



President Jim Ash convened the meeting with Peter Baron, Bowie Hogg, Mike O'Donnell, Gloria Peña, Sherri Wade and Jerry McCullough present.



Open Forum/Agenda Items

- **Richard Weber**, shared his opinion on various state financial issues, including the district's discussions on school funding. He asked the Board to concentrate on the saturation point of Arlington taxpayers. Weber also said that he is in favor of leveling the playing field for all taxing entities.



Appointments

The board approved the following:

- **Dr. Marcelo Cavazos** as deputy superintendent. Cavazos started his teaching career as an English teacher in the Mission Consolidated ISD in 1990. In 1992, he moved to McAllen ISD where he taught English and Government. He was named the secondary language arts supervisor for Mercedes ISD in 1993 and became associate advisor for San Benito Consolidated ISD in 1995. Cavazos went to work for the Texas Education Agency Department of School Finance and Support in 1998. He came to the AISD in 1999 as associate superintendent for instruction, a position he has held since. In July, he was named interim deputy superintendent.

Cavazos holds a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Texas – Pan American, and a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. He has previously served as a lecturer for the University of Texas at Arlington's Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. In January, he received the 2009 Sharing the Dream Award in Education during Arlington's 20th Anniversary Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.



Superintendent's Report

McCullough began by sharing that 11 AISD campuses were recently recognized for outstanding performance across multiple grades and years. They were named to the **Just for the Kids Higher Performing List** sponsored by the National Center for Educational Achievement. He congratulated the students and staff at Ashworth, Berry, Blanton, Butler, Ditto, Hale, Swift, Pope and Webb elementaries, and Bailey and Ferguson junior highs.

He also congratulated all the students and coordinators that took part in the **Area 7 and Area 8 Spelling Bees** at the administration building last week. The winners will represent the AISD in the regional contest on March 24. He gave a special thanks to Advanced Academics Coordinator Judith Stringham for making the day such a success!

Last Friday, McCullough traveled to San Antonio to hear the **Arlington High School's Colt Chorale** perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention. He thanked Directors Dinah Menger, Laura Pease and Jodi Hill for all of their hard work, along with Fine Arts Director Bill Huff. The students did an amazing job representing the AISD and our wonderful fine arts department.

Members of **Sam Houston High School's Key Club** recently spent a Saturday morning volunteering at the home of Archie Dunn, an 84-year-old retiree and World War II veteran. Students prepped, primed and painted Dunn's house and helped bring his home up to code. Key Club members, Boy Scouts and other students have made two previous trips to the home since code enforcement officials sought volunteers to help repaint and replace damaged wood siding. McCullough thanked the students for all they do to help in the community!

Last week was the first meeting of the **Arlington ISD Insider**, a program that provides a group of community members an in-depth, behind the scenes look at the district. McCullough shared a video that was shown during the meeting that gave a look at the AISD by the numbers. [Click here to see the video.](#)



Action Items

The board approved the following:

- **Identification of Schools Closed to Transfers for the 2009-2010 School Year** - The transfer process begins on March 2 and ends on March 31. All elementary schools are open to transfers except for the following: Atherton, Crouch, Johns, Morton, West, Williams and Wood elementaries. Schools that are not open to transfers will have a waiting list established. All junior high schools will be open to transfers except for Barnett Junior High. Arlington, Bowie, Lamar and Martin high schools will be closed to transfers. A \$50 transfer fee will be charged during March and an \$80 fee will be charged after March 31. Out of district transfers will not be accepted.

- **2009 AISD Legislative Agenda** - Bowie Hogg shared with the Board and the community various public school finance and education issues that the current legislature is considering and/or may consider during this session. To view the complete list of drafted topics discussed, [click here](#). The Board made recommendations and changes to the proposed document. The revised document will be developed and posted on the AISD Web site.



Discussion/Action Items

- **Capital Needs, Options for Funding Capital Needs, Possible Appointment of Bond Advisory Committee, Possible Future Bond Election, General Operating Budget and Possible Future Tax Rollback Election** - Cindy Powell shared with the Board information regarding the various maintenance, technology and bus replacement needs of the district that the administration has deemed most critical for the next two years. The total needs has been assessed at approximately \$34.9 million. In addition, she reviewed possible funding sources and expenditure reductions that the administration has identified. Powell outlined the budget projections for the next few years, all of which included a deficit. She said that various lawmakers have submitted bills both in the state senate and the house that would address some of the issues we are facing.

Board members asked questions regarding various issues that were discussed during the presentation and expressed their concerns regarding the lack of funding. The Board voted to reopen the application process to appoint a bond advisory committee to be named at a future board meeting, and to develop a charge to the committee. The application deadline will be March 5 at 4:30 p.m. [Click here](#) to complete an application.

- **Composition of and Charge to the 2009-2010 Financial Futures Committee** - After much discussion, the Board agreed to open the application process to serve on the financial futures committee, and to use the same application as the bond advisory committee. Applicants can apply to serve on either committee or both. [Click here](#) to complete an application.