



Board Report

Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

HISD

March 9, 2004

Recognition of Teachers of the Year:

Honored with Bobcat Pride Awards:

Linda Ross

Named Elementary Teacher of the Year. She has taught Kindergarten for 23 years and still finds it enjoyable. She has 43 family members who are current or retired teachers including her sister, Beverly, a co-worker at the Primary. Her co-workers say she loves children, is patient with them, listens to them, is creative, and makes learning fun. She has served on many committees, CVAT, SVIT and is currently President of Hallsville ATPE.

Dave Simmons

Named Secondary Teacher of the Year. He has taught U.S. History for 18 years at Hallsville High School. He has served on several committees such as CVAT, UIL Social Studies Coach, a Black History Month Committee Member, Selective Registrar, a member of the Association of Professional Educators, Academic Decathlon Coach for 6 years, and Student Governmental Affairs Program teacher. Co-workers said that he is very dependable; his history comes alive through his class presentations.

Superintendent Comments:

- (1) Mr. Wright announced that Hallsville will have a Town-Hall Meeting with newly elected State Senator Kevin Eltife and State Representative Bryan Hughes on Saturday, March 13, 2004. The meeting will be in the 2nd Grade Library from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 2) Mr. Wright brought attention to the good things happening in the CATE Program at the High School. He highlighted Toni Erickson's Technology Systems class and Becky Massey's BIMM class. The students are doing great things with clay animations using power point

and digital photography. Mr. Wright also highlighted the Automotive Technology classes under the direction of Robert Chucci. This program is one of 23 High School programs in the state that is certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, and Automotive Youth Educational Systems. Mr. Wright brought attention to the Culinary Arts team that will advance to the state competition on April 15-17. The auction of the old equipment from the Drafting Program, Metal, AG, and Wood Shops made a \$7, 200 profit.

Action Items:

- 1) Consent Items:

Minutes from February 10, 2004, meeting. February Financial Report, Quarterly Investment Report and Personnel were approved.

- 2) Budget Amendments to reclassify funds were approved.

- 3) Election Judges for the May 15, 2004, Board of Trustees Election was approved.

- 4) The School Calendar for year 2004-05 was approved as presented pending approval of a waiver from TEA granting the early start date of August 12, 2004 instead of the week of August 21, 2004.

- 5) Additional CATE Courses will be offered to provide students with better opportunities for employment after graduation and to match area workforce needs. 1)The course **A+** is an industry standard certificate required for anyone desiring to work in the are of computer repair or technical support 2)The Project Lead the Way is a program of a series of five pre-engineering courses to increase quantity and quality engineers.

- 6) Textbook Adoption for specified content was approved.



7) Purchase of a 1999 John Deere 310E Tractor with Backhoe was approved to meet the needs of the district.

8) Advanced Rank Weight for Dual Credit College Courses and a Higher Rank Weight for Advanced Placement Courses was approved. This plan rewards students who take college courses and rewards students who continue to take AP courses. It should be a win-win situation. Dual credit college courses would be the same rank weight as other Pre-AP courses 100=6.0. AP courses new level of rank weight to be the highest available 100=6.5.

9) More opportunities for advanced grade points have been made available to students. It is time to raise the bar from the 4.2 GPA to 4.3 effective 2005-2006 and 4.4 effective 2006-2007.

10) The request from B.B. Reese Construction for an increase from 5% to 7% of the Construction Manager Fees Phase Five of the 2001 Bond was approved. The amount of \$6, 663 was granted because of an extended timeline in construction.

Information Items:

2003-2004 Special Education Monitoring Plan

Hallsville is scheduled to participate in the 2003-2004 Special Education Monitoring Plan and the Performance-Based Monitoring activities this Spring.

Discuss Refunding of Current Bonds

Now is an opportune time for the district to refund the 1996 bonds due to the improvement in rates in the municipal market. There is a potential savings of over \$50,000 per year by refunding the bonds. This would allow us to lower the Interest and Sinking Fund tax rate by about a half of a cent and pass the savings on to the taxpayers.

Soccer Field Options Update

The discussion of a separate soccer field has brought many options. Option one is to build a separate soccer field west of the High School on HWY 450. Option two is to replace the natural grass with turf playing surface in Bobcat Stadium. Mr. Wright stated that he did not think it was in the best interest of the school district to build a separate soccer field. Mr. Wright stated that it is financially feasible to move forward with the turf project. Currently we have \$380,828 dollars to fund this project. The district is fortunate to have \$308,089 dollars left over from the 2001 bond. An additional \$62,739 which was a reimbursement from a budgeted bus and \$10,000 from football playoff revenue will be used to help fund the project. Mr. Wright quoted, "If we did not have this funding option we would never consider the turf project". Mr. Wright wanted the Board to know that this left over bond money can only be spent on capital improvements. The bond money can not be spent to increase teacher pay. This project will not interfere with Mr. Wright's goal to increase teacher pay. The school district received soft bids back from six turf companies. The school district is looking at an estimated funding cost of \$85,172. Information of estimated field maintenance costs for a 10 year period for natural grass was presented to the Board. **Mr. Wright presented cost estimates that showed installing artificial turf instead of building a separate soccer field would save the district \$158,064 over a 10 year period.** Mr. Wright also said his decision is based on what is best for kids. He pointed out that the new turf playing surface is proven to be safer for students. He also said that more students benefit from the advantages of a turf playing surface. He said programs effected in a positive way are Band, Drill Team, Football, Soccer, Track, Softball, and Baseball. Roger Adams, Sherri Morgan, and Freda Gerner shared information with the Board in support of the turf playing surface.

Personnel:

Directors, Teachers, and other Professional Contracts were approved.



Bobcat Pride Begins With You!

Teamwork Makes The Dream Work!

Tradition + Pride + Hard Work = Success