



Board Report HISD



Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees March 19, 2007

Recognitions:

Deputy Ray Palmer: was given a **Bobcat Pride Award**. Deputy Palmer was recognized for his ten year service in the DARE Program at Hallsville Middle School. Mr. Wright said, “Deputy Palmer has a genuine love for kids and is passionate about helping them succeed by avoiding the peer pressures of drugs and alcohol. We appreciate Deputy Palmer’s commitment to the youth of Hallsville Middle School and Harrison County”.

UIL Academics: Mr. Wright commended the UIL Academic participants and coaches in District 12-4A UIL Academic Competition. The 6th Grade was second in district with 260 points. The 7th Grade was 4th in district with 149 points. The 8th Grade was second in district with 261 points. Hallsville won second place with 670 points in the overall school results that combine grades 6, 7, and 8. Mr. Wright also commended the High School UIL Academic Team for winning the first annual Hallsville Academic Meet with 363 points. Twenty-two teams participated in the academic competition won by Hallsville High School. The high school team will compete in the 12-4A District UIL Academic Meet on Saturday, March 31, hosted at Hallsville High School.

Consent Items:

Minutes from the February 12, 2007, Board meeting, February 2007 Financial Report, Quarterly Investment Report, and Personnel were approved.

Investment Policy Annual Review: The Board reviewed the Investment Policy with no changes.

Textbook Adoption: Math textbooks for Grades 6-12 were up for adoption this year. All math teachers in Grades 6-12 served on an Adoption Committee to select math books to be used beginning with the 2007-08 school year. Neta Craig presented the committee’s selections to the Board for approval. Approval was given for Grades 6-8 selections from Glencoe/McGraw-Hill; Algebra I & II, Geometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus, and Statistics from McDougal Littell; and Math Models from Pearson Education.

Appointment of Early Voting Clerks and Judges: The Board must appoint clerks, judges, and alternate judges who will work during the early voting by personal appearance and Election Day, May 12, 2007. The Board approved the clerks, judges, and alternate judges as presented.

Teachers and other Professional Contracts: The Board approved Teacher and other Professional contracts as presented. Contracts will be forwarded from the Personnel office to contractual employees this week.

TASB Policy Update 79: The Board approved Policy Update 79 as presented. Update 79 is a TASB update to Board policy that includes policy and regulatory changes.

TAKS Scores: Neta Craig presented the results for the third and fifth grade reading TAKS tests. Grade 3 tested 260 students. Ninety-four percent (243 students) passed with 45% (117 students) commended. In the fifth grade, 241 were tested. Eighty-eight percent (213 students) passed with 24% (57 students) commended.

Facility Funding Review:

HALLSVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES FINANCING PLAN

This is an exciting time of growth for Hallsville ISD. Good communication is critical as we move forward with planning for the future. Hallsville ISD has a unique opportunity to take advantage of the state mandated Maintenance and Operations tax compression. This will be approximately a 33¢ decrease next year.

TYPES OF TAXES

Maintenance and Operations (M&O) taxes are collected to pay for the everyday operations of the district including teacher salaries, utilities, and transportation. Interest and Sinking (I&S) taxes are collected to pay for bonds the voters approve for facilities. M&O taxes are subject to Chapter 41 recapture payments and I&S taxes are not. It is more advantageous to use I&S tax dollars to pay for major purchases because we are able to utilize 100% of the funds where we are only able to use about 75% of M&O funds. The other 25% of taxes are sent back to the state.

THE PLAN

The district could refund bonds next year and shift part of the 33¢ savings from the Maintenance and Operations side over to the Interest and Sinking side, then use that amount to fund any bonds that would be passed in 2008. This means that voters could pass bonds in 2008 and still see a tax savings due to the tax compression, and the district would maintain the current level of total operating funding through an increase in state aid and a reduction in the Chapter 41 “Robin Hood” recapture payment. Other districts are considering a bond issue this year or next year for this same reason. This will probably be the only year in our lifetime that we can pass a bond issue and lower the tax rate at the same time.

HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST?

Hallsville ISD voters could pass a bond for eighty million dollars and still decrease the total tax rate by 10 cents. This means that the taxes on a home with an average market value of \$97,047 would decrease by \$60 per year. The owner of a home at the average market value would forego savings of \$120 per year to fund the bonds. Taxes on businesses make up 74% of the tax revenue. This means on \$80 million in bonds, businesses would pay for about \$59 million. The top ten taxpayers make up 43% of the taxes or would pay about \$34 million of the bonds.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLAN

- Tax decrease of 32 ¢ on the M&O side.
- Tax increase of 22 ¢ on the I&S side.
- Transfers 22 ¢ from M&O side to I&S side.
- Net tax decrease of 10 ¢ on the M&O side.
- Taxes on the average home still decrease by \$60 per year.
- Able to keep 100% of I&S taxes and only 75% of M&O.
- Maintain current level of M&O funding due to state aid increase.

IN SUMMARY

This is an important time for Hallsville ISD. More information will be presented to the taxpayers soon to allow the voters to make some important decisions regarding the future of the district. This is perfect timing to provide additional facilities due to our growth, as well as being able to take advantages of the state-wide tax compression. We feel that this is a “win-win” situation for our students as well as our taxpayers.

Curriculum Department Realignment: Paula Rogers, Deputy Superintendent, presented a Curriculum Realignment proposal to the Board for approval. This realignment includes having an Elementary and Secondary Curriculum Director, the position of Instructional Technology Specialist, and a District Assessment / TAKS Coordinator. The Board approved the request to post the positions of Elementary and Secondary Curriculum Director and Instructional Technology Specialist. The position of District Assessment / TAKS Coordinator will be filled by a current employee and will not result in a job posting. Mrs. Rogers explained that these positions are needed to support our campuses in achieving their exemplary goals. The realignment was supported by all Principals and Directors. Mrs. Rogers thanked the Board of Trustees for their support of the Curriculum Realignment and their continual support of our campuses.

At the request of Neta Craig, she will work only in the CATE Department and HISD Foundation. Mrs. Craig is a valued and dedicated member of the HISD administrative team. Superintendent Greg Wright, Deputy Superintendent Paula Rogers, Assistant Superintendent Tim Brittain, and the Board of Trustees support this request of Mrs. Craig and feel that this will maintain the quality of our CATE Department. Mrs. Craig's experience and leadership will be very important during this time of growth and transition in Hallsville ISD.

Dropout Recovery Program/9th Grade Initiative: Dr. Brain Morris, Mrs. Kim Drennan, and Mrs. Paula Rogers presented a proposal to maintain the fourth Assistant Principal position at Hallsville High School, and include in the responsibilities of this position supervision of a Ninth Grade Initiative and Dropout Recovery Program. Dr. Morris explained the effect that dropouts have on the district accountability rating and the need to have a proactive approach to meeting the needs of students at risk of dropping out of high school. The Ninth Grade Initiative will focus on incoming ninth grade students who are at risk of failing either courses or TAKS and will include a teacher training component. The Assistant Principal will be in charge of daily monitoring of the progress of the students involved in these two initiatives. The Board approved this request as presented. Dr. Morris and Mrs. Rogers thanked the Board for their support of students.

Class Size Ratios for Grades PK-4: Mrs. Paula Rogers presented preliminary staffing projections for PK-Grade 4. This item was for the Board's information only. A final recommendation and request for any additional staff will be made in April. Mrs. Rogers explained that all staffing projections will be based on the current rate of district growth and the goal of having all necessary teaching staff hired prior to the beginning of school.

Policy Revision FJ (Local): Mr. Wright and Mrs. Rogers presented an update to Policy FJ Local (Gifts and Solicitations) for approval. This is the policy that covers student fundraising. The policy was approved as presented, and prohibits all door-to—door sales in grades PK-6 and fund-raising projects that encourage competition among students participating in the project at grades PK-6. All fund raising projects must be approved by the Principal and the Superintendent **or his designee**. Mr. Wright said all fundraising projects will be approved by Tim Brittain. Mr. Brittain will work closely with Principals and sponsors to control excessive fund raising.

SWEPCO Score Incentive Program: The Board approved the AEP-SWEPCO SCORE Program. The SCORE (Schools Conserving Resources) program provides **free** support to participating school districts through energy performance benchmarking, energy master planning, and cash incentives for projects that result in peak electricity demand savings for districts. The SCORE program is designed to help participating school districts identify energy-efficiency opportunities in existing and new schools, and to provide monetary incentives for the implementation of such opportunities. The program is funded by AEP SWEPCO and is being offered at no cost to the school district.

Tradition + Pride + Hard Work = Success!