

**Leakey Independent School District
Board of Trustees**

June 11, 2007

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Jerry W. Bates Jr., Shane Hohman, Martin Martinez, Ruben Navarro, Charlie Reagor, Neville Triplett

Members Absent: Beatsie Rubio

Visitors: Administration, Media, Serenity Harwood and various community members.

The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Bates at 6:30 p.m. He announced that a quorum was present, that the meeting had been duly called and that a notice of the meeting was posted according to law.

Regular Session:

1. The pledge of allegiance was led by Jerry Bates Jr.
2. The Board and audience observed a moment of silent reflection.

Open Forum:

President Bates welcomed visitors and invited anyone that was present an opportunity to speak to the Board. Serenity Harwood asked to address the Board. She asked the Board to consider allowing her son, William, to start kindergarten beginning the 2007-2008 school year even though he will not be 5 years old on Sept. 1, 2007. His birthday is later in September. Mrs. Harwood stated she spoke with TEA and they told her it was a District decision. She asked that this request be an action item on the July 9, 2007 Board meeting.

3. The Board read and reviewed the minutes from the May 15th regular meeting and the May 22nd called meeting.
 - a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to approve the minutes from the May 15th regular meeting and May 22nd called meeting.

This motion was seconded by Martin Martinez. **Motion Carried 6-0**

4. The Board read and reviewed payment of bills and invoices for June, 2007.
 - a. A motion was made by Martin Martinez to approve payment of bills and invoices for June, 2007.

This motion was seconded by Ruben Navarro. **Motion Carried 6-0**

5. Agenda item #7, consider for approval acceptance of teacher/coach resignation died for lack of a motion on the floor.

6. Mr. McNeil notified the Board that he had received a notice from TEA that our District is very close to being a Chapter 41 (property wealthy) district, based on the calculations of Chapter 41 WADA (weighted average daily attendance). This means that our District could potentially have to return some of the locally collected taxes to the state. Mr. Ferguson, Business Manager, said the calculations are preliminary and would not be final until the State Comptroller certifies property values in Real County later in November. He feels the District will be ok for 2007-2008 school year but could possibly fall into this category the following year due to our rising property tax appraisals and static enrollment

7. The approval for a public hearing regarding the USDA Rural Development Grant application brought much discussion among the Board members. Charlie Reagor asked the Superintendent if there were other grants that the District could apply for. His concerns were about how the community would feel having to hold a bond election to secure the balance of the grant/loan that the District would owe. His thoughts were if there were other grants the District could apply for then possibly they could be designated to help repay the loan portion of the USDA Grant. Mr. McNeil reiterated that the District is still not committed to the USDA Grant/Loan but having a special public meeting was part of the process and the public has to have a 10 day notice of the meeting. Neville Triplett expressed that the District should move forward with the meeting so the Board could hear what the community concerns are and if the District should proceed with the USDA application.

a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to hold a public hearing on the USDA Rural Development Grant/Loan application on June 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

This motion was seconded by Shane Hohman. **Motion carried 5-1**
Charlie Reagor voted against this motion.

8. After discussing the signing of the Cadco Architects/Engineer engagement letter, the Board decided to table it until the USDA Rural Development Grant/Loan application special public meeting has been held.

a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to table the approval of the engagement letter with Cadco until after the Special Public Meeting on June 25, 2007.

This motion was seconded by Martin Martinez. **Motion carried 6-0**

9. The Board reviewed the TASB Board Policy Update #80.

a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to adopt the TASB Board Policy Update #80.

This motion was seconded by Charlie Reagor. **Motion carried 6-0**

10. President Jerry Bates asked to have Board discussion on his concerns about the lack of storage space since the old ag building has been torn down. He feels the District needs a place to store items that are not used often such as the choir risers and feels that the storage at the football field is not adequate. Neville Triplett asked if a metal building was erected that possibly part of the construction could be a project for the Ag students to cut cost. It was suggested that the maintenance department be consulted regarding the size building that would be adequate for storage. Shane Hohman reported that the Thurmond house could be used for storage if the USDA Grant is approved and a new high school building is built because then the band room and weight room would be moved.
11. The Board reviewed the list of transfer students for the 2007-2008 school year.
 - a. A motion was made by Martin Martinez to approve the student transfer list consisting of 13 students for the school year 2007-2008.

This motion was seconded by Ruben Navarro.

Motion carried 6-0

12. Business Manager's Report – Don Ferguson

- a. Mr. Ferguson gave each Board member a summary of the revenue and expense report as of May 31, 2007 for the general fund and cafeteria program.
- b. Mr. Ferguson reported as of May 31, 2007 the District's cash position is \$1,201,258.00. Total revenue for the month of May was \$68,783.00 and total disbursements for May was \$250,903.00. Current interest rates at 1st State Bank of Uvalde is 5.39% and the Lone Star Pool is 5.17%. Year to date interest earned is \$48,086.00.
- c. Mr. Ferguson gave each Board member a copy of the proposal from Government Capital Corp. for the financing of the summer renovations. He explained that Government Capital gave the District three (3) options of financing structures. First option: Term 7 years @4.95% with an annual payment of \$21,502.21. Second option: Term 10 years @5.20% with an annual payment of \$16,360.73. Third option: Term 15 years @5.45% with an annual payment of \$12,449.10. After reviewing the options the Board feels option one would be the best one to choose.

13. Principal's Report – Lorrie Gonzalez

- a. Mrs. Gonzalez reported to the Board the only TAKS test results she had received as of today was the 5th grade math retest. She reported there were four (4) student that failed the first test but 3 of 4 students passed the test the second time and it will count toward our accountability rating. The 4th student was absent on the day the retest was taken.

14. Superintendent's Report – Fred McNeil

- a. Superintendent McNeil reported to the Board the highway sign project is almost complete. All 4 signs have been erected and now the sponsorship signs are being made. One sponsorship sign will be installed in the gym and one will be installed at the football field.
- b. Superintendent McNeil informed the Board the summer renovations are progressing well. The demolition of the old ag building is almost complete. The contractor still needs to finish hauling some of the debris. The painters are beginning to paint the exterior of the buildings on campus and the a/c contractor has moved the existing a/c units and installed them in the cafeteria.
- c. Superintendent McNeil informed the Board that the TASA/TASB Convention will be September 28-30 in Dallas, TX. Mr. McNeil reminded the new Board members they are required to have ten (10) hrs. of Board training and existing Board members are required to have five (5) hrs. of Board training. Attending this convention will provide the opportunity to attain these hours and Mr. McNeil hopes everyone will be able to attend.
- d. Superintendent McNeil gave each Board member a copy of the TASB Board meeting minutes.

Executive Sessions:

The Board entered into executive session at 7:50 p.m. for an update on personnel and a report on splitting the 5th grade class .

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:52 p.m.

15. The Superintendent recommended the hiring of Winnie Sanderfer as a part-time Spanish teacher and Dean Carter to fill the vacant teacher/coach position.
 - a. A motion was made by Charlie Reagor to hire Winnie Sanderfer as a part-time Spanish teacher and Dean Carter as a teacher/coach.

This motion was seconded by Martin Martinez.

Motion carried 6-0

16. Agenda item # 12, consider for approval splitting 5th grade into two sections.
 - a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to table approval of splitting the 5th grade into two section until the next Board meeting on July 9, 2007.

This motion was seconded by Charlie Reagor.
Shane Hohman voted against this motion.

Motion carried 5-1

Adjourned:

17. A motion was made by Martin Martinez to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

This motion was seconded by Neville Triplett.

Motion carried 6-0

Jerry W. Bates Jr., President

Neville Triplett, Secretary

Approved 7-9-07/jf