

Board Meeting Summary

December 15, 2020 • Regular Board Meeting • 6:00 p.m.

Opening

A Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Conroe Independent School District was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. Superintendent Dr. Curtis Null and a quorum of members were present: Skeeter Hubert, Datren Williams, Ray Sanders, Scott Moore, Stacey Chase, and Theresa Wagaman. Dale Inman did not attend the meeting. Board President Skeeter Hubert called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Mr. Williams led the invocation and pledges

Awards and Recognition

The Conroe Independent School District Board of Trustees recognized the Conroe ISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) Construction Trades teachers, Dennis Hom, Ignacio Saucedo, and Patrick Brown. They facilitated and manufactured desk shields during the summer and fall of 2020 to assist with the safe reopening of Conroe ISD campuses. Their efforts came at a critical time when safety supplies were in high demand and costly and the District was preparing to resume in-person instruction. As a result of their hard work, the District was able to obtain acrylic sheets to make stands for \$15.50 each as opposed to purchasing them for over \$100 each saving an estimated \$91,000.

Superintendent Dr. Curtis Null also recognized retiring CTE Director Greg Shipp for his 34 years of service to education.

Citizen Participation

No citizen(s) addressed the Board.

Consent Agenda

The Board of Trustees approved the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- Consider Approval of Minutes
- Consider Amendment to the 2020-2021 Budget
- Receive Human Resources Report and Consider Employment of Professional Personnel
- Consider Approval of Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS) Appraisers
- Consider Approval of 2020-2021 District Improvement Plan
- Consider Approval of 2020-2021 Campus Improvement Plans

Administration

- The Board of Trustees approved the District of Innovation Plan as recommended by the District of Innovation Committee. In addition to continuing the exemption from Texas Education Code §25.0811, which allows the District to begin the school prior to the fourth Monday in August, the plan includes a waiver from requirements of Texas Education Code §21.003, which pertains to teacher certification. The exemption will allow the District to hire teachers for hard-to-fill career education programs such as welding, automotive technology, and health sciences.
- The Board received an update regarding attendance zones for elementary schools in the Caney Creek Feeder by Deputy Superintendent Dr. Hines and Executive Director of Operations Mr. McCord. The District has established an Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) to study student growth in the affected areas and to make a recommendation for attendance boundaries to coincide with the opening of Hope Elementary and to reduce enrollment at the identified campuses. The ABC has been meeting since mid-September and plans to bring forward a final recommendation to the January 19 Board meeting.

Planning and Construction

- The Conroe ISD Board of Trustees approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment with Ellisor Constructors, Inc. for the Creighton Elementary Overhaul Project and authorized the superintendent to negotiate and execute the contract documents. Based on Ellisor Constructors, Inc.'s proposal for this work, the District has negotiated a guaranteed maximum price for the project of \$8,923,874.00.

Continued...

A Vision for CISD CISD is a learning community united in its commitment to ensuring all students graduate with confidence and competence. The schools and communities work together to provide performance standards which can be applied to the real world. This is achieved through the implementation of quality in instruction, operations, and leadership.



CONROE
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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- The Board of Trustees approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment with G.T.T. General Contractors, Inc. for the Campus Renovations 2021 Project and authorized the superintendent to negotiate and execute the contract documents. Based on G.T.T. General Contractors, Inc.'s proposal for this work, the District has negotiated a guaranteed maximum price for the project of \$7,695,000.00.
- The Board also approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment with Joeris General Contractors, Inc. for the New Junior High School in the Caney Creek Feeder & East County Transportation Center Project and authorized the superintendent to negotiate and execute the contract documents. Based on Joeris General Contractors, Inc.'s proposal for this work, the District has negotiated a guaranteed maximum price for the project of \$67,415,077.00.
- Mr. Easy Foster, Director of Planning and Construction, presented the progress and status of current capital improvement projects.

Business/Finance

- The Conroe Independent School District Board of Trustees awarded CSP #20-10-02 Internal Connections – Hope Elementary School – E-Rate to Data Vox, Inc., for an estimated expenditure of \$400,000.
- The Board of Trustees awarded CSP #20-10-03 Internet Access / Telecommunications – E-Rate to WaveMedia, Inc. / ICTX for an estimated expenditure of \$1,300,000.
- The Regular Meeting recessed at 7:14 p.m. to hold a public hearing as required by Local Government Code §180.007 for the purpose of determining whether the District should pay a one-time retention incentive payment to District staff. Public comment was invited. Community member Mr. Schroeder made comments during the discussion. The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:17 p.m.
- The Conroe Independent School District Board of Trustees approved to adopt a resolution authorizing the District to make a one-time incentive payment to all eligible employees. The Board approved the District's request to paying eligible staff a one-time retention incentive payment in the February 1, 2020 paycheck. To be eligible for the payment, an employee must have been hired on or before, December 1, 2020, and be employed by CISD at the time the payment is made. Full-time benefit eligible employees will receive a one-time \$500 payment. Employees who work part-time will receive a one-time \$250 payment. If an employee leaves the District prior to the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the District will recover the payment from the employee's final wages.

The District believes this payment is necessary for morale and to sustain its workforce, and to increase the likelihood that the District can remain open for in-person instruction.

- The CISD Board of Trustees approved the Amended 2020-2021, Auxiliary Employee Pay Plan and Substitute Teacher Pay. The District recommended an increase to the 2020-2021 Auxiliary Employee Pay Plan for Level 1, 2, 3, and 4 custodians. TASB agreed that the recommended increase is appropriate considering current market conditions for these hard to fill positions.

The District also believes that by increasing the daily pay rate for substitute teachers the District will be able to attract additional substitute teachers, as the recommended increase will bring CISD in line with what other Districts are paying. The District's recommendation is to increase the substitute teacher pay rate by \$10/day.

These changes will be effective in the pay period beginning January 3, 2021.

- The Board of Trustees accepted the year-to-date financial reports for information as presented by Mrs. Karen Garza, Business and Accounting Manager.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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