

Boardroom Notes

August 16, 2007

President Jim Ash convened the meeting with Michael Glaspie, Mike O'Donnell, Wayne Ogle, Gloria Peña, Sherri Wade and Dr. Mac Bernd present.

Open Forum/Agenda Items

- **Jo Kelly, ATPE**, addressed the board and shared information about ATPE and went on to ask the board to consider passing the 2007-2008 budget with no less than a three percent pay raise for all AISD employees.
- **Polly Walton, UEA**, spoke to the board and thanked them for their service. In addition, she said that she was sure that the board would take into account the salary data that UEA provided at the last board meeting, and said that she was sure the board would do what it takes to stay in line with competitive salaries.
- **Eric Kline, FFC**, shared his thoughts with the board regarding salary increases. He said that if the board were to consider giving a salary increase above the FFC's recommended three percent it would have a negative affect on the fund balance in the long-term.
- **Mike Billirakis & Mary Catherine, TSTA/NEA**, addressed the board and shared their thoughts with the board on how salaries for educators should be addressed and increased. In addition, they thanked the board for their service and offered information regarding their organization.

Superintendent's Report

This summer **Missy Adams**, science department leader at **Nichols JH**, and **Stacy Hays**, science teacher at **Workman JH**, spent a week in Rockdale, Texas, learning about the coal mining industry. As part of their workshop, the teachers toured an aluminum plant, a coal power plant and a strip coal mine, along with bringing back classroom curriculum and samples. Dr. Bernd thanked these teachers for putting such effort into making science interesting and relevant for their students.

Dr. Bernd gave an **update on the status of playgrounds** across the district. The playground at Anderson Elementary caught fire last week, apparently as a result of spontaneous combustion caused by the decomposition of engineered wood fiber used to cushion the playground's fall zone. We have 35 playgrounds spread among 20 campuses that use this same material, and our maintenance-and-operations staff is currently in the process of removing all wood fiber material and replacing it with pea gravel on all 35 sites. Our goal is to have the project finished within two weeks. We believe this is the best, most cautious course of action for ensuring our students' safety.

Action Items

The board approved the following:

- **Adoption of a resolution** directing the superintendent to escrow the entire amount of storm water "fee assessments" or taxes and not remit them to the City of Arlington or other municipalities,
- **Adoption of the budget of the 2007-2008 fiscal year** that includes the following:
 - A 3.5 percent across-the-board pay increase, plus equity adjustments targeting 102 percent of 2006-2007 BA Teacher Salary Comparison Schedule - the average pay increase for teachers, librarians and nurses is 5.84 percent.
 - Beginning teacher salaries are raised to \$43,994
- **Nicole Turnipseed**, as assistant principal of Atherton Elementary.
- **Jacob Wilson**, as assistant principal of Atherton Elementary.
- **Sharon Amaya**, as assistant principal of Roark Elementary.
- **Adoption of a resolution** acknowledging the application of the *Religious Viewpoint Antidiscrimination Act* and directing administration to implement a local policy.

- **Submission of the Texas Educator Excellence Grant (TEEG), Cycle 2** as developed by each campus planning committee and approved by the District-Level Instructional Decision-Making Committee (DIDC). The grant recognizes and awards teachers for the following:

1. Improved student achievement;
2. Collaboration with faculty and staff; and/or
3. Initiative, commitment, personalization, professionalism, involvement in other activities that directly result in improved student achievement; and/or
4. Assignments in hard to staff schools/subjects

- **Adoption of Update 80 Local policies** and revised Local policies DBA (Local), DC (Local), DCB (Local), DEC (Local) and deletion of FD (Exhibit B).

- **Adoption of Ordinance #127** - Setting the 2007-2008 Tax Rate at its current rate of \$1.278 on each and every \$100.



Open Forum/Non-Agenda Items

- **Steve Sherrill**, Wrestling Assoc. of Arlington, shared with the board his thoughts on junior high wrestling. He and his group support wrestling programs being offered at the junior high level.

- **James White**, spoke to the board regarding playground issues. He supports the administration's decision to close the playgrounds that currently have engineered wood-fiber in the fall-zone. He went on to say that he would like the administration to reconsider the decision to replace the wood-fiber with pea gravel.