



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

Program/Presentation

Score a Goal in the Classroom

Ernie Horn, Score a Goal in the Classroom, recognized Arlington HS teacher Cynthia Sparks for winning the Foreign Language Teacher HERO award. Sparks was presented a crystal award, certificate and a monetary award from Chesapeake Energy. In addition to being selected this year as the Foreign Language Teacher HERO recipient, she was selected as a First-Year HERO three years ago when she began her teaching career.

Open Forum/Agenda Items

- **Larry Shaw**, UEA, commented on early notification of teacher resignation. He went on to explain the benefits of offering an early incentive as a way to garner more accurate information that will assist the district in planning for the upcoming transfers of teachers as part of the new staffing plan. Shaw encouraged the Board to consider adopting a one-time incentive program.

Appointments

The board approved the following:

- **John Collins** as assistant principal of Crow Elementary. Collins started his teaching career in 2005 as a special education resource teacher with the AISD. He also served as a job coach for the summer youth employment program. In 2008, he moved to the Mansfield ISD as a fourth-grade general education teacher and administrative intern. He holds a bachelor's degree from DeVry University and is expected to complete his master's from the University of North Texas in August.

Superintendent's Report

Results from the first administration of **TAKS Reading for third, fifth and eighth grades** are in, and student performance went up in nine of the 15 accountability groups! Third-grade scores went up in all groups. The passing rate went up 3 percent for all students, 1 percent for white students, 3 percent for African-American students, 2 percent for Hispanic students and 4 percent for economically disadvantaged students. Three fifth-grade subpopulations also had higher scores. African-American scores went up 3 percent; Hispanic, 1 percent; and economically disadvantaged, 1 percent. In eighth grade, the scores for the African-American students made a 1 percent gain. Overall, 87 percent of third graders, 81 percent of fifth graders and 93 percent of eighth graders passed. These improvements indicate that we have definitely taken a step in the right direction. Now, we will continue to concentrate on the areas that did not show improvement in preparation for the second administration. TAKS testing in other areas begins next week with the fifth- and eighth-grade students taking TAKS Math.

The **Sam Houston High School LULAC Youth Council** is sponsoring a **César Chávez Celebration** this Saturday. The event to celebrate his life and legacy will be from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Sam Houston auditorium and will feature speakers, music and entertainment. Light refreshments will be provided.

Fifteen AISD teams took part in the **Destination ImagiNation regional tournament**. Teams from **Corey, Crow, Hill, Little, Miller** and **Sherrod** elementaries; **Bailey Junior High**; and **Arlington** and **Martin high schools** participated in the competition and returned with 12 overall team awards, one team award for outstanding specialized skills and two individual awards. Teams from Hill, Little, Sherrod and Martin advanced to the state tournament that begins tomorrow.

Martin High School was recently selected as the **GRAMMY Foundation's 2009 National GRAMMY Signature School** from a field of 144 finalists. They will receive a \$10,000 grant to benefit the music program. The Signature Schools program recognizes and awards outstanding U.S. public high school music programs. McCullough thanked Directors Gordon Hart, Michael Knipe, Kay Owens and Michael Stringer for all of their wonderful work!

Lamar High School has received a **\$5,000 Best Buy Teach Award** for integrating technology into the classroom. The award will be used to create a music technology lab that can be utilized in AP Music Theory and IB World Music classes and by the school's band, choir and orchestra programs. McCullough thanked Associate Director of Bands Angela Caviness for submitting this proposal for an exciting addition to the music programs at Lamar!

Districts Three and Four of the Texas Nurses Association and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives have named two AISD nurses to the **Great 100 Nurses** list. **Leslee Erickson, Nichols Junior High**, and **Sandra Wilson, Ousley Junior High**, will be honored for their excellence in the nursing profession. Congratulations Leslee and Sandra!

It is the time of year to recognize our wonderful teachers. Members of the Arlington Masonic Lodge recently recognized several outstanding elementary teachers and named **Bebensee Elementary Librarian Teresa Brinkerhoff the 2009 "Teacher of Excellence."** Runners-up for the honor were **Jennifer Bowman, Williams Elementary; Barbara Keaton, Ashworth, Elementary; Judy Kirby, Beckham Elementary;** and **Levianne Mirabelli, Fitzgerald Elementary.** Yesterday, the Kiwanis Club of Arlington held their Teacher of the Year Luncheon. **Jennifer Stice, Webb Elementary; Jeannie Holland, Ferguson Junior High; and Susan West, Arlington High School,** were named **Kiwanis Woodrow Counts Teachers of the Year.** Next Tuesday, the AISD will recognize the Teachers of the Year from all campuses at the 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year Celebration Dinner.

The **public information office** and **Education Foundation** brought back one silver and **seven gold STAR awards** from the Texas School Public Relations Association conference. The public information office also **won a Best of Category award** for the 2007-2008 collateral suite, which included the annual wall calendar, boundary map, quick facts brochure, National Merit brochure and Effective Schools poster. Congratulations!

McCullough thanked the administration, faculty, staff, parents and students of Hutcheson Junior High for their kindness and compassion. It has been a difficult week for everyone with the loss of Elizabeth Villa, but everyone pulled together as a family and supported one another. A memorial service for Elizabeth is scheduled for tomorrow from 4 to 6:30 in the Hutcheson auditorium.



Action Items

The board approved the following:

- **Notice of Election** for a general election to fill places one, two and three on the Board of Trustees of the AISD.
- **Non-renewal of term contract of Theresa Crichton.**



Discussion/Action Item

- **Teacher Resignation - Early Notification Payment** - The Board approved a plan to offer a one-time payment of \$500 to the first 200 teachers whose written resignation is hand-delivered and accepted in the personnel office by Lisa Benjamin, secretary to the assistant superintendent of personnel, on or before 3 p.m. on May 1, 2009. The one-time payment is available to current AISD classroom teachers who complete their last contract day. Payment will be issued on the last paycheck.



Open Forum/Non-Agenda Items

- **Richard Weber** shared with the Board information on the Dallas Cowboys' commitment to support sports fields in Arlington during their campaign to build a stadium in Arlington. He asked the Board to look into what is being done.
- **Leah Lugo**, teacher, asked the Board to consider allowing AISD teachers to transfer their children into the AISD from other districts. She went on to share her belief that allowing these transfers will be a great recruiting and retention tool for the AISD.