

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting

### The Board of Trustees Commerce ISD

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A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Commerce Independent School District was held on December 15, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Commerce ISD Administration Building, 3315 Washington St., Commerce, Texas. President Kathleen Hooten called the meeting to order, extended a warm welcome and announced that a quorum was present. The meeting had been posted for the time and manner required by law.

Board members present were Mrs. Hooten, Mr. Michael Beane, Ms. Etta Herring, Dr. Mark Reid and Mr. Gabe Wittkopf. Dr. LaVelle Hendricks and Mr. Randy Starks were absent.

#### **Executive Session...**

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 6:00 p.m. to consider personnel (§551.074) and private consultation with Board's attorney, if needed (§551.071).

#### **Reconvene from Executive Session...**

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board ended its closed session 7:03 p.m. on December 15, 2016.

#### **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance...**

The invocation was led by Dr. Reid. Commerce Middle School students Meagan Jones and J'den Wilson led the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags.

The Board witnessed a demonstration of VGO, a robot who will be helping a homebound student receive instruction.

#### **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

Dr. Reid made a motion to employ Katy Bleyl as an elementary art teacher. Dr. Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Citizen's Comments...**

None

#### **Commerce Middle School Campus Report**

CMS Principal Dr. Shenequa Miller turned the presentation over to teachers who read a specially crafted CMS "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Even Santa Claus (teacher Kirby Gilbert) made an appearance.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 17, 2016 and the financial statements and investment summary for November 2016. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Presentation on TEA's A-F Accountability Rating**

Dr. Patty Tremmel, Assistant Superintendent, presented a video explain the TEA A-F accountability rating.

**Consider Approval of District of Innovation Committee**

Dr. Tremmel presented the names of parents, business representatives, teacher and administrators who have agreed to serve on the District of Innovation Committee. The committee will discuss options to include in the district plan which could include certification, calendar and class sizes alternatives. Committee members included Charlie Alderman, Patty Tremmel, Diane Stegall, Lisa Palazzetti, Dr. Shenequa Miller, Steve Drummond, Amber Wagner, Meagan Heath, Nick Smith, Christi Coplin, Bonnie Hunter, Amber Weaver and Kathy Myers.

Dr. Reid made a motion to approve the DOI Committee as presented. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Approval of Resolution Supporting Region 10 Legislative Priorities**

Superintendent Charlie Alderman presented a Region 10 Legislative Priorities resolution including opposition to the A-F accountability system and vouchers or education savings grants. Increased funding to the basic allotment was included.

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve the resolution supporting Region 10 Legislative Priorities as presented. Mr. Beane seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Informational Reports**

Mr. Alderman noted that enrollment was down eight students to 1609 as of December 12, 2016.

Mrs. Hooten reported that all Board members with the exception of Dr. Mark Reid had completed all required board trainings.

Mr. Alderman said that the Board of Trustees election would be held May 6 and the first day to file for a place on the ballot will be Wednesday, January 18.

Principals gave monthly reports. CES Principal Diane Stegall was not attendance because she was hosting the CES Christmas program at CMS.

Due to the Martin Luther King holiday, the next Board meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2017, with executive session at 6 p.m. A special dinner in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month will be held with administrators.

Mr. Alderman announced that Mr. Gene Lockhart gave \$500 to the choir program.

**Consider Budget Amendment Related to Fund Balance Transfer**

After a lengthy discussion, led by Superintendent Alderman, Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to move \$415,692 from fund balance for capital projects. Included in the motion were items exceeding \$50,000 in cost including surveillance cameras at CES, update camera systems at other campuses, installing a new fire alarm system at CES and repairing leaking roofs across the district. Other items approved were playground equipment at ACW, drainage work, roofing of the gym and replacing entry doors at CMS and parking lot fixes at CES. A storage building will be built at CHS for track equipment.

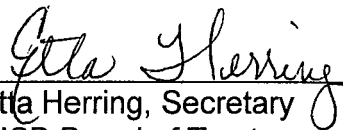
Dr. Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment...**

Dr. Reid made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. Mrs. Hooten stated that the meeting was adjourned.



Kathleen Hooten, President  
CISD Board of Trustees



Etta Herring, Secretary  
CISD Board of Trustees



***BOARD RESOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES***

**WHEREAS**, the Commerce Independent School District Board of Trustees commits support and priority to the collective efforts of the Region 10 area school districts and their work in pursuing legislative action for the sake of protecting school districts and students across the state of Texas;

**WHEREAS**, the Commerce Independent School District trustees, in partnership with, and in service to, their state and local communities, are committed champions of teaching and learning for success of schools and all students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commerce Independent School District trustees, are vital voices of their communities, advocating for the needs and interests of children and youth as they prepare for their future; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Commerce has shown confidence and faith in their school trustees to make informed decisions that will provide excellence and success in education for their students;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Trustees of the Commerce Independent School District joins in collective efforts with other area Region 10 School Boards to have our voices heard in support for the following list of legislative priorities as laid out by the Region 10 area school boards and districts:

- **A-F Accountability System**: We believe in strong accountability, but see no evidence that the A-F grading system will actually improve performance or help students. The system is designed to rank order schools within each domain to allow for comparison of schools/districts. The bulk of the rankings will be based solely on a once a year STAAR/EOC assessment that has been proven to be defective, not statistically significant or reliable, and detrimental to students and the teaching profession. The present standard setting process indicates that it will be impossible for all schools to earn an A.
- **Vouchers or Education Saving Grants**: We oppose a state voucher plan, tax credit, taxpayer savings grants, tuition reimbursements, or any program that diverts public tax dollars to private entities, homeschool students, or parents with little or no academic or financial accountability to the state, taxpayers, or local communities.
- **Funding**: We believe that the basic allotment should be raised creating additional funding for all districts in Texas. The increased allotment would not require additional revenue from the state, rather revenues generated by increased property values would be returned to local school districts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Commerce Independent School Board of Trustees respectfully urges that the members of the 85th Texas Legislature demonstrate that an investment in Texas Public School Children, in partnership with the Commerce Independent School District and the Region 10 area Districts, is of the highest priority in order to guarantee the best possible future for our students.

REGION 10 SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Legislative Priorities



PASSED & APPROVED on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016

Kathleen S. Hodges

School Board President

(absent)

School Board Vice - President

Eeta Sherring

School Board Secretary

M. Beane

School Board Trustee

(absent)

School Board Trustee

Matthias

School Board Trustee

Caro Warr

School Board Trustee