

Boardroom Notes

August 7, 2008

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

Action Items - Staff Appointments

The board approved the following:

- **Michelle Wilmoth** as principal of Bowie HS. Wilmoth began her teaching career in the AISD as an English, Psychology and speech/debate teacher at Arlington High School in 1980. In 1991, she moved to Bowie High School as an English teacher before becoming assistant principal in 2000. During that time, she also served as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Texas at Arlington. In 2006, she was named the principal at Boles Junior High.
- **Michael Martin** as principal of Webb Elementary. Martin joined the AISD in 2000 as a second-grade ESL and sixth-grade teacher at Speer Elementary. Prior to that, he was a fifth-grade math teacher at West Intermediate School in Cedar Hill ISD. Since 2003, he has served as the assistant principal at Butler Elementary.
- **Sandi Perez** as director of bilingual and ESL. Perez started her teaching career in the Fort Worth ISD and then moved to the Irving ISD before coming to the AISD in 1998 as a fifth- and sixth-grade bilingual teacher at Thornton Elementary. In 2000, she became a curriculum specialist, and then in 2005, she moved to Berry Elementary to teach third grade. In 2006, Perez became the assistant principal at Anderson Elementary.
- **Nell Fielding** as director of guidance and counseling. Fielding started her teaching career at Hutcheson Junior High as a special education teacher in 1994. In 2000, she moved to Sam Houston High School as a guidance counselor, and then in 2002, she became lead counselor at Seguin High School.
- **Jose Gallegos** as assistant principal at Arlington High School staff. He joins the AISD from Socorro ISD, where he was an AP Spanish teacher and chair of the Foreign Language Department at Americas High School.
- **Charlotte Carter** as assistant principal for Burgin Elementary. She comes to the district from Waco ISD, where she was an assistant principal at South Waco Elementary.
- **Beth Anne Woodard** as assistant principal at Short Elementary. She started her teaching career as a bilingual first- and second-grade teacher at Berry Elementary. She most recently served as instructional facilitator at Remyse Elementary.
- **Tiffany Jackson** as assistant principal for Key Elementary. She started with the AISD in 2001 as a sixth-grade teacher at Hill Elementary. She was most recently the fifth-grade lead teacher at Hill.
- **Tracey Cross** as assistant principal at Larson Elementary. He comes to the AISD from Farmers Branch ISD, where he served as assistant principal at E.L. Kent Elementary.

Open Forum/Agenda Items

- **Michael Jarzabski**, UEA, addressed the board regarding the 2008-2009 budget and salaries. He thanked the board for their hard work on the budget and service to the community. Jarzabski asked the board to consider raising salaries for all employees by three percent, and for staff making less than \$25,000 raising their salaries by an additional two percent.
- **Larry Shaw**, UEA, addressed the board and shared an audit report showing that the AISD did not have a budget shortfall for the previous year, as well as additional financial information from other area school districts. He asked that the board give a raise to all employees.
- **Robin McDaniel**, on behalf of educational diagnosticians, shared concerns of the AISD diagnosticians. She shared with the board a handout with information regarding salaries from area school districts. McDaniel said the AISD is paying diagnosticians less and they are serving more students than other districts. Diagnosticians are asking for a salary adjustment and an increase in stipend for bilingual diagnosticians.
- **Dr. Carlos Antoline**, school psychologist, spoke on behalf of the AISD psychologists with regard to their duties and their pay. He shared that psychologists are licensed and are required to have a master's degree, and they make less than first-year teachers. Antoline asked for a salary adjustment for psychologists.
- **Lauri Rule**, TSTA, thanked the board for the hard decisions that were made in recent months. She asked that the board consider an open process for the superintendent search. She also asked the board to consider calling a tax rollback election.
- **Dennis Killy**, asked the board to consider cutting programs with poor student efficiency ratios. He also told the board that he did not approve of the board asking the community to review the budget (Financial Futures Committee).

Superintendent's Report

First, I would like to congratulate one of our National Merit Scholars: **Yolande Yip, Lamar HS**. She will receive a college-sponsored scholarship from the University of Texas at Austin. The awards provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study. All of our 21 AISD National Merit, National Hispanic and National Achievement Scholars were inducted into the 2008 Wall of Fame earlier this year.

Melissa Lawson, an alumna of **Arlington HS** and parent of two **Key ES** students, won the title of Nashville Star on Monday. At a welcome home concert held July 23, sponsor State Farm collected more than \$1,850 in donations to support

the district's drop-out prevention efforts. State Farm is donating an additional \$10,000 to the district.

Texas Health Resources and **Arlington Memorial Hospital** are donating six **automated external defibrillators**, along with education and support for the coming academic year. The donated AEDs will go to Arlington, Bowie, Lamar, Sam Houston, Seguin and Venture high schools.

We have earned **\$5,537 in incentives** for upgrading HVAC systems at Bebensee, Starrett and Thornton elementaries through the **2008 Texas Schools Conserving Energy**, or SCORE, program sponsored by Oncor Electric Delivery. The program helps school districts improve energy efficiency and reduce schools' energy operating costs. The district is awarded incentives for reducing their peak demand energy needs through facility upgrades. As a SCORE participant, the district has also developed an energy master plan to continue to take the best approach toward reducing the district's energy bills.

This year we are continuing our **Computers to Kids project**. This program allows district students without home access of data processing equipment to receive one of the surplus computers that the district is currently sending to salvage. These computers are cleaned up and re-imaged with new software for keyboarding and basic Internet access. There are more than 100 machines being delivered to schools for students and families.

City Council Member Robert Rivera and the **Arlington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** are holding a back to school and community health fair at Sam Houston HS on Saturday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be many fun things to do, and there will be dental exams, vision screenings, hearing tests, school physicals and blood pressure checks.

I am very excited to announce that we have received a **21st Century Grant** through TEA. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program provides opportunities beyond the normal school day to provide opportunities for academic enrichment and offer students a broad array of additional services, such as youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, art, music, and physical education and fitness programs, and technology education programs. Families of students served by community learning centers are also provided opportunities for literacy and related educational development. **The grant is for \$1.875 million per year with funding for five years.** The schools benefiting from this grant are Bowie HS, Lamar HS, Barnett JH, Carter JH, Ferguson JH, Hutcheson JH, Nichols JH, Ousley JH, Shackelford JH, Workman JH, Johns ES, Remyse ES, Roquemore ES, Speer ES and Webb ES.

The Arlington chapter of the **League of United Latin American Citizens** recently presented scholarships to four **Sam Houston HS students. Cindy Cerda, Maria Hernandez, Diana Gonzalez and Erika Garcia** were honored at the reception held at Sam Houston HS.

Collette Smith, a Sam Houston HS student, received the Smart Girl award from Girls Inc. of Tarrant County. She has been a member of the Girls Inc. Center for three years where she has been a part of the winning Corporate Camp team. Congratulations Collette!

I would also like to share with the community my vision for our renewed focus on instruction. I have just spent two days with the principals at the Summer Leadership Institute sharing with them my philosophies on classroom instruction and reassuring them that central office is ready to support the campuses with instruction tools and resources. The AISD is a team, and when we work together as a team, planning, collaborating and sharing best practices for the betterment of children, we will see great improvement. It is going to be a great school year, and we can't wait to get started.

Discussion Items

Cindy Powell, Executive Director of Finance, introduced members of the FFC in attendance. She also shared the following revised 2008-2009 budget highlights:

- The budget is not balanced – there is a \$17.9 million operating deficit
- Deficit is \$2.4 million less than the preliminary budget presented to the Board in June
- Property tax revenues are based on the current M&O rate of \$1.04
- There is no funding for a salary increase
- Cuts totaling \$828,947 have been made to the proposed budget:
 - 12 positions to implement full-day instruction at the Turning Point Schools, TEA will delay implementation of HB 426
 - Effective School Leadership Department
 - Funding for INOVA, a test analysis software system

R.B. Grisham, FFC spokesperson, shared the revised findings of the committee. The committee identified items from the budget that could be deferred into a bond. In addition, they recommended that the board also include in a future bond election 72 propane-fueled buses and replacement of computers.

The board will schedule a board work session for Thursday, August 14 to further discuss the budget. The board may vote on the budget on August 21.

Action Items

The board approved the following:

- Proposed tax rate for the 2008-2009 fiscal year - a formal vote on the proposed Maintenance & Operations and Debut Service tax rate for fiscal year 2008-2009 is recommended.
- Settlement offer from Metroquest Church.