

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
CALDWELL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 24, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Steve Noack, Layne Drgac, Chester Canady, Dan Harris,  
Gerald Rodriguez, Mark Goodman

Members Absent: Albert Surovik, Jr.

Administrators: Dr. Janet Cummings, Rhonda Homeyer, Bill Broaddus, Dr. Brad Vestal,  
Vance Skidmore, Gary Stout, Tracy Anderson, Dr. Tim Cuff, Kim McManus,  
Nathan Goodlett

Guests: Susan Skrabanek, Dianne Poehl, Reba Hood; Caldwell I.S.D., Roy Sanders,  
Amy Wilkins, Heather Caldwell, Kristen Suehs, Cameron Suehs, Shelly Horak,  
Sheila Horak, Victor Aquilar, Dana Vain, & Geseler Sauer

Public Hearing: Vice President Noack called the hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. to hear a  
presentation from Rhonda Homeyer, Director of Business Services regarding the district's Schools  
FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). Mrs. Homeyer gave an overview of the  
report indicating that the district received a "Superior Achievement" rating.

There were no comments from the public regarding the report. Members voted accordingly:

Motion No. 3777

On motion by member Harris, seconded by member Goodman, the Board approved the district's  
FIRST report for the year ending August 31, 2011, as presented by Rhonda Homeyer, Director of  
Business Services. (A copy of this report is made available in the district's business office.)

For 6                      Ag. 0                      Ab. 0

Motion No. 3778

On motion by member Drgac, seconded by member Harris, the Board voted to adjourn from the  
Public Hearing at approximately 6:49 p.m.

For 6                      Ag. 0                      Ab. 0

Vice President Noack called the regular meeting to order at 6:49 p.m.

Student Presentation on Honesty: Shelly & Sheila Horak, High School students addressed the  
Board regarding the district's Character Ed program theme this month, "Honesty". On behalf of  
the students of CISD, they both expressed a thank you to the teachers and staff for teaching them  
the importance of the characteristic, honesty. This means so much more – integrity – honor –  
values. All staff at Caldwell ISD are teachers in a way as they instill ethics for their students to  
follow and for this CISD students are very grateful.

Student/Staff Recognition: \*Employee of the Week- Dr. Cummings, Superintendent, addressed  
the Board regarding a new program she has started in recognizing an "Employee of the Week."  
Nominations are taken from district staff of those they wish to recognize that meet the criteria;  
such as true Homet spirit. Wendy Weiss, H/S teacher, was our first to be recognized and Mark  
Harris, Maintenance, was our second recognition. Dr. Cummings stated that they have both  
received a treat basket including a gift card and are highlighted on the district's web site, local  
paper and in other areas. They were both very appreciative for being recognized by their peers.  
"R.C. Coordinators- Dr. Cummings stated that due to conflicts, we will recognize the R.C.  
Coordinators at the next regular meeting.

Superintendent's Reports: \*Vision/Mission/Beliefs- Dr. Cummings stated that the district's administrative team have been looking at areas specifically concentrating on tying back to what we truly believe in- constantly checking to always want to make improvement in reference to values-character ed. Principals are reviewing with their staff as well. \*Rachel's Challenge- Dr. Cummings stated that this program has been a very overwhelming success at all campuses. Students have signed banners and have taken the challenge. There will be more emphasis regarding this program at our Caldwell/Navasota football game at our half-time program. This will be a very exciting time for everyone to share together. \*Hornet Challenge- Dr. Cummings stated that there are t-shirts for each Board member. The design of the shirt was taken from the character traits that we are focusing on through Rachel's Challenge. Plans are to continue to encourage our students and staff that have taken the pledge. We will recognize those that have taken the pledge at one of our football games. \*October Activities- Dr. Cummings stated that there are many things going on in the district. We will have our Elem/Intermediate students going to the Fair this week visiting the barn yards as well as the Creative Living building. There will be a community-wide pep rally held on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at the courthouse square. This will be a fun time for everyone.

Administrative Reports: Mrs. Kim McManus, Elementary School Principal, addressed the Board regarding the status of her campus. Needs/Data: Implement a prekindergarten curriculum to meet state guidelines. Build language proficiency skill I prekindergarten and kindergarten ESL students. Renaissance Learning assessments (Star Early Literacy, Star Reading & Star Math) indicate that a high percentage of our Hispanic, African American and Economically Disadvantaged students are falling in the urgent intervention (bottom 10% of grade level); intervention (11-25% of grade level) and/or on watch (26-40% of grade level) in math and/or reading. Annual Prekindergarten Objectives: Prekindergarten students will have developed skills necessary for success in kindergarten including language, math and social skills. Prekindergarten ESL student will continue to build an academic and language foundation by having the same bilingual teacher for two years. TELPAS date will be used to monitor growth beginning in kindergarten. Annual Math & Reading Objectives: 85% or above of kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be at/above grade level on the Star Math and 15% will score in the urgent intervention, intervention or on watch level. Mrs. McManus shared action steps and strategies to meet objectives. Needs/Data: A consistent set guidelines for discipline that can be implemented by all staff members. Instill kindness, compassion, manners, etiquette, and responsibility in students to reduce the number of bully reports submitted and discipline referrals. Objectives: Reduce the number of discipline referrals by 20%; reduce the number of bully reports by 30%. Strategies: Implement conscious discipline campus wide; incorporate Rachel's Challenge with Character Ed Program, using the Six Pillars of Character.

Dr. Cuff, Intermediate School Principal, reported the status of his campus. He expressed a thank you to Jennifer Zermenio, Intermediate School teacher, for the idea of a school homework session after school. The school homework session is held at Caldwell Civic Center from 4-6 p.m. on Monday - Thursday, graciously provided by the City of Caldwell. Teachers, retired teachers, community volunteers and others have volunteered to help students finish their homework. Students are bused to the Civic Center and parents pick them up. This gives the students an opportunity to finish their homework before going home for the day. Parents have been very pleased with the program and students are now prepared for the next school day by having all their homework completed. Dr. Cuff stated there are 25 students in the program that have been selected by their previous history. Students will be rotated out of the program to give other students an opportunity. The Intermediate School has established a Data Team that will help sift through all the data on the campus. There are data/reports from so many different programs that need to be organized. Another existing program at the Intermediate School is the morning homework period from 7:30 a.m. to 7:55 a.m. This homework period allows students to finish any assignments that they have not completed. We have mentors that assist the students in the core areas with one adult in each classroom. Another program at the Intermediate School is held each Monday for our ESL students. They are invited into the computer lab to hear a story for the week. The story can also be provided in Spanish if needed. This is a computer generated program and has been found very helpful for students. It gives them an opportunity to prepare for the vocabulary for the week that will be introduced to them. Dr. Cuff stated that we do not want any students failing. The key is "sustainability"!

Mr. Stout, Middle School Principal, addressed the Board regarding the status of his campus. Mr. Stout stated that they have been working with second period tutorials for students to catch up with their homework. We have found that this is not enough time for students to complete their work and testing. The tutorial period has now been combined with 1<sup>st</sup> period to help with the time issue. There are eight class periods a day at the Middle School. The school day has been extended to 3:24 p.m. Mr. Stout reviewed the results from STARR testing. There are new programs being introduced to students; Rachel's Challenge; Character Ed; that we will have more time for. Mr. Stout stated that he and the other administrators attended a training in Huntsville that was very

helpful regarding looking at their goals, vision and mission statement. They were introduced to setting short term goals that can be revised monthly if needed. Mr. Stout stated that the goals for the Middle School are to increase Reading 5% points and to use more Math manipulative to help challenge students. Plans are to have an Olympic Day and Pi Day to encourage students.

Dr. Vestal, High School Principal, reviewed the status of his campus with members of the Board. He expressed a thank you to campus principals for preparing students for High School level. Dr. Vestal reviewed results 2012 EOC/TAKS results for High School. Algebra I EOC has a passing rate compared to the State average. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade TAKS Math indicated low in SES category compared to State average. The AYP report indicates "no" student did not meet standards in Math & Reading. Dr. Vestal stated that we need to find strategies to improve. Good News: Testing did improve from last year and there will be no Stage I Intervention and CHS Exit levels look good. Plans for CHS: Find strategy to improve the low SES group. 11<sup>th</sup> grade students are the last TAKS group. Improve EOC scores. Dr. Vestal stated that tutorials continue in the mornings to help students. The next step will be Homework that is computer based once the district's bandwidth is improved. High School is using Renaissance in small groups of (8-12 students) during 1<sup>st</sup> period. The Study Island Program did not work consistently. Plans are to have counselors push our AP students to take more AP classes and exams. The theme for High School this year is, "Make It Happen!" Main emphasis is for our counselor's office is to visit with students about their career goals and put a plan into action to meet their individual goals.

**Motion No. 3779**

On motion by member Goodman, seconded by member Drgac, the Board approved the following: the minutes of the August 29, 2012 regular meeting, approved expenditures, tax reports, quarterly investment reports for August, 2012, submitted by Rhonda Homeyer, Director of Business Services.

For 6                      Ag. 0                      Ab. 0

Public Input: Amy Wilkins, concerned parent addressed the Board as spokesperson for others regarding the district's dress code. Ms. Wilkins presented a petition to the Board consisting of 284 students, 159 parents, and 24 grandparents/tax payers. Ms. Wilkins expressed concerns regarding the financial burden that this has caused many parents and requested that the Board go back to the conservative dress code that was approved last year.

**Motion No. 3780**

On motion by member Goodman, seconded by member Harris, the Board approved the Adjunct Faculty Appointment Agreement and Resolution submitted by Burleson County Extension Agents, Mr. Cullen (Dusty) Tittle and Amy Ressler. (This agreement recognizes the local extension agents as adjunct faculty members and allows the students to be counted present for attendance purposes.)

For 6                      Ag. 0                      Ab. 0

Dr. Cummings, Superintendent, reviewed Update 95 affecting local policies to members of the Board.

**Motion No. 3781**

On motion by member Harris, seconded by member Drgac, the Board approved to add, revise, or delete (Local) policies as recommended by TASB Policy Service and according to the Instruction Sheet for TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 95.

For 6                      Ag. 0                      Ab. 0

Members of the Board discussed the district's 2012-2013 dress code taking into consideration the concerns expressed by parents and students.

Motion No. 3782

On motion by member Drgac, seconded by member Goodman, the Board voted to table the decision regarding dress code at this time in order for the High School and Middle School Site Base Committees to meet to add their input to the dress code. (The Board will meet on October 8<sup>th</sup> to review any input presented by Dr. Vestal, Mr. Stout and committees in a unified proposal for the Board to review.)

For 6

Ag. 0

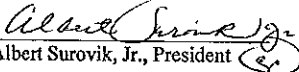
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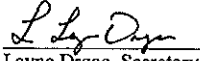
At-Will Employees: Information Only

Resignation: Sherryl Moore, Middle School Aide

Hiring: Ruby Woolverton, Middle School Aide  
Brenda Pettis, High School Custodian  
Lupe Gonzales, Middle School Cafeteria

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

  
Albert Surovik, Jr., President

  
Layne Drgac, Secretary