

Boardroom Notes

August 21, 2008

President Jim Ash convened the meeting with Peter Baron, Bowie Hogg, Mike O'Donnell, Wayne Ogle, Gloria Peña, Sherri Wade and Jerry McCullough present.

Public Hearing

- **2008-2009 Budget & Proposed Tax Rate** - no speakers
- **Optional Flexible School Day Program 2008-2009 School Year** - no speakers

Program/Presentation

Bayard H. Friedman Hero Award

Ernie Horn, Score A Goal in the Classroom, and Heather Snider, Chesapeake Energy, presented James Rose, director of student affairs, with the Bayard H. Friedman Hero Award for being the most outstanding student affairs administrator in North Texas.

Safety and Security Audit Report

Chuck Thomas, assistant superintendent of plant services, introduced Paul Lupia, lead auditor with Region 10 ESC. Lupia along with other Region 10 auditors conducted a safety and security audit on all campuses and several other district facilities. Senate Bill 111 requires districts in Texas to conduct a security audit at least once every three years. The audit teams inspected facilities, made observations and interviewed staff. The district received many general commendations including a district-wide communication plan, relationships with local emergency agencies and law enforcement, community outreach programs, communication tools, video surveillance systems and thorough training programs.

There were several general recommendations including a lock engaged practice for all campuses, numbering exterior/perimeter portals, electronic keyless entry system, software capable of running background checks on campus visitors, equipping classrooms with Go Kits, perimeter fencing, encouraging staff to display ID badges, and placing AEDs in more common areas, rather than in the nurses' office.

Open Forum/Agenda Items

- **Chuck Hogard** addressed the Board and supported the proposal to combine CTM and LAN tech positions. He believes that employees should be paid equally for equal amounts of work. In addition, he shared data on computers, labs and other numbers that affect CTMs and LAN techs.
- **Carole Lemonds**, ATPE, discussed salaries and compensation for all employees. In addition, she mentioned the need for special consideration of employees who make less than \$25,000. Lemonds thanked the Board for their leadership and for the difficult decisions that must be made.
- **Polly Walton**, UEA, thanked the Board for an outstanding convocation. She referenced several of the wonderful remarks made at convocation about the talent and dedication of the AISD teachers and staff. Walton asked the Board to take the Financial Futures Committee's (FFC) recommendation to increase salaries by 3.5 percent for all employees and an additional 2 percent for those employees making less than \$25,000.
- **Larry Shaw**, UEA, addressed the Board and asked the Board to approve salary increases as previously discussed. Shaw said that he has worked all summer with many neighboring districts to ensure that area educators are granted raises in this next fiscal year. He believes that the AISD Board will do the right thing and grant salary increases, not bonuses, but salary increases. Shaw also shared that he expects the AISD to receive higher than expected revenue from the gas leases during the next fiscal year.
- **Wayne Gilbert** has served on the FFC for several years. He told the Board that he would like the Board to consider not cutting the school allotments, as he believes the fine arts, library programs and other special programs will suffer greatly if the allotments are reduced.

Superintendent's Report

Convocation was a huge success! More than 6,000 teachers and staff attended the exciting event. We emphasized family ties and the importance of collaboration. The Board did a wonderful job of illustrating why teamwork is essential for success! It truly set the tone for the school year.

Next Monday when schools open for classes to start, 62,772 students are expected in AISD classrooms. In addition, 389 new teachers have been hired for this school year.

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 Richard Greene Scholars. One student from each high school was selected for this honor. The scholars recently attended a Texas Rangers game and were introduced on the field. As part of the program, the students complete an internship at central office and will be introduced at future board meetings. Each scholar receives a \$10,000 scholarship over four years.

In July, 20 students and three teachers from Martin HS traveled to Arlington's sister city, Bad Königshofen in Germany. Each student was paired with a teen host, and the teachers were hosted by local teachers. The Martin students presented the mayor with a plaque and a Martin HS T-shirt to commemorate the visit and the sister city friendship.

The Junior League of Arlington held a back-to-school fair on August 9 for children attending Thornton and South Davis elementary schools. Children received new backpacks filled with school supplies, health-related services and more. Thank you to the Junior League of Arlington for all the support of the AISD.

With the first day of school upon us, Mr. McCullough reminded everyone of the emphasis on instruction. After staff development and convocation this week, teachers and staff are ready for students to return. The dedication and commitment of the AISD family will ensure that everyone has a successful year!



Action Items

The board approved the following:

- **2008-2009 Budget** - the following is included in the approved budget:
 - A 2 percent across-the-board pay increase, plus an additional 2 percent for employees making less than \$25,000
 - Speech pathologists, diagnosticians and LSSPs will also receive an equity adjustment in addition to the 2 percent pay increase to bring their salaries up to market.
 - Campus allotments reduced by 15 percent

A complete copy of the approved budget will be available by the end of the month for download on the AISD Web site www.aisd.net.

- **Setting the 2008 - 2009 Tax Rate** - The rate was not adjusted from the 2007-2008 tax rate.
- **Resolution** explaining intent to exceed or fall short of proposed expenditure targets established by the commissioner of education.