

## 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 August 20, 2018, 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, Dr. LaVelle Hendricks, Ms. Etta Herring, Dr. Ray Green, Dr. Mark Reid, Mr. Randy Starks and Mr. Gabe Wittkopf.

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

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 6:04 p.m. to discuss personnel (§551.074): consider resignations for professional personnel, consider employment of professional personnel, and hold a private consultation with the Board's attorney, if needed (§551.071).

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

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board ended its closed session 7:04 p.m. on August 20, 2018.

#### **Opening Activities**

Mr. Starks led an invocation. The pledge to the American flag was led by Dr. Green and the pledge of the Texas flag was led by Ms. Herring.

#### **Recognition**

Alexis Morgan, a sophomore at CHS, was recognized for her fifth place finish at the UIL State pole vault competition.

Ryan Scott of the *Commerce Journal* was recognized for his fair and accurate reporting of district events. His name was added to the TASB Media Honor Roll.

#### **Citizens' Comments**

None.

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

Mr. Starks made a motion to accept the resignation of Robert Urbanski, CES teacher. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Hendricks made a motion to employ Nancy Rodgers, CES teacher; Stephenia Erwin, CES teacher; Michelle Mayo, District Library/Media Coordinator; Sonja Virden, CMS teacher and Abigail Kruckenberg, CES teacher. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearing on the A-F Accountability Rating**

Dr. Patricia Tremmel, assistant superintendent, explained that the District received a C in the latest TEA accountability rating. All campuses met standard. Commerce Middle School was no longer on the PEG list. Superintendent Charlie Alderman said that ratings looked to be directly linked to the socio-economics levels of each district with high socio-economic districts receiving A-B's and low levels receiving D-F's. Dr. Tremmel said she and the principals were receiving training in the future to gain more insight. Correctly coding students appears to be key in gaining higher ratings.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Wtkopf made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 16, 2018 and the financial statements and investment summary for July 2018. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried with Dr. Green abstaining.

### **Consider Approval of Budget Amendment**

Director of Finance John Walker explained that the changes were made because funds were moved outside of a function area to another. Dr. Hendricks made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consider Acceptance of Certification of 2018 Appraisal Rolls for Commerce ISD**

Mr. Walker said that the Hunt County Chief Appraiser Brent South had submitted certified values for Commerce ISD of \$434,496,989. Delta County certified values were \$2,199,989. Mr. Walker said the budget was set on \$432,000,000 so he felt more comfortable with the budget for the coming year. Dr. Reid made a motion to accept the certification as presented. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Presentation on Texas ACE program grant**

Superintendent Charlie Alderman updated the Board on the status of the \$850,000 per year Texas ACE grant the district received with Boles ISD for four years. Four site coordinators, a project director and a family engagement coordinator have been hired and they are attending training. Students and families should benefit greatly from having homework completed after school and having dinner, a snack and transportation home. The federally funded 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant is administered by TEA. Commerce ISD's ACE program will be in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Texas.

### **Annual Review of Investment Policy and Investment Strategies**

Mr. Walker led the annual review of investment policy and investment strategies for the Board. He stated that scholarship investments were getting double what they were earning last year, up to 1.91 percent.

### **Consider Approval of Revised Drug Testing Policy**

Mr. Alderman explained that the drug testing policy approved in 2013 was revised to

become more about parent awareness and used as a deterrent to drug use. Parent and student group meetings would be held in September and the testing would begin in October. The program would include 7-12 grade students who are participating in extracurricular activities and those who have parking permits at CHS. Everyone would be tested at the beginning of each school year. Random testing takes place each nine-week grading period. For a first offense, the student may not participate in activities for 14 days, but may practice with the group. Twelve hours of community service are required along and students' parking privileges will be lost for 60 days. Penalties increase on second and third offenses. Counseling by the Texas A&M University-Commerce Counseling Department is required and is free. Dr. Reid motioned to the drug testing program as presented. Mr. Wittkopf seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Approval of TASB Local Update 111 affecting policies BBD, CCA, CIA, DEA, DHE DI and FEA**

Mr. Alderman presented policies for consideration as proposed by TASB. Dr. Green made a motion approve policies as presented. Ms. Herring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Approval of Waiver for Out-of-District Transportation Interlocal Agreement**

Mr. Alderman said that a waiver was required because we transport transfer students. We currently transport students in a Campbell family who transfer to Commerce, but they live on a road that is traveled by CISD transportation. Dr. Reid made a motion to waiver for the out-of-district transportation interlocal agreement as presented. Mr. Starks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Informational Reports**

Enrollment was 1515, up significantly from the first day last year. However, the district began school one week earlier last year.

Mr. Alderman said that Hall of Honor inductees Chris Elliott, Harry Turner, Scott Williams and Wyman Williams would be honored September 7.

Two overnight trips are planned by CHS groups. The band plans a trip to Galveston and the seniors intend to go to Schlitterbahn.

Each principal gave their report for the month.

The date for the September Board meeting will be Monday, September 17, 2018. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Members will attend a dinner for Commerce Community Cares at Ben E. Keith Facility at 6 p.m.

The check register was also presented along with the Campus Highlights newsletter.

**Board Member Comments...**

Mrs. Hooten invited the board and administrators to ride in the Bois d'Arc Bash parade on September 22.

**Executive Session...**

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board would convene in executive session at 8:21 p.m. to conduct formative review of superintendent and consider superintendent's compensation.

**Reconvene from Executive Session...**

Mrs. Hooten announced that the Board ended its closed session 9:20 p.m. on August 20, 2018.

**Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Wittkopf to increase superintendent's monthly travel stipend \$100 and increase his communication allowance by \$50 per month. Dr. Green seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment...**

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



Kathleen Hooten, President  
CISD Board of Trustees



Etta Herring, Secretary  
CISD Board of Trustees