

# **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**COMFORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.  
COMFORT ISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
327 HIGH STREET - COMFORT, TEXAS**

*The meeting will be held in compliance with Gov. Code, §551.the meeting is also being conducted in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act [42 U.S.C. 12101 (1991)]. The facility where the meeting is to be held is wheelchair-accessible, and handicapped parking is available. Handicapped services are available upon request if received at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. To make arrangements for handicapped services, please call 830-995-6400.*

*The subjects to be discussed are listed on the agenda. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on the meeting notice. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item listed on the Agenda should be held in closed meeting, the Board would convene in such closed meeting in accordance with Texas Government Code, § 551.071 - 551.084 to consult with the Board's attorney, discuss purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, discuss negotiated contracts for prospective gifts or donations, discuss personnel or to hear complaints against personnel, consider the deployment, specific occasions for, or implementation of security, personnel or devices, and/or consider discipline of a public school child or complaint or charge against personnel. No action will be taken during a Closed Session. At any time, the Board may go into closed meeting to receive legal counsel or advice, which the school district's legal counsel determines should be confidential in accordance with counsel's duty to the district pursuant to the code of professional responsibility of the State Bar of Texas.*

## **I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*Barb Lindner, Board President called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.*

*Trustees present: Marshall Jennings, Ray Avery, Eric Lantz, Barb Lindner, Benji Alldredge, Jane Neuenschwander and Agustin Avalos.*

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **A. Public Comments**

*At this time, the Board will listen to comments from the public or staff members. In order to comment, please complete a public comment card and present it to the Board president prior to the beginning of the meeting. (All public comments will be limited to three minutes per issue or agenda item.)*

- 1. Agenda items*
- 2. Non-agenda items*

## **III. WRITTEN REPORTS INCLUDED IN BOARD PACKET**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

- 1) District Information*

## **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

*All items in the consent agenda should be approved as presented unless an item is removed. All items are as recommended by the Superintendent.*

- 1. Minutes of the July 14, 2008 Regular Meeting.**
- 2. Local Maintenance and Operations, Interest and Sinking, Workers' Compensation, Student Activity, and Tax Collection Reports.**
- 3. Monthly Investment Report**

**4. Building Project Financial Update**

Mr. Avery made a motion that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Avalos seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**V. NON-ACTION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION**

**A. Board Training Workshop Dates – Team Building**

**Background:** It is a good idea for the Board to conduct a team building workshop annually. The best month for the workshop is October.

**B. TAKS Scores**

**Background:** The final 2008 TAKS scores in. The charts illustrate the progress the district made for the 2007-2008 school year. The district still has a long ways to go, but we are moving in the right direction.

**C. Comfort Area Youth Commission(CAYC)**

**Background:** The CAYC will present a brief history of its organization. Brian Scheele, President of CAYC, is the main spokesperson for the organization.

**VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

(According to Government Code §551.071-§551-082, the Board of Trustees may convene in a closed session §551.071, Private consultation with the Board's attorney; §551.072, Discussion purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property; §551.073, Discussing negotiated contracts for prospective gifts or donations; §551.074, Discussing personnel or to hear complaints against personnel; §551.076, Considering the deployment, specific occasions for, or implementation of security, personnel or devices; and §551.082, Considering discipline of a public school child or complaint or charge against personnel.) No action will be taken during a Closed Session.

**A. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

**B. Consider/Possible Action to Lease or Sell 2 Acres of Property Adjacent to the Elementary School Tennis Courts at the End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.**

**Background:** The board needs to give the superintendent further direction toward leasing or selling the 2 Acres of Property Adjacent to the Elementary School Tennis Courts at the End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

**Recommendation:** It is the superintendent's recommendation that the Board authorize the superintendent to pursue a lease/selling bid package.

Dr. Alldedge made the motion that the Board take no further direction towards leasing or selling the property adjacent to the tennis courts and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion.

Trustees convened into closed session at 7:35 p.m., according to Government code §551.074 to discuss personnel or to hear complaints against personnel.

*The meeting reconvened into open session at 8:00 p.m.*

*The motion passed 5-2 Mr. Avalos and Mrs. Lindner were opposed.*

**C. Physical Education Credit for High School Students**

**Background:** *The district should approve a program that will utilize off-campus, commercially-sponsored physical activity in either Category I or II, or both as a substitution for regular physical education beginning in the 2007-2008 school year.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the superintendent's recommendation that the Board approve Stellar Gymnastics as an off-campus commercially-sponsored physical activity in Category I effective in 2007-2008.*

*Dr. Alldredge made the motion that the Board approve Stellar Gymnastics as an off-campus commercially-sponsored physical activity in Category I effective in 2007-2008. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.*

**D. Training for Teacher's Assistants**

**Background:** *DBA (Legal) policy states: "Each district receiving assistance under Title I, Part A of the ESEA shall ensure that all paraprofessionals working in a program supported with those funds shall" (a list of criteria follows). Comfort ISD receives these funds and pays paraprofessionals salaries from Title I monies. Unfortunately, several of our educational aides are not highly qualified. The district will require all paraprofessionals to obtain the appropriate credentials by May 2009. The superintendent is requesting the Board give him the authority to approve specific programs for educational aides to obtain the required credentials established by the district.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the superintendent's recommendation that the Board give the superintendent the authority to approve appropriate programs for educational aides to obtain required credentials.*

*Mr. Avery made a motion that the Board give the superintendent the authority to approve appropriate programs for educational aides to obtain required credentials. Mrs. Neuenschwander seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.*

**E. Consider/Approve the Second Reading of TASB Policy Update 83**

**Background:** *Localized Update 83 includes redeveloped policies regarding grievances and complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. The update also includes numerous other issues, including new FMLA provisions providing for leave based on the military service of employees or family members and notice requirements for districts that annualize employee compensation.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the superintendent's recommendation that the Board approve the TASB Policy Update 83 as presented.*

*Mrs. Neuenschwander made a motion that the Board accept the superintendent's recommendation to approve TASB Policy Update 83 with the exception of FL*

(Local) with the removal of the words “students and parents”. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**F. Consider/Approve Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Bid for 2008-2009**

**Background:** *Annually the district solicits bids for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel for the upcoming school year.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the recommendation of the superintendent that the Board approve the bid from Pico as recommended by administration.*

Mr. Avery made a motion that the Board approve the bid from Pico as recommended by the administration. Mr. Avalos seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**G. Consider/Approve the 2008-2009 Budget**

**Background:** *The administrative staff members have been working since February to prepare a preliminary budget for the 2008-2009 school year. This proposed budget reflects projections of revenue and expenditures based on the values received from the tax appraisal district and the state funding templates provided by TEA.*

*This proposed budget includes the proposed salary increases for all employees of the district.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the recommendation of the superintendent that the Board approve the 2008-2009 budget as presented.*

Mrs. Neuenschwander made the motion that the Board approve the budget as presented for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**H. Adopt the 2008-2009 Tax Rate**

**Background:** *The proposed tax rate is an increase of four cents (\$0.04) from the 2007-2008 tax rate.*

*The proposed tax rate is as follows:*

- *Maintenance & Operation - \$0.985*
- *Interest & Sinking - \$0.225*
- *Total - \$1.21*

**Recommendation:** *It is the recommendation of the superintendent that the Board approve the .04¢ Tax Increase as presented.*

Mr. Jennings made the motion that the Board approve the .04¢ Tax Increase as presented. Mrs. Neuenschwander seconded the motion. Mrs. Neuenschwander, Dr. Alldredge, Mr. Jennings, Mrs. Lindner, Mr. Lantz, Mr. Avery and Mr. Avalos voted for the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**I. Consider/Approve Investment Policy CDA(LOCAL)**

**Background:** *The Board reviews the district’s investment policy annually.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the recommendation of the superintendent that the Board approve the district's investment policy as presented.*

Not action was taken.

**J. Consider/Approve Gifted and Talented Policy EHBB (LOCAL)**

**Background:** *Updates to the Gifted and Talented policy EHBB (Local) need to be approved. The district developed rules and regulations for the G/T program in 2006 but they are not illustrated in the local policy.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the superintendent's recommendation that the Board approve EHBB (Local) policy as presented.*

Mrs. Neuenschwander made the motion that the Board approve EHBB (Local) policy as presented. Dr. Alldredge seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**K. Consider/Approve Teacher Evaluation Calendar**

**Background:** *The District shall establish a calendar annually for teacher evaluations. The evaluation period for teachers must include all of the days of the teacher's contract. Observations during the evaluation period must be conducted during the required days of instruction for students during one school year.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the recommendation of the superintendent that the Board adopt the 2008-2009 PDAS evaluation calendar.*

Mr. Avery mad the motion that the Board adopt the 2008-2009 PDAS appraisal calendar. Mrs. Neuenschwander seconded the motion. The motion passed. 7-0.

**L. Consider/Approve Vendor List for the 2008-2009 School Year**

**Background:** *Each year the Board is required to approve a list of vendors who will provide supplies and services to the district.*

**Recommendation:** *It is the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board approve the vendor list as presented.*

Mr. Avery made the motion that the Board approve the vendor list as presented. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Mr. Avalos abstained from the vote because a possible conflict of interest.

**M. Resignations/Employment**

*Trustees convened into closed session at 8:18 p.m., according to Government code §551.074 to discuss personnel or to hear complaints against personnel.*

*The meeting reconvened into open session at 8:21 p.m.*

No action was taken.

**VII. ADJOURN**

*There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.*

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Barb Lindner, President

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Marshall Jennings, Secretary