



SCHOOL of EXCELLENCE
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Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 6:00pm

1826 Basse Road, San Antonio, Texas 78213 (Location 2nd Floor)

MINUTES

1. **Opening Prayer Mrs. LaVergie Washington**
2. **Meeting Called to Order**
 - i. Pledge of Allegiance & School Creed – **Said in unison by all**
 - ii. Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum - **Mrs. Washington, Dr. Goding, & Mr. Britton**
3. **Acknowledgement of Visitors to Speak: Mr. Britton asked if anyone present to speak before the board: None present**
4. **Campus Highlights: Presented by Mrs. Madkins: All principals out today**

We had a good Hispanic Heritage Program at the district. High parent attendance and student participation from all campuses. Students are more focused this year, and we hired some really good teachers. Looking for good results this year.

- i. Elementary
 - i. Walker – Ms. Askew: Absent – **Principal program class is tonight**
 - ii. Kelley – Ms. Martens: Absent – **Parent Conference**
 - ii. Secondary - Ms. V. Walker: Absent - **Out sick last two days**
5. **Financial Report – Karl Knox : Call In**
 - i. Monthly Financial Report: **Presented by Mrs. Madkins**
 - ii. Cash Flow Report: **Presented by Mrs. Madkins**
 - iii. Investment Report: **Tabled**
6. **Governance – Sheilda Madkins**
 - i. District Enrollment/Attendance Report – Ms. Benton – 669 students enrolled to date. YTD attendance rate is at 95.4%. Best attendance at Lee followed by Kelley. 53 students left district so far this year. Largest category for leaving district is Other/Unknown and we lose them. . All issues have been cleared. Letter sent to parents from the district. Mrs. Washington indicates she does not know how to stop the bleeding. Students come in the beginning. All are not unhappy with the school. Mrs. Benton indicated parents have a choice. Mrs. Washington indicates that we have big, brand new charters popping up everyday
 - ii. Discuss Amending the 2017-2018 School Calendar – Ms. Benton: **Mrs. Benton had to adjust one early release day due to change in TEA test dates. Mrs. Benton gave the**



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board hard copy of just the changes that were updated in addition to a complete copy of the handbook.

- iii. Discuss the 2017-2018 Student Handbook – Ms. Benton – Request approval of the 1718 student handbook.
- iv. Discuss the Pre-K SA Grant – Ms. Johnson:

Ms. Johnson reported that the grant in progress. Will submit Oct 27th. Mrs. Johnson had letters of support that she requested board to sign.

- v. Discuss the PBMAS Accountability Report – Ms. Madkins:

Ms. Madkins presented a PowerPoint summary and gave the board a hard copy of the PBMAS report showing the areas needing improvement (ESLBIL, SPED, ESSA in the areas of reading, math, science, and writing). If we get too many 3 and 4's on performance levels, the state will stage/monitor us. We were not staged in PBMAS, but need to decrease numbers not meeting standard so that we do not become staged.

- vi. Discuss the Bilingual/ESL – Ms. Madkins:

Reported that we lost the two BIL teachers we have had the last three years and we are unable to hire 2 BIL teachers this year. Will submit application for waiver to TEA by Nov 1st. Mr. Britton wanted to know why did we have to submit the application and when would we know if we receive approval? Mrs. Madkins informed the board that it is a requirement to submit the application for waiver if we were not able to hire teachers certified to teach in the bilingual designated classrooms and that TEA would let us know rather quickly as in past years. Mr. Britton asked if we would get the wavier. Mrs. Madkins said she didn't know why not because there is a shortage in BIL teachers all over the state, not just at SEE.

- vii. Discuss using Money from the Sign Fund for Teacher/Employee Appreciation – Ms. Butler and Ms. Johnson:

Ms. Butler and Mrs. Johnson were talking in their office about not having money to appreciate the teachers, so they decided to request to use \$2,000 of the funds collected through the rental of the gym at Basse for teacher appreciation since we have no other means to show teachers appreciation. Ms. Butler indicated that we have already raised enough funds to purchase and install a sign at Kelley. Mrs. Washington wanted to know if each teacher employee would get \$2,000. No, only \$2,000 was requested to purchase small treats for each staff. Ms. Johnson said that we have to complete a Texas Equity Plan this year. We have a high rate of inexperienced and out of field teachers. So we are trying to come up with a way of keeping our experienced teachers. We can't give them a big raise, but we can let them know we appreciate them. Ms. Butler indicated that she would like to establish an account for the teacher appreciation fund. With the



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- \$2,000. Mrs. Washington wanted to know if we made more money can we put aside more money for this fund. Ms. Butler said she anticipates rented the gym at Basse and at Burch. May need to invest some money to make more money. Ms. Butler intends to keep this going to do something special that the board approves.**
- viii. Discuss Contracting with US Capital Advisors to Serve as Financial Advisors during Bond Negotiations – Mr. Knox:
Presented by Mrs. Madkins and Mr. Knox. If SEE pursues refinancing of the existing bonds, we will need someone to represent us in these negotiations. US Capital advisors has worked with us in the past. If we decide to pursue the financing of the bonds and to use them, there is paperwork to be signed.
- ix. Discuss Refinancing Bonds with HJ Sims – **Presented by Mr. Knox & Mrs. Madkins**
The board was given a hard copy of the proposal to refinance the current bonds for the remaining 17 years with HJ Sims as the underwriter. The amount of the projected amount of Taxable Series Bond B (\$425,000) vs. Tax –exempt Series A bonds \$7.3XXM plus the \$733,000 in the current debt service account would amount to a total of \$8,593,000 to pay for the existing bonds and the new debt service. It would cost \$531,850 to issue the bonds. The board wanted to know how much would we save by refinancing the bonds, and if the cost of the bonds would be paid up front. The \$531,850 is distributed to the underwriters and bond attorneys out of the 8,593,000 million received from the sale of the old bonds plus the current death service account amount. The district would save an average of \$45,000 per year over the 17 years. The revenue from the sale of the old bonds would be used to pay off the cost of the new binds as well as the cost to conduct the business. Mr. Britton wanted to know if it was worth it for \$45,000. Mrs. Washington wanted to know what the time frame for this transaction was. The same 17 years as we currently have. Mr. Britton restated, if we do this, we bring in about \$45,000 a year? Mr. Knox agreed that yes, \$45,000 per year is correct. Mr. Britton wanted to know how much was this a month? Approximately \$3500 per month. The refinancing would be refinancing from 7% bonds to 5.25%. Dr. Goding wanted to know if SEE would get this rating. Mr. Knox indicated that Sims had looked at us already when Standard and Poor’s looked at us, we rated at BB with a negative outlook because if the declining enrollment. Sims is not looking at the rating. This would be higher risk bonds. The only thing that could change something is whether or not the federal government moved up the interest rate by a quarter percent. We would ask Lewis Wilkes about this for guidance. The underwriters are on one side of the table trying to get the best deal for their clients and on the other side of the table would be the school counsel to negotiate the deal.
- x. Discuss Facilities throughout the District – Ms. Butler
Ms. Butler indicated the mosquito problem at Kelley was under control. The RFPs for the roofs that you all approved at the last board meeting for repair work at the Basse



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cafeteria/portables had been submitted. We will open bids as soon as they come and try to get roofs repaired over Thanksgiving. We are also working on the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) so we can lock down the campuses down if we need to. I have walked Kelley and we have door work to do over there. A city inspector was at Kelley today to check out the plumbing work. It appears to be a thumbs up.

Closed Session

- xi. Discuss Employee Concerns Pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code.

7. Reconvene Open Session : No actions taken

8. Consideration of Action Items

- i. Consideration to Approve the Amended 2017-2018 School Calendar: **Approved - Moved by Mrs. Washington and seconded by Dr. Goding**
- ii. Consideration to Approve the 2017-2018 Student Handbook: **Approved – Moved by Mrs. Washington, seconded by Dr. Goding**
- iii. Consideration to Approve Using Money from the Sign Fund for Teacher/Employee Appreciation: **Approved \$2,000 – Moved by Mrs. Washington, seconded by Dr. Goding**
- iv. Consideration to Take Possible Actions regarding Employee Concerns: **No action taken**
- v. Consideration to Approve Investment Report: **Tabled**
- vi. Consideration to Approve Contracting with US Capital Advisors to Serve as Financial Advisors during Bond Negotiations: **Approved – Moved by Mrs. Washington, seconded by Dr. Gooding**
- vii. Consideration to Approve Bond Refinancing Proposal from HJ Sims: **Approved – Moved By Mrs. Washington, seconded by Dr. Goding**

9. Consideration/Approval of Consent Items: None

10. Adjournment and Closing Prayer – Mrs. Washington at 8:07pm
