



Board Highlights

Frisco Independent School District

5515 Ohio Drive • Frisco, Texas 75035

Board Members: Renée Ehmke • Bryan Dodson • Debbie Gillespie • John Hoxie • Anne McCausland • Dan Mossakowski • Chris Todd

Regular Board Meeting December 16– 7:30 p.m., FISD Board Room

Presentation of Grants for Great Ideas check from Frisco Education Foundation

Allison Miller (FEF Director) and **Peter Burns** (FEF President) presented an oversized check to Frisco ISD for more than \$58,000, representing 35 grants given to teachers to implement innovative ideas to impact learning. [Story](#).

Student Recognition

LSSH Tennis team members were honored for advancing to the state competition. Coach Rachelle Mulanax and Coach Doug Fair attested to the great season and hard work of the athletes—*See Resolutions and* [Story](#)

Recognize Staff Member as Recipient of National American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Award

Marcia Shannon, Director of Special Education, introduced Nina Reeves and detailed Mrs. Reeves’s hard work in receiving the award. Mrs. Reeves spoke to the support that the district provides in working with these students. The ASHF foundation is a charitable organization that promotes a better quality of life for children and adults with communication disorders. [Story](#)

Approval of minutes from November 11 Regular Meeting—Motion Passed

Communications to and from the Board Including Public Comments

Two citizens addressed the board concerning IHS zoning impacts and concerns.

Board President, **Renee Ehmke** read a statement on behalf of the board in response to the “Merry Christmas” law misinformation regarding a Frisco ISD elementary school. See the statement below:

Recently, one of our schools was thrown into the national spotlight due to a misinterpretation of a parent’s email about winter holiday party rules in Frisco ISD. The email was written by a kindergarten mom and sent to a few other parents at the school. It was forwarded to a local Texas legislator and he erroneously accused the school district of violating a new Texas law regarding winter celebrations. The law is nicknamed the “Merry Christmas Law.” The email was taken out of context, misinterpreted and then used by others to bring attention to the bill. Had the concerned parent, who forwarded the email, or the lawmaker, who then took offense, taken the time to contact the school, the District, or the PTA leadership, the matter could have been cleared up and resolved immediately. We are proud that FISD has a very diverse student population and we do encourage our parents to be mindful of the different religious beliefs represented in our schools as they plan for the parties, as we hope to create an environment where all children feel included, not excluded. But there has never been a ban on what is worn, what is said or what is brought to our parties. Those of you who frequent our schools during this time of year, know you will see many sights and sounds indicating that Christmas is alive and well. Frankly, the school and the district would have preferred to spend more time during the last two weeks focusing on the things that matter rather than dealing with the collateral damage caused by this inaccurate portrayal of what occurred. We will continue to comply with state and federal laws and in our commitment to protecting the individual rights of our students. We will also continue to partner with our parents and our lawmakers in this effort and have appreciated the support of the community. We look forward to putting it behind us and moving ahead. [Story](#)



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Consider and Act on Attendance Zone for Independence High School Opening in August 2014 and Affecting Heritage, Centennial and Liberty High School—Motion Passed

Members of the internal demographic team, Mr. Dennis Brent and Mr. Rick Cohagan, summarized parent feedback since the last meeting of the Board. The proposed zone was shown and the recommendation made to the Board to adopt this zone. In response to transportation concerns expressed previously, Mr. Richard Wilkinson discussed meetings with the City of Frisco and updated the board on sidewalks, crosswalks and other infrastructure considerations for student safety, which will continue to be a priority and developed over the next 8 months prior to the opening of IHS. He stated that there will be no difficulty in finishing the small segments along Main (south) and Independence (east) to provide sidewalk passage for those who may want to ride their bike or walk to school. In addition, due to the construction concerns, the Board agreed to have staff look at the possibility of temporary busing for the small number of students south of Main Street who are not bus eligible. A bus is already running in that neighborhood. [Story](#)

Discussion regarding Draft Zone for Scott Elementary Opening in August 2014 and Affecting Mooneyham, Sonntag, and Ashley Elementary, Including Opportunity for Citizen Input—See Zone Map

One citizen spoke concerning the rezoning for Scott Elementary.

Review status of Required Trustee Training

All trustees have completed the yearly amount of required training.

Discussion Regarding Draft Plans for Potential Modifications to Existing Sem and Tadlock Elementary Zones, Including Opportunity for Citizen Input—See Zone Map

Consent Agenda—The Board approved the consent agenda. The consent agenda consists of items that the board considers routine and approves under one motion. The items approved were: tax office reports; payments to vendors, architects, and contractors; award for preferred approved vendor list; proposal of contract for Early Childhood School cell (tower) pole; extension of contract for fire and life safety engineering services; catalog proposal for Fine Arts—1) Art supplies and equipment, 2) Cheer, color guard, dance, and drill team supplies; 3) Choir and music supplies, 4) Theatre supplies and equipment; purchase of instructional materials with instructional materials allotment (IMA) funds—1) United States History test bank, 2) Elementary math manipulatives; approval of vendor for virtual machine (VM) server purchases; Policy Update 98, affection (LOCAL) policies—1) BBE(LOCAL): Board Members – Authority, 2) DBA(LOCAL): Employment Requirements and Restrictions -Credentials and Records, 3) DFFA(LOCAL): Reduction In Force - Financial Exigency, 4) DFFB(LOCAL): Reduction In Force - Program Change, 5) DGBA(LOCAL): Personnel-Management Relations – Employee Complaints/Grievances, 6) DH(LOCAL): Employee Standards of Conduct, 7) DNA(LOCAL): Performance Appraisal - Evaluation of Teachers, 8) EC(LOCAL): School Day, 9) EIA(LOCAL): Academic Achievement - Grading/Progress Reports to Parents, 10) EIC(LOCAL): Academic Achievement - Class Ranking, 11) FEA(LOCAL): Attendance - Compulsory Attendance, 12) I. FEC(LOCAL): Attendance - Attendance for Credit. —*Motion Passed*

Discussion Regarding Draft Zone for Newman Elementary Opening in August 2014 and Affecting Robertson, Phillips, Pink, and Carroll Elementary, Including Opportunity for Citizen Input—See Zone Map



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Consider and Act on Final Guaranteed Maximum Price (FGMP) for Hosp and McSpedden Elementary Schools—*Motion Passed*

Richard Wilkinson recommended the final guaranteed maximum Price (FGMP) of \$32,829,675 with Core construction.

Discussion Regarding Draft Zone for Hosp Elementary Opening in August 2014 and Affecting Nichols and Bledsoe Elementary, Including Opportunity for Citizen Input—*See Zone Map*

Consider and act on naming middle school #14—*Motion Passed*

Daryl Trent Middle School

Dr. Daryl Trent served the students in Frisco ISD for more than 30 years. His role was immeasurable in building the band program at Frisco High and the strong fine arts program throughout the district. He retired as the fine arts director in 2012. Many former students, band parents, and former colleagues agree that his work is deserving of recognition. In addition to his FISD work, he has also been active in the community band and his church, keeping music alive throughout the community. Many of his former students have pursued careers in music or music education due to his influence.

Discussion Regarding Draft Zone for McSpedden Elementary Opening in August 2014 and Affecting Curtsinger and Isbell Elementary, Including Opportunity for Citizen Input—*See Zone Map*

Consider and Act on Personnel Recommendations—*Motion Passed*

Dr. Linda Bass, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources presented the board with personnel recommendations and resignations.

Staff Reports

Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Debra Nelson shared with the board that Frisco ISD hosted a regional contest on computer science and coding, with collaboration from the University of Texas at Dallas in October. There were 37 teams, from nine high schools, composed of 103 students from Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Forney, Frisco, Plano, Richardson, and Wylie. Frisco ISD has a close partnership with UTD's computer science program due to collaboration between Mr. Gerald Page, a FISD computer science teacher and Professor Ivor Page, head of the UTD computer science department, who also coordinates the UTD computer science competition team.

Communications and Community Relations

Shana Wortham reminded the board of trustees that School Board Recognition Month is in January. There will be a reception prior to the January 13 board meeting.

Next Board of Trustees Meeting—January 13, 7:30pm