

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

September 26, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Albert Surovik, Jr., Layne Drgac, Steve Noack, Chester Canady,
Dan Harris, Gerald Rodriguez

Members Absent: Scott Chennault

Administrators: Rhonda Homeyer, Bill Broaddus, John Meckel, Brad Vestal,
Vance Skidmore, Gary Stout, Dr. Tim Cuff, Shaunna Savage,
Kim McManus, Nathan Goodlett, Pam Evans, John Carrigan

Guests: Bobretta Taylor, Pam Cantey, Nita Beavers, Doug Beavers; Caldwell I.S.D.,
Reba Hood & Roy Sanders

President Surovik called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Student/Staff Recognition: None at this time.

Dr. Cummings asked to address the Board. She wished to acknowledge district administrators for their hard work and dedication in getting school started without any problems in her absence with her family. On behalf of her family, she expressed a heartfelt thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards and calls during Father's illness. Dr. Cummings stated that the Administrators stepped up to the plate and took care of business and she will be forever grateful for their help in such a serious time for her family.

Motion No. 3667

On motion by member Noack, seconded by member Drgac, the Board approved the following: the minutes for the regular Board meeting held on August 29, 2011 and Board Training Workshop on September 12, 2011, approved the expenditures, tax reports, and quarterly investment reports for August, 2011, submitted by Rhonda Homeyer, Director of Business Services.

For 6

Ag. 0

Ab. 0

Public Input- No one addressed the Board at this time.

Public Hearing: A public hearing was held at 6:50 p.m. regarding the district's 2011 School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) Rating. Rhonda Homeyer, Director of Business Services, reported that the district received a "superior" rating on the report. The 2011 School FIRST ratings were based upon analysis of staff and student data reported for the 2009-2010 school year, and budgetary and actual financial data for the 2010 fiscal year ending August 31, 2010. Last year, the district received a rating "above Standard Achievement" due to the district's academically unacceptable rating. Mrs. Homeyer presented an overview of the report. The hearing concluded at approximately 7:00 p.m. with no questions from the public. (A copy of this report is made available in the district's business office.)

Dr. Cummings, Superintendent, addressed the Board regarding the Campus Improvement Plans/Academics. The district will have several changes that will impact the district's academic program overall. Dr. Cummings stated that she has asked for campus principals to pull out elements to offer students and parents that they will be able to help with. The district will be making a transition from the TAKS test to the Starr test. There will be more public awareness by using the Starr program. The Starr test will have a four hour time limit unlike the TAKS test that had no time limit. The writing portion of the test will also be a two day event. The district will not know the standards of passing until the next school year. Dr. Cummings stated that the district has 100% highly qualified staff and she is very proud of the staff. We have students to teach and we plan to concentrate on this goal.

Mr. John Meckel, Principal at the ACE Academy addressed the Board regarding his campus plan and areas that his staff will be focusing on. Mr. Meckel stated that he has 8-10 students present every day from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to work on completing their credits. There are three students that come in the evening to work on their credits to complete graduation. These students are hoping to complete their work and be able to walk with their classmates. Mr. Meckel stated that he has

received several calls regarding offering GED classes. He has contacted Region VI to see if the classes can be offered and procedures to do so. Mr. Meckel stated that academically, the students have everything they need to help them accelerate and complete their work. The virtual lab has been purchased for science and math but is not completed yet for students to start using. There were problems with not offering Spanish I and II for students that wish to complete the Recommended Plan but now these courses are offered with the help from Mr. Sutton, Mrs. Lumbreras and Mrs. Humphreys. Students are also assisted with seeking funding available for them to attend college. Many students do qualify for the funding due to their home situations. Mr. Meckel stated that he is pleased with progress of students and will continue to help students complete the program.

Dr. Vestal, High School Principal, addressed the Board regarding his campus plan. The main emphasis will be on academics and some changes made to the criteria of the exemption policy for students. Students may be exempt from finals due to their grades or having three or fewer absences. We would like to offer more incentive to reward students in some way. Dr. Vestal stated that they also plan to work with at-risk students with splitting up the times for offering tutorials for students.

Mr. Stout, Middle School Principal, expressed a thank you to the Board for their vote of confidence for allowing him the position of Middle School Principal. Mr. Stout stated that technology will be the main focus for his campus this year. Teachers will be using Smart Boards in their classrooms to help students with Reading and English. Students enjoy the interaction by using the Boards. This will be a great tool for the classroom.

Dr. Cuff, Intermediate School Principal, addressed the Board regarding his campus plan. He stated that the main focus for his campus will be communication between parents and school. Plans are to have meetings with parents in November and one in February regarding the Starr Program. Dr. Cuff stated that they want to give parents as much information as possible regarding the Starr test. Plans are to have a Data Day next week so staff can gather data from the TAKS test. This information will be used to see what objectives students need in order to prepare the Spring testing. Dr. Cuff stated that his campus as well will be using the Smart Boards. There will be a Reading Night planned in the spring for parents to read with their children as well as "CIS Goes to College". Staff will wear their college t-shirts to school to help plant the seed with students to further their education and future by attending college.

Mrs. McManus, Elementary School Principal, reported that the main focus for her campus is on after school tutorial programs in reading and in math that will be held from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. In the spring, the tutorial program will focus on science and social studies. This will be for students in the 1st and 2nd grades that are failing a course or if they fall in the lower 25th percentile in these subject areas. Mrs. McManus stated that their goal is to help those students that are struggling and do not get much support at home as they may need. Plans are to also continue to incorporate technology in the classrooms as well.

Technology Report: Mrs. Evans, Technology Director, reported to members of the Board an update on the district's technology. There have been several power outages that have caused communication problems in the district with emails, etc. Doug Beavers did some trouble shooting and found that the firewall was damaged. The new firewall was ordered, received and installed. The new firewall was again damaged due to another power outage during the Kolache Festival. Mrs. Evans stated that the phone system when down as well. Calls were placed both to Cisco for the phones and to Micro-Age for the system and another replacement was ordered. The following items have been complete since the last report to the Board: two switches installed at High School, new students have been added into the network, continue completing work orders, three new COWS delivered to the High School (1 for Ag department and 2 for special ed.), and installed new fiber at the Elementary School to help with their communication on the campus.

Rhonda Homeyer, Director of Business Services, asked to address the Board to express a thank you to Pam and her staff for their hard work during the district's computer outage. This was a very critical time for the Administration Office with payroll as well as other reporting. Mrs. Evans and her staff were able to setup computer areas for two weeks for the Administration Office to work. Payroll was completed in a timely manner thanks to the Technology Department.

Superintendent's Reports: **Enrollment-** Dr. Cummings reported that there are still concerns regarding the district's enrollment numbers. Present enrollment is: High School 526 (last year's 545), Middle School 441 (last year's 427), Intermediate School 381 (last year's 405), and Elementary School 507 (last year's 504). Dr. Cummings stated that we will continue to monitor enrollment as we are 26 students less than last year's enrollment. **Facility Planning-** Dr. Cummings reported that we will continue with the Long Range Planning Committee so that we may be able to monitor the facility needs of the district. Plans are for TASB to come again and visit with us about the district's facilities as well as tour the facilities. Mr. Doug Whitt with Southwest Securities will also be invited to attend. He will give us information regarding the timeline procedures for bond election if we do decide to go this route. We must also continue to monitor the Middle School gym due to the drought and further shifting of the facility. The Board set a date of Thursday, October 20th at 6:30 p.m. for the Long Range Planning committee to meet and review the district's facility needs.

October Calendar of Events- Dr. Cummings shared the district's October calendar of events with the Board and extended an invitation to the Board to attend.

Members of the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss Agenda Item I, "Personnel and Student Issues- Student Legal Issue- Closed Session."

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

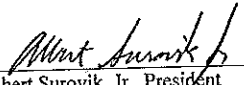
Board President Surovik read the following: "The Board of Trustees on September 26, 2011, beginning at 8:00 p.m. convened in a closed or executive session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.


At the end of the executive session, Board President Surovik read the following: "The Board ended its closed or executive session at 8:31 p.m. on September 26, 2011. Regular session reconvened at 8:31 p.m.

Members of the Board acknowledged the following at-will resignation and hiring as submitted by Dr. Cummings, Superintendent:

Resignation: Catherine Strong- Bus Driver
Hiring: Debra Robinson- Bus Driver

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.


Albert Surovik, Jr., President


Layne Drgac, Secretary