

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees
Commerce ISD

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Commerce Independent School District was held on October 20, 2020, at the Commerce ISD Administration Building. 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 for the meeting were Mrs. Hooten, Dr. Ray Green, Dr. LaVelle Hendricks, Ms. Etta Herring, Mr. Randy Starks and Mr. Gabe Wittkopf

Executive Session...

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 6:07 p.m. to discuss personnel (§551.074) and hold a private consultation with the Board's attorney, if necessary (§551.071).

Reconvene from Executive Session...

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board ended its closed session at 7:04 p.m. on October 20, 2020.

Opening Activities

Mr. Starks led an invocation. The pledge to the U.S. flag was led by Dr. Hendricks and the pledge to the Texas flag was led by Ms. Herring.

Citizens' Comments

Scott Lancaster, a parent, asked the Board to resume posting the COVID-19 dashboard on the website. Another parent, Jennifer Knight, asked the Board to provide more information about the COVID-19 case numbers on campuses.

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

No action resulted from Executive Session.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Green made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 21, 2020 and the financial statements and investment summary for September 2020. Dr. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider Approval of Budget Amendment

Director of Finance John Walker explained the budget amendment was required to maintain accounting records by adding revenue that was not budgeted. Director of Technology Al Shipp said the purchase of a new firewall was neutral in that e-Rate funds were used to purchase it. Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Appointment of Board Member to Fill Unexpired Term of Place 4

Mrs. Hooten said the appointment of a new board member to fill the place of Dr. Mark Reid would probably be made in November. She stated that the Board must appoint someone by December to fulfill the requirement to appoint within 180 days when a board member resigns. The individual would be required to run for office during the next May election to fulfill the remaining two years of the term.

Discussion about Enrollment

Superintendent Charlie Alderman said enrollment was down 78 students from last year due to COVID-19 and that other districts in the area were seeing the same decrease. Half of the decrease could be attributed to Commerce Elementary School. The dollar amount in decreased enrollment equals approximately \$480,000 this year. The Texas Education Agency announced that it will hold harmless districts' enrollment for the fall semester.

Discussion about Online Learning

Mr. Alderman gave data on the percentage of students choosing at-home, online instruction. CHS has 25 percent, CMS 25 percent, ACW 15 percent and CES has 13 percent. He noted that failures were high for online students with half of the students of CHS failing two classes. CMS has 76 percent of students failing. ACW has 21 percent who failed the first nine-week period. CES has 13 students failing. These figures continue to be lower than other districts in the area. Some districts have announced they will stop offering online learning now or for the second semester because of their failure rates. The only options parents will have if online is ended is 1) homeschool, 2) private school or coming to school. He wants to continue discussions about online instruction but he had no recommendations at this time.

Update on Accountability and School Improvement Measures

Assistant Superintendent Patricia Tremmel introduced the iCAT team of Casey Chaney, CMS; Sheila DeMidio, ACW; and Cari Sturch, CES who explained results of the beginning of the year testing and strategies to attack weaknesses.

Consider Approval of the Commerce Middle School Targeted Improvement Plan

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve the CMS Targeted Improvement Plan which must be filed with TEA. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the 2020-2021 District and Campus Improvement Plans

Dr. Green made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 District and Campus Improvement Plans as presented. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Repair or Refinishing the Commerce High School Gym Floor

Mr. Alderman explained that the CHS gym floor needed repair or replacement due to water damage. He said it could be patched at a cost of \$5000 or refinished for \$21,900. Ms. Herring made a motion Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Approval of Resale Bids

Twenty-three tax-delinquent properties were offered for sale. Two properties which received bids from individuals. One was located at 114 Norris St. and the other was located at 1602 Division St. Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to sell the 114 Norris St. property. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Starks made a motion to approve the sale of property at 1602 Division St. Dr. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A total of 21 purchased by Chicago Legacy to building single-family homes in the Norris Community. Dr. Green made a motion to sell 21 properties to Chicago legacy. Dr. Hendricks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Consider Approval of Region 10 ESC Purchasing Cooperative Agreement

Mr. Walker explained that the Region 10 Co-op provided another opportunity to get lower prices on products and services. Dr. Hendricks made a motion to approve joining the Region 10 Purchasing Cooperative. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Informational Reports

Superintendent Charlie Alderman reported a total of 1458 students enrolled, down 78 students from last year.

Principal reports were made by Roger Brown, CHS; Nick Smith, CMS; Lisa Palazzetti, ACW and Wanda Beane, CES.

The date, time and location for the November Board meeting was set at Monday, November 16, 2020 with executive session to begin at 6 p.m. and the open session at 7 p.m. in the CISD Board Room.

Comments from Board Members

Dr. Hendricks asked principals to submit names of five students who are worthy of receiving a Martin Luther King Leadership Award. He also recommended the new book, "The Truth is Marching On," by Jon Meacham, which is a biography of Congressman John Lewis.

Adjournment...

Dr. Green made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Hooten stated that the meeting was adjourned.



Kathleen Hooten, President
CISD Board of Trustees



Etta Herring, Secretary
CISD Board of Trustees