

Minutes of the Special Meeting

The Board of Trustees Commerce ISD

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Commerce Independent School District was held on April 27, 2021, 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. Mrs. Kelsey Lytle was absent.

Executive Session...

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 7:05 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 7:21 p.m. on April 27, 2021.

Citizens' Comments

None.

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

Mr. Starks made a motion to accept the resignation of Leanne Bryant, CMS art teacher. Dr. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Green made a motion to employ Jennifer Pederson, ACW teacher; Wes Evans, CMS teacher; Jordan Hefner, CMS teacher; Jason Holcomb, CMS teacher/coach; Mitchell Morrow, ACW teacher; Mike Pope, special ed coordinator; Emily Graves ACW teacher/coach. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Consideration of Fund Balance Expenditures

Mr. Alderman explained that the district had an excessive amount of fund balance due to lack of activities during COVID-19 isolation and frugal business practices. He stated that a bill in the legislature was set to limit the amount of fund balance schools could carry to 110 days of operating expenses. If passed, if fund balance exceeds the limit schools would not be able to have a bond election and state funds could be reduced by the amount equal to the excess. He provided a list of 15 improvements gathered from district administrators. Some were immediate needs and others were introduced as not essential to operation but improvements none the less. He said the Board was not voting to purchase items but was voting to move fund balance money to the general fund to be spent by September 1, 2021.

Purchase of individual items would be brought to the Board for approval

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to vote on each item individually. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to update the Commerce High School HVAC system at a cost of \$173,000. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Starks made a motion to purchase a new freezer at Commerce Elementary for \$52,000. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Green made a motion to spend \$537,346 on technology and add \$100,000 yearly to the budget for technology upgrades. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to spend \$14,614 to replace AEDs across the district. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to spend \$12,389 on a new vision screener. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Alderman stated that he had been working with Texas A&M University-Commerce to purchase land which is currently leased for the CHS campus. Fair market value for the property was set at \$310,000. Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to purchase property from the A&M University System for CHS and construction of a new middle school. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried with Dr. Hendricks opposing.

Mr. Starks made a motion to purchase football turf for \$1,005,620. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried with Dr. Hendricks abstaining.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to purchase Commerce Elementary School playground equipment for \$108,582. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Herring made a motion to purchase playground equipment for A.C. Williams Elementary School for \$111,932. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve \$1000 stipends for employees and \$500 for new employees at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried with Dr. Hendricks opposing. Dr. Hendricks said "our teachers are worth more." Ms. Herring agreed.

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to table the purchase of a band trailer and instruments until a more specific plan can be developed. The motion died for lack of a second.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to purchase a CHS band trailer for \$41,000. This would void the action taken at the last regular meeting to lease/purchase a trailer. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to purchase band instruments for \$54,936 for Commerce Middle School. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried.

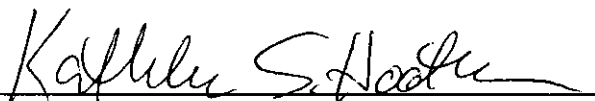
Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to respray the CHS track for \$92,840. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried.

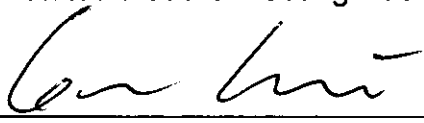
No motion was made to purchase softball turf.

Dr. Green made a motion to purchase uniforms for CMS athletics and band. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adjournment...

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


Kathleen Hooten, President


~~Etta Herring, Secretary~~
Gabe Wittkopf