

Minutes of the August 23, 2021 - Regular School Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Coppell Independent School District, #057-922, met in a regular session on August 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room located at the Vonita White Administration Building, 200 S. Denton Tap Road, Coppell, Texas. The meeting was called to order by President Nichole Bentley.

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

A quorum was present.

Staff present: Dr. Brad Hunt, Superintendent; Carol Snowden, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Dennis Womack; Kristen Eichel; Dr. Angie Brooks; Dr. Deana Dynis; Stephen McGilvray; Diana Sircar; Angela Brown; Jennifer Villines and Rachael Freeman

Notice of this meeting was posted on August 20, 2021 at 6:25 p.m.

At 6:31 p.m., President Bentley declared the Board in Closed Session as authorized under Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 - Attorney Consultation.

President Bentley declared the Board in Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

Manish Sethi gave the Invocation and led the Pledge.

OPEN FORUM

The community was given the opportunity to address the Board of Trustees either in person or remotely during Open Forum. The following community members came forward to speak:

Nancy Martin – Masks & Child Safety
Sam Udovich – COVID Protocols in Schools
David Greenberg – COVID
Johnathan Allred – Mask Mandates
Timothy Hess – Mask in Schools
Tarun Anand – COVID Safety
Megan Cooper – Mask Mandate
Tamara Keller – Mask Mandates
Amber Ingram – Masks at School
Kara Goss – Masks in Schools
Dana Smith – Mask & Safety
Brandy Osterberger- Mask Choice
Sasha Alvarado – Mask Mandates
Danea Thuemmel – Masks
Melissa Stephen – Masking/Virtual Options

Benjamin Greenberg – Mask Mandate
Tasha Greenberg – Mask Mandate
Subbu Venkat – Virtual Learning
Sarah King – GA-Mask Ban
Claire Hess – Executive Order GA-38
Amelia Anderson – Mask Mandate
Sara Ratliff - Keep Mask Optional
Sarah Polk – Masking
Kellie Fishpaw – Freedom of Choice
Preeti Sharma – Masks in Schools
Bharath Sundararaman – Mask Protocol
Mustafa Pachisa- Mask Mandate
Krystyna Isaacs – Mask Survey
Patrick Kernan – Masks
Amanda Davis – Mandate Masking

Brandon Davis- Mandate Masking
Jayashree Arunachalam – Mandate Masks
Amy & Ian Mackinnon- COVID Protocols
Deanna Feaster – Pro Mask
Dee Presley – COVID Mitigation
Manisha Kaushik – Virtual Learning K-12
Rachal Hayes – Masks
Janithri Mudalige – Online Schools/COVID
Jessica Jacobs – Mask Mandates
Anu Partap – COVID Mitigation
Farzana Pachisa – Mask Mandate

John Campbell – Mask Mandates
Annette Santos – Mask Mandates
Annick Davis – Gratitude for great start
Anna Geltemeyer- Mask Mandates
Angela Lancaster – Masks
Keith Hayden – Masking in Schools
Valerie Floren – Mask Choice
Paul Stephen – Masks, Tracing, Remote Learning
Gerad Montgomery – Mask Mandate

At 8:44 p.m., President Bentley called at 10-minute recess.

At 8:54 p.m., President Bentley called the meeting back into open session.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS:

Dr. Brad Hunt (Superintendent) provided a return to school update while Diana Sircar (Chief Financial Officer) followed with information regarding ESSER funds. Angela Brown (Executive Director of Communications and Community Engagement) and Kristen Eichel (Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services) provided input on the updates.

CONSENT

Tracy Fisher requested to remove the August 2, 2021 Board Workshop minutes for individual consideration.

Leigh Walker made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items removing the Board Workshop minutes on August 2, 2021:

1. Approve minutes of regular board meeting held on July 26, 2021 and Board Workshop held on August 2, 2021
2. Approve 2020-2021 final budget amendments
3. Approve Financial Report for July 31, 2021
4. Approve Purchasing Cooperative Fees paid by Coppell ISD
5. Approve Award of Catalog and Catering Vendors – Summer Catalog RFP's
6. Approve interlocal agreement with the City of Coppell for School Resource Officers
7. Approve employment of new professional personnel as recommended by the Superintendent

Anthony Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Tracy Fisher made a motion to correct the spelling of names of three Open Forum speakers listed on the August 2, 2021 Workshop to Dr. Dave Greenberg, Dr. Ben Greenberg and Taria Greenberg. Manish Sethi seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

ACTION

David Caviness made a motion to approve the resolution adopting the Official Budgets at the fund and function level for the General, Food Service, and Debt Service Funds for fiscal year beginning September 1, 2021 and ending August 31, 2022, as presented and in accordance with Texas Education Code 44.002-44.006 Anthony Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Tracy Fisher read the statement "The tax rate will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate" and "The tax rate will effectively be raised by 3.67% and will raise taxes for Maintenance and Operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$ -4.20." Trustee Fisher followed with a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$1.292, which is effectively a 3.67% increase in the tax rate, and that the accompanying Resolution setting the tax rate be approved and adopted by the Board of Trustees. Nichole Bentley seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

A motion for the Board Members to approve the 2021 Appraisal Tax Roll as certified, in addition to all supplement tax roll changes presented by the Dallas Central Appraisal District throughout the fiscal year was made by Leigh Walker. Manish Sethi seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0.

Anthony Hill motioned that the 2021-2022 school year, the Coppell ISD Board of Trustees delegate contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the Commissioner of Education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This includes approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credits. The motion was seconded by David Caviness and passed 7-0.

A motion that the Board authorize the Superintendent or designee to negotiate and enter into a contract for the purchase of Portable Air Purifiers (RPF 031-10) from the supplier offering the best valued response as recommended was made by Nichole Bentley and seconded by David Caviness. The motion passed 7-0.

Leigh Walker read THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PASSED, APPROVED, AND ENACTED by the Board of Trustees for the 2021-2022 school year on August 23, 2021, the Coppell Independent School District may award a one-time lump sum payment of \$1,000 to be given as a retention incentive to all employees who were employed and working in a permanent position before the last 9 weeks of school for the 2020-2021 school year and have returned to a permanent position for 2021-2022 and remain employed in a permanent position as of November 30, 2021. This payment is not

considered an increase in base pay, will not be repeated in future years, and will not be considered creditable compensation under the Texas Teacher Retirement System (TRS). This payment is taxable and may be taxed at a higher rate. This payment meets the intent of the ESSER Statue, the payment is reasonable and necessary, and it is aligned to statutorily allowable activity. The payment will be prorated based on daily hours worked with full payment provided to individuals on an 8 hour per day schedule. A motion was then made by Trustee Walker that the Board approve the resolution as presented for a one-time lump sum retention incentive payment funded with ESSER funds. Anthony Hill seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0.

A motion to endorse Ty Jones as the Region 10, Seat A candidate for the TASB Board of Directors was made by Nichole Bentley. David Caviness seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Trustee Biswas abstained from the vote.

Leigh Walker made a motion to nominate Tracy Fisher to apply for a Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Advocacy Institute stipend. Nichole Bentley seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Tracy Fisher made a motion to nominate Nichole Bentley as an alternate to apply for a Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Advocacy Institute stipend. Anthony Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE REPORT ITEMS:

President Nichole Bentley recapped the Board Workshop on August 2, 2021. Open Forum procedures for Board meetings was brought into discussion by Leigh Walker. The board decided to keep the virtual comment procedures in place and revisit the topic again at the Board meeting in January 2022. Rounding out the Board Reports, Tracy Fisher provided a Legislative update and Anthony Hill discussed the Coppell Chamber Education Committee and TASB Risk Management Fund Quarterly (Summer) meeting.

At 10:58 p.m., President Bentley declared the Board in Closed Session as authorized under Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 - Attorney Consultation.

President Bentley declared the Board in Open Session at 11:37 p.m.

No action was taken following Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

David Caviness made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Manish Sethi seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

Nichole Bentley, Board President

Manish Sethi, Secretary
Approved on Monday, September 27, 2021