

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 July 20, 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, Mrs. Kelsey Lytle, Mr. Doc Pierce, Mr. Randy Starks and Mr. Gabe Wittkopf.

Executive Session...

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 6:01 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 7:02 p.m. on July 20, 2021.

Opening Activities

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

Citizens' Comments

None

Presentation by the Northeast Texas Boys & Girls Club

Jenny Krueger, Chief Executive Officer of Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Texas, gave a review of participation in the Boys & Girls Club during the school year and throughout the summer. B&GC will collaborate with the City of Commerce to develop a youth sports league to be headed by Doria Davis, healthy lifestyle coordinator.

Presentation of Delinquent Tax Report

Tab Beall, a lawyer with the firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder Collins & Mott LLP, presented the annual delinquent tax report which showed total delinquency through 2020 as \$683,990.07. He also explained that tax collection rates were about 98 percent.

Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to accept the resignations of Karla Amos, CMS counselor; and Amanda White, CMS teacher. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Green made a motion to accept the resignation of Dusti James, Tri County diagnostician. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Starks made a motion to employ Roy Moody, CMS teacher; Samuel Flash, CMS teacher; Elizabeth Harrington, CMS teacher; Rachel Plunk, CMS teacher; and Kimberley Lewis, CMS counselor. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to extend a 11-month contract Joyce Sample as a teacher. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Pierce made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2021, and the Special Meetings of July 12 and July 19, 2021, and the financial statements and investment summary for June 2021. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Proposed Smith Road Construction

Superintendent Charlie Alderman said that city officials had recommended the construction of a road cutting by Smith Hall from Highway 50 frontage road to Sregit Drive to ease traffic flow around the high school and the proposed middle school building. He said he was working with the university (Texas A&M University-Commerce) and the City of Commerce to determine feasibility and cost.

Discussion of Homeschool Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Alderman explained that the legislature passed a bill to allow homeschool students to participate in UIL activities. School districts have until August 1 to determine if they would allow homeschoolers to participate. Alderman said that no funding would accompany the students and they would not be held to the same no pass/no play standards as enrolled students.

Consider Approval of Bus Purchase

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to purchase two buses as presented. Mrs. Lytle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consider Approval of Student Code of Conduct

Mr. Alderman explained that there were very few changes made to the code of conduct based on results of the 87th legislature. Dr. Green made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of Student Handbooks

Board action is not required.

Consider Approval of the 2021-2022 Appraisal Calendar and Teacher Appraisers
Assistant Superintendent Dr. Patricia Tremmel and Director of Human Resources Steve Drummond proposed an appraisal period of August 21, 2001 to May 6, 2022. All certified administrators were included as teacher appraisers.

Mr. Pierce made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Appraised Less Frequently Than Annually (ALFTA) for Teachers
Assistant Superintendent Dr. Patricia Tremmel and Director of Human Resources Steve Drummond presented a plan that would forego the usual 45-minute formal evaluation for teachers meeting the following criteria: three of more years in CISD under a term contract, proficient or above in nine of the 16 dimensions in T-TESS with no areas of deficiency or needs improvement, mutually agreed upon by principal and teacher. Every teacher would need to be evaluated at least once every three years.

Mr. Drummond said this would increase teacher morale and save stress and work. HB 4545 created additional requirements for increased instruction for students not passing the STAAR tests.

Mr. Wittkopf made a motion to approve ALFTA for teachers as presented. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Informational Report

Mr. Alderman announced the 2021 Hall of Honor inductees including Betty Casselberry, former staff member; and Eddie Pannell, Amy Johnson and Jerry Speight, CHS graduates.

The check register was included.

The date, time and location for the August Board Meeting is set for Monday, August 16, 2021, with executive session beginning at 6 p.m. and the regular session at 7 p.m. Facility Advisory Committee meeting are scheduled for July 26 and August 2, 2021 at 6 p.m. with a special meeting called for August 9 at 6 p.m.

Board comments

None

Executive Session...

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 8:18 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 8:35 p.m. on July 20, 2021.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to increase superintendent's salary by two percent. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment...

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



Kathleen Hooten, President



Gabe Wittkopf, Secretary

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 July 26, 2021, at the Commerce ISD Administration Building.

The Facilities Advisory Committee met to discuss building needs.



Kathleen Hooten, President



Gabe Wittkopf, Secretary