

Boardroom Notes

October 4, 2007

President Jim Ash convened the meeting with Michael Gaspie, Mike O'Donnell, Wayne Ogle and Dr. Mac Bernd present.

Public Hearing

Option to Continue to Tax Certain Goods in Transit

HB 621 exempts goods from property taxes beginning in January 2008 if the goods are stored in a location that is not owned by the owner of the goods and are transferred from that location to another within 175 days, unless the board acts to continue to tax those goods. No speakers presented during the public hearing.

Program/Presentation

Arlington Human Services - Before- and After-School Care

Patty Wright, Arlington Human Services, shared with the board information regarding the successful Before- and After-School Care program in the AISD. Girls Inc., the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club facilitate the programs at 34 elementary schools, serving more than 2,700 students in 2006-2007. Wright also shared information regarding the summer on-campus program.

Superintendent's Report

We've reached the season of announcements regarding national scholarship competitions, and we have nine AISD students who have been named **National Merit Semifinalists**. We also have three students who have been named semifinalists in the **National Achievement Scholarship Program**. Dr. Bernd encouraged everyone to stay tuned throughout the course of the year to learn more about these students, and our **National Hispanic Scholars**, as they are recognized formally across the district.

In light of recent off-campus violence that the Arlington Police Department believes is gang-related, Dr. Bernd announced that the district is preparing **new security measures** to prevent such activities from reaching our campuses. Those measures will include the following:

- Additional security personnel
- Additional canine patrols
- A new gang intervention specialist position

Dr. Bernd also discussed **security measures already in place**, which include the following:

- Security cameras and recording equipment on campuses
- Security Department consisting of a director, security specialist and 80 security officers
- School Resource Unit consisting of 21 sworn Arlington Police Officers. (School Resource Officers)
- Contraband detection canines that search school lockers and student vehicles for drugs, alcohol and weapons
- Walk-through metal detectors at all secondary campuses, used regularly on a random basis
- Lockdown procedures and drills for each campus
- Joint training exercises involving the AISD and the Arlington police and fire departments

Dr. Bernd assured the community that we have no reported gang violence on any of our campuses, and that we are putting these steps in place to make sure we keep it that way.

Dr. Bernd announced the formation of the **Workforce Diversity Enhancement Advisory Council**. The council will be composed of 20 representatives from AISD administration and teaching staff, teaching organizations, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, higher education and community

groups such as LULAC and the NAACP. These representatives will advise the district on recruiting, hiring and retention initiatives. Dr. Bernd encouraged those present to visit the AISD Web site for more information on the council and to access an application. The AISD is committed to a diverse workforce and looks forward to working with the council on this exciting program.

The **Texas Association of School Boards** held its annual conference in Dallas last week, and as outgoing president of TASB, **AISD Board of Trustees President Jim Ash** was charged with delivering a presentation that highlighted the talents of students and teachers across the district. **Bill Huff** and **Vicki Keller** of our fine arts department worked with more than 300 students and 20 teachers across the district to create a beautiful presentation that spoke to what our district offers students beyond what goes on in the classroom. Dr. Bernd asked Bill Huff and Vicki Keller, along with **Jacque Hall**, choir director at **Moore Elementary**, to stand and be recognized, and he also recognized Art Curriculum Coordinator **Linh Nguyen** and his staff for putting together the student art display that was also part of the conference. Dr. Bernd closed his report with a video presentation of the TASB convention fine arts performance.



Action Items

The board approved the following:

- **Resolution to Nominate a Member to the Tarrant Appraisal District Board of Directors -**

The board nominated Harold Patterson.

- **Resolution to Continue to Tax Tangible Personal Property in Transit Which Would Otherwise be Exempt Pursuant to Texas Tax Code, Section 11.253 - HB 621** exempts goods from property taxes beginning in January 2008 if the goods are stored in a location that is not owned by the owner of the goods and are transferred from that location to another within 175 days, unless the board acts to continue to tax those goods.



Open Forum/Non-Agenda Items

- **Marcia Jennings**, AISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, spoke to the board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve on the committee. She also shared the names of other committee members and reported that the group was meeting Thursday evening. Jennings said that the committee looks forward to reporting the group's recommendations to the board in the future.