

Minutes of the October 25, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Coppell Independent School District, #057-922, met in a regular session on October 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Vonita White Administration Building, 200 S. Denton Tap Road, Coppell, Texas. The meeting was called to order by President Nichole Bentley at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Nichole Bentley, President; Leigh Walker, Vice President; Manish Sethi, Secretary; David Caviness; Anthony Hill; Dr. Neena Biswas and Tracy Fisher.

A quorum was present.

Notice of this meeting was posted on October 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Staff present: Brad Hunt, Superintendent; Carol Snowden, Administrative Assistant; Diana Sircar; Kristen Eichel; Amanda Simpson; Dr. Angie Brooks; Dr. Deana Dynis, Debbie Gauntt, Angela Brown; Dr. Dennis Womack, Naveen Boppana, Rachael Freeman and James Holloway.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:01 p.m., President Bentley declared the Board in Closed Session, as authorized under the Government Code of Texas, as allowed by Section 551.071 – Attorney Consultation and Section 551.074 – Personnel

OPEN SESSION

President Bentley declared the Board in Open Session at 6:48 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

The following individuals spoke or submitted a statement to be read during the Open Forum section of the meeting:

Kris Honey – Mask Mandate	Dan McGuire – Mask Mandate	Wesley Atwood – Mask Mandate
Maria Pokluda – Masks	Rauna Dallman- Mask Mandate	Kellie Fishpaw – Mask Mandate
Maanav Subramanain – Masks	Anjini Subramanian – Masks	Urmi Subramanian – Masks
Gokul Subramanian – Mask	Li Chen – Mask Mandate	Jing Xu – Mask Requirement
Baojin Ding – Mask Mandate	Weiling Niu – Mask Mandate	Michelle Gao – Mask Mandate
Shuangxi Xie – Mask Mandate	Carrie Sharma – Mask Mandate	Ni Li – Mask Mandate
Baomei Shao – Mask	Hui Cao – Mask Mandate	Amanda Davis – GA-38
Yu Liu – Mask Requirement	Annick Davis – Mask Mandate	Sara Ratliff – Mask Mandate
Mingzhu Nie – Mask Mandate	David Willmore – Mask Mandates	Xiaofei Gao – Mask Mandate
Tim Snelling – Mask Mandate	Tarun Anand – Mask Mandate	Brian Pokluda – Masks
Rosalee Dallman – Masks	Robert Dallman – Mask Mandate	Cherie Cao – Mask Mandate
Timothy Hess – Masks	Jia Han – Mask Mandate	Dalton Pokluda – Mask Mandate
Lily Huang – Mask Requirement	Betsy Atwood – Mask Mandates	Sonya Leevy – Mask Mandate

David Caviness stated that based on the Texas Education Agency’s September 17, 2021, Public Health Guidance that provides “Per GA-38, school systems cannot require student or staff to wear a mask,” and he motioned that the Coppell Independent School District rescind its temporary mask requirement for its students, staff, and visitors, until further legal requirements, options, or clarifications related to local control as a result of ongoing state and federal litigation. Manish Sethi seconded the motion.

Tracy Fisher motioned to amend Trustee Caviness’s motion to rescind mask for secondary students and to leave the mandate in place for elementary students. The amendment did not receive a second.

The original motion on the floor from Trustee Caviness was put to a vote and the motion passed 5-1-1. Trustee Fisher voted in opposition and Trustee Biswas abstained from the vote.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

- Hindu Heritage Month
- National Principals Month
- National Dyslexia Awareness Month
- Record Number of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists
- CHS Band Takes 5th at Band of Americas Competition
- Super Teachers for First Grading Period

Dr. Neena Biswas gave the invocation and led the Pledge.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public meeting was held to discuss the Coppell Independent School District’s state financial accountability rating. Diana Sircar, Chief Financial Officer, presented information regarding the school FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) rating for 2020-2021. Coppell ISD received an “A” Superior rating with the maximum points of 100 for their FIRST 2020-2021 results.

No citizen expressed an interest in speaking regarding the rating and financial performance of the district .

DISCUSSION AND REPORT ITEMS - SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Angie Brooks, Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, provided a presentation on Social and Emotional Learning for the district and an Accessibility and 2016 Bond Project update was provided by Dr. Dennis Womack, Chief Operations Officer and Debbie Gauntt, Director of Intervention Services.

CONSENT

Tracy Fisher requested that item #4 be pulled from the consent agenda for separate consideration. Nichole Bentley seconded the motion.

Tracy Fisher made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items removing item #4, Adopt resolution recommitting Operating Fund Balance for separate consideration:

1. Approve minutes of the regular Board meeting held on September 27, 2021 and Workshop held on October 18, 2021
2. Approve monthly budget amendments for October 2021
3. Approve Financial Report for September 2021
4. Adopt resolution recommitting Operating Fund Balance
5. Approve the Superintendents recommendations for the employment of professional personnel

Anthony Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. Trustee Walker was not present when the vote was taken.

Tracy Fisher motioned to approve the resolution to commit \$3,221,935 in Operating Fund balance for 2020-2021. President Nichole Bentley seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0.

David Caviness motioned to adopt the 2021-2022 Campus Improvement Plans as presented. The motion was seconded by Tracy Fisher. The motion passed 7-0.

A motion to adopt the renewed and revised local District of Innovation Plan as presented was made by Anthony Hill and seconded by Tracy Fisher. The motion passed 7-0.

David Caviness made a motion to approve North Star Builders Group as the Construction Manager-at-Risk as specified in the Request for Proposal for the fee of 2.25 percent of the construction services provided. The motion was seconded by Manish Sethi and passed 7-0.

A motion to approve Hellas Construction, Inc. to update and replace the recommended baseball and softball field improvements as presented was made by Tracy Fisher and seconded by Anthony Hill. The motion passed 7-0.

David Caviness made a motion to temporarily postpone making any changes to the Board Operating Procedures until April 25, 2022. Manish Sethi seconded the motion.

Tracy Fisher motioned to amend the motion on the floor to postpone possible action on the Board Operating Procedures to the next regular meeting, November 29, 2021. The motion was seconded by Dr. Neena Biswas and the amendment passed 4-3.

Voting in opposition: Trustee Caviness, Trustee Sethi and Trustee Biswas

A vote was taken on the amended motion to temporarily postpone any changes to Board Operating Procedures from April 25, 2022 to November 29, 2021. The motion passed 4-3.

Voting in opposition: Trustee Caviness, Trustee Sethi, and Trustee Biswas

DISCUSSION AND REPORT ITEMS – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Board Workshop Recap – Nichole Bentley
- Coppell Education Foundation and Coppell Chamber Education Committee – Anthony Hill
- Leadership TASB – Manish Sethi
- Legislative Update and District Educational Improvement Committee (DEIC) – Tracy Fisher

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:45 p.m., President Bentley declared the Board in Closed Session, as authorized under the Government Code of Texas, as allowed by Section 551.074 – Personnel Matters and 551.076 – Security Devices or Security Audits

OPEN SESSION

President Bentley declared the Board in Open Session at 10:08 p.m.

A motion was made by David Caviness to authorize Dr. Brad Hunt, Coppell ISD Superintendent or his designee, to submit a written complaint to the State Board of Educator Certification with a finding that good cause did not exist pursuant to section 21.210(c)(2) for the Jonathan Denton to abandon his employment contract with the District. The motion was seconded by Nichole Bentley and passed 6-1. Trustee Biswas was opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anthony Hill and seconded by David Caviness. The motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Nichole Bentley, Board Vice President

Manish Sethi, Secretary
Approved on November 29, 2021