

Boardroom Notes

March 13, 2008

President Jim Ash convened the meeting
Michael Glaspie, Mike O'Donnell, Wayne Ogle,
Gloria Peña, Sherri Wade and Hector Montenegro present.

Program/Presentation

The AISD DATE Committee reviewed and discussed, during five meeting sessions and three public-input sessions, the requirements, processes and issues of the DATE grant and recommended to the board that the district not apply for the grant.

The 17-member committee identified the following as the reasons for their recommendation:

- Concern over future funding
- Concern over validity of value added in relation to teacher performance
- Concern of divisive nature of merit pay
- Concern over confidentiality of value added/teacher performance
- Concern over full teacher funding for meeting criteria
- Concern that the grant cannot define "teaching excellence"

In addition, the committee recommended the district train and educate faculty and staff on value added. Value added is an approach to measure student achievement growth beyond what is expected. Other recommendations included actively seeking grants that promote collaboration and grants that fund continuing education for faculty and staff.

Open Forum/Agenda Items

- **Mark Stephens**, addressed the board and was complementary of the DATE committee and their recommendations. In addition, he shared some of the *Good to Great* concepts in the context of the school model. He asked the board to consider branding the district so the community and city could embrace the district.

- **Polly Walton**, UEA, addressed the board and thanked the DATE committee for their time and effort on the DATE grant efforts. UEA would love to see excellent teachers rewarded, but they don't support the process the state outlined. She asked the board to support the DATE committee's recommendation to not apply for the DATE grant.

- **Mary Catherine Monroe**, shared with the board the goals and practices of the staff at Venture HS. She addressed the issue of measurable success, and went on to share a success story of one of her students at Venture HS. Monroe shared that this story is a true example of value added.

- **Michael Forbes**, did not speak during the open forum for agenda items, but did submit in writing his support of one of the easements on the consent agenda.

Superintendent's Report

First, I would like to congratulate the *Sam Houston HS Business Professionals of America* students who recently competed in Dallas, and are now advancing to the national competition in Reno, Nevada in May. Our national qualifiers are: **Erica Garcia, Tayna Hua, Ariana Martinez, Jacqueline Montfort, Rosalba Robles, and Jesus Sanchez**. In addition, **Michael Ayala, Javier Razo** and **Elizabeth Sanchez-Diaz** were named national alternates. Congratulations to this outstanding group of students and their sponsor, **Marilyn Tareilo**!

On Saturday, three teams from Martin HS, sponsored by **Juli Warner** and **Rhonda Pugh**, competed in the *EDS World Quest* competition, with one team placing first. The winning team of **Ryan Trammell, Shashwat Udit, Alexi Himarios** and **Dalton Rodriguez** advance to the National World Quest competition in Washington D.C. next month. Sixty-four teams competed at the local level. What a fantastic accomplishment!

Also from Martin HS, the Sundancers broke records with accolades won at the *Danceline Productions' Fort Worth Area* competition, under the direction of **Brooke Parlin**. **Taylor Newman** placed fourth out of 60 soloists; **Briana Hobbs** was second runner-up in the Toe Touch Contest; **Lara Wilson** and **Ryan Perry** advanced to the High Kick semi-finals; and **Erin Peters** advanced to the Turns semi-finals. The team officers received sweepstakes for all scores 90 or above, and were named the grand champions of the Officer Contest. Congratulations to these talented young ladies!

AISD had great success at the *Destination Imagination Regional Tournament* in Grapevine-Colleyville. Thirteen AISD teams competed and three are advancing to the state tournament in Austin next month. Schools with advancing teams are **Corey Elementary, Little Elementary and Martin HS**. Good luck in Austin!

Our friends at Tarrant County College recently announced the **Stars of Tomorrow** program, which will fund education for thousands of Tarrant County students. Starting this fall, eligible students can earn up to \$4,000 for a maximum of six semesters as part of the program. The package is comprised of state and federal financial aid and income from the earnings of an endowment derived from the leasing of mineral rights and other private sources. Montenegro encourages all students to visit the TCC Web site to learn more about eligibility.

The superintendent reported that he visited thirteen more campuses in the last couple of weeks, and was honored to speak at Gunn JH's 35th anniversary.

- He started his morning at 6:45 a.m. speaking to the Kiwanis Sunrise Breakfast Club.
- Visited Amos ES and watched the girls and boys steppers from Martin HS and Bowie HS.
- Lunch with principals from the Lamar network.
- Visited with Lamar HS students participating in the *Shattered Dreams/Fatal Choices* program – they are now at the PDC and will spend the whole night there.
- Tomorrow the principals' meeting will be held at the PDC from 8:30 – 1 p.m.



Action Items

The board approved the following:

- **Roger Jones** as principal of Young JH. He joined the AISD in 2001 as a seventh-grade teacher at Shackelford JH and was later promoted to assistant principal in 2003. He previously taught in the DeSoto ISD. Jones' start date is yet to be determined. A welcome reception in his honor is scheduled for March 31, 2008, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at Young JH.
- **Administrators' and staff support's contracts** - the administrative and support staff's term contracts issued each year. This update replaces their present contracts.
- **Termination of probationary contracts** - William Mixon, Hutcheson JH; and Lacetta Green, Sam Houston HS.



Open Forum/Non-Agenda Items

- **Tom Damura**, spoke to the board regarding his concerns regarding the transition from school to work. His daughter has special needs and has gone through the AISD system and is dealing with the transition to work program. Damura believes that the process needs to be revisited so that special needs students can be more successful with transition to work programs.