASA. Veselka praised the board for its hard work and noted that the board had been selected out of a group of finalist that included Grapevine-Colleyville, Bellville, Pasadena, and Rio Grande City. Buddy Minett, who served as board president during time period of the nomination, accepted the award for the board.

Communications to and from the Board

Jerry Holder of the Economic Development Corporation made a presentation to Dan Mossakowski thanking him for serving on the EDC. Mossakowski, who is the current board president, is stepping down and Richard Beaver is taking his place on the EDC. The school board has a permanent position on the EDC.

Myra Diaz of the Frisco Public Library brought a group of young storytellers to the board to thank them for their support of the Lone Star Storytelling Festival, which will be held in Frisco this month. Kyle Kibby told an ancient Chinese folk tale to the board.

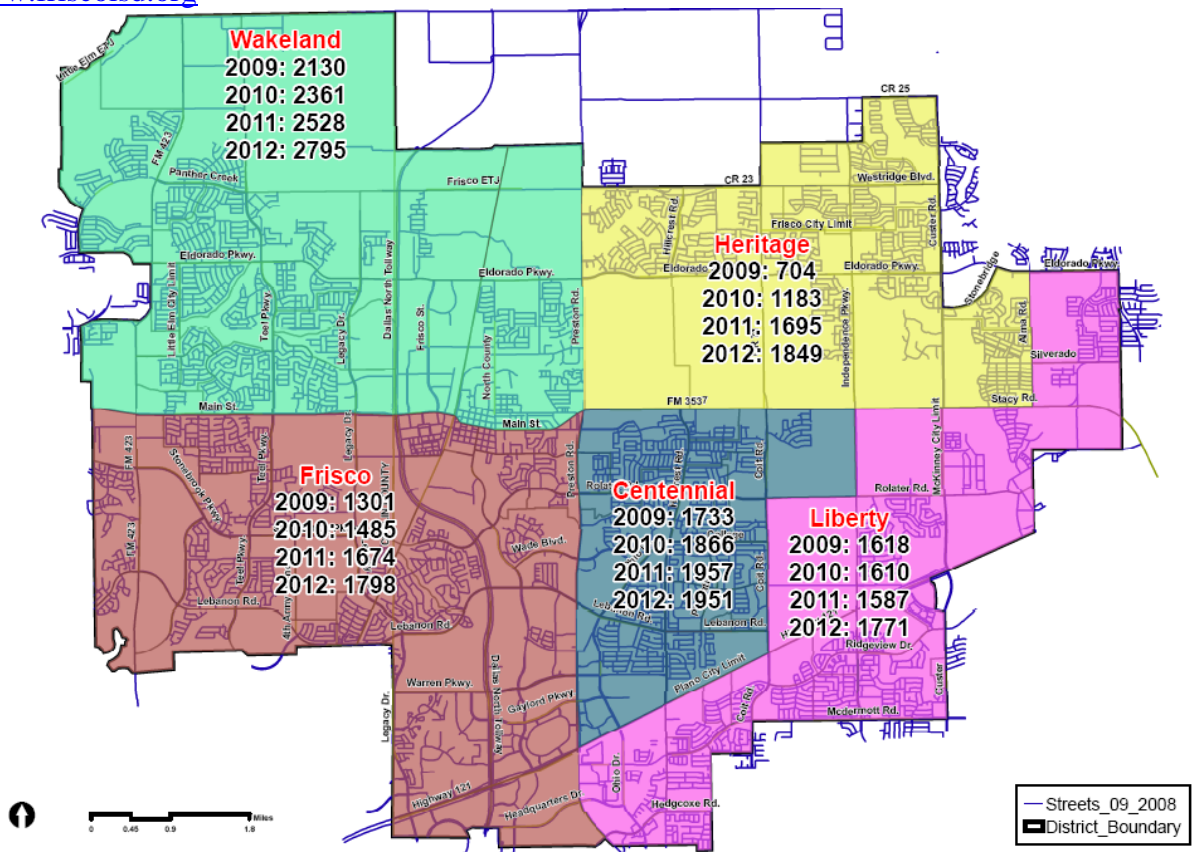
Consent Agenda

Following the presentations to the board, the board approved the consent agenda for October. The items are considered to be routine by the board and were approved under one motion: tax office reports; tax roll for 2008 tax year; payments to vendors; architects and contractors; recommendations for Preferred Approved Vendor List; approval of background check services for school year; new trained appraisers for PDAS for school year; maximum class size waiver; vending machine service contract award; purchase of rye grass seed for high school athletic fields; maintenance fee for construction software; designation of fund balance; closed circuit

television and card access for Early Childhood School; Change Order #1 for kitchen equipment for Early Childhood School; recommendation to approve sale of auction items; act on vendor for maintenance and extensions for wide area network; approval to purchase buses and multi-purpose vehicles for 2009-2010; and approval of textbook waiver.

Preliminary Zoning for Heritage High School, other zoning issues

Kris Poole, the District’s outside demographer, and the district in-house demographics team, presented a proposed zoning boundary for Heritage High School, which will open next year. The Board will take input on the Heritage High School proposal until making its final decision in December. For questions or input contact internal demographer Dennis Brent at brentd@friscoisd.org. The proposed Allen Elementary zone will be presented in November, with a final decision in January. See the website for more information on the process and timeline. www.friscoisd.org



The board also looked at enrollment projections in order to consider the need for additional middle schools and elementary schools. In 2010, Roach Middle School will need relief as will Pioneer Heritage and possibly Griffin. Pink and Robertson Elementary Schools will also need relief in the future (probably 2010), as will Mooneyham and Ashley. Richard Wilkinson plans to bring bids to the Board in November so that construction can begin on needed middle schools in January. It takes 18 months to build a middle school. The board discussed the need to monitor current economic conditions that could affect the growth rate in the district.

Drop-Out Prevention Presentation

Kenny Chandler, Director of School Improvement, presented a power point that detailed changes in how the state and federal government determine drop-out rates. Chandler noted that the state is now looking at who completes high school. “You will hear the terms completers and non-completers more than drop-out,” he explained. The District will be monitoring cohorts of students from the time they begin 9th grade until they leave the district through graduation or obtaining a GED. If students withdraw but go on to attend community college – they are not seen as non-completers, Chandler explained. The District is instituting an at-risk program that will attempt to identify students who are in danger of not finishing their education as early as elementary and middle school. Working with parents is critical to a successful program.

Highly-Qualified Staffing

Dr. Linda Bass, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, reported that only a handful of FISD campuses are not at 100 percent in meeting the district goal of hiring highly qualified staff. The campuses in question each have a new teacher who will meet that goal soon but is awaiting paperwork concerning certification. This is a common delay when teachers are hired from out-of-state schools, Bass explained. Bass also reported that the majority of FISD’s new teachers come from nearby colleges and neighboring school districts. The board approved Bass’s recommendation that the District use Allen ISD, Carrollton/ Farmers Branch, McKinney, Lewisville, Plano and Richardson for salary and benefits comparisons for teachers and nurses. For non-teaching staff the board approved her suggestions of using Carrollton /Farmers Branch, Keller, Mansfield, McKinney and Richardson ISD because of similarities in size and need. The district currently has 4,291 employees.

Construction Update

Construction updates from Assistant Superintendent Richard Wilkinson assured the board that the track at Stafford Middle School will be repaired at no extra cost to the District. The track, which was holding water, will be usable by winter break. The jogging track at the Career and Technology Center is complete and signs are going to be put up to ask cyclists to stay off the track, which will be used by the District’s cross-country teams. The board approved expansion of the child nutrition area and proposed acquisition of land for future schools.

Personnel

The Board approved the Personnel Report. In a separate motion the board approved the termination of a probationary contract, which had been discussed in closed session.

Languages Report

Dr. Debra Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, informed the board that the district now has students who speak 87 languages other than English (1,995 students).The board asked for an analysis of the increasing number of students who come from non-English speaking homes.

Upcoming Events

October 15 - tour of the expansion project at the Deja Blue Arena and a joint meeting with the Frisco City Council; October 27 open houses at the CTE Center and the Sam Carter Service Center; November 1 Gary Burns Fun Run at Frisco Square; November 7 Chili Challenge; and November 8 Frisco Community Parade.