



**Jacksonville Independent School District**  
**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**March 2, 2015**  
**Minutes**

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The Board of Education of the Jacksonville Independent School District, State of Texas, met on March 2, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. for a Regular Meeting in the Board Room of the JISD Administration Building located at 800 College Avenue in Jacksonville, Texas. (This meeting was originally scheduled for February 23, 2015, but was cancelled and re-posted due to inclement weather.)

Present: Todd Travis, Jeff Horton, Blaine Verhelle, Dean Dublin, Randy McCown,  
Al Chavira and Cassie Devillier; Superintendent – Dr. Joe Wardell

Absent: None

**1. Call to Order**

Board President, Todd Travis, announced that a quorum was present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting had been posted for the time and in the manner as required by law.

**2. Pledges of Allegiance to Flags**

Todd Travis led both pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

**3. Recognition / Awards**

Lindy Finley emphasized that the Transportation Department is often overlooked for the great job they do for our students on a daily basis. She praised Mr. Turney and his department for safely transporting our students to and from school every day and in the challenging conditions of start delays and early releases during the recent inclement weather. Additionally, she expressed gratitude to Mr. Turney who rose very early several mornings to check the streets for driving conditions. Mr. Turney and many transportation employees were in attendance and received a round of applause and standing ovation from the Board and audience.

**4. Bond Construction Update**

Jeff Edwards of Claycomb Associates Architects gave a brief update to the Board on the current bond construction.

- West Side Elementary (43.1% complete)
  - Parent drive concrete complete
  - Concrete parking islands complete
  - Exterior studs complete
  - Began interior studs
  - Began electrical overhead rough-in
  - Next: continue fire proofing; continue exterior sheathing; continue exterior brick veneer; continue roof installation; continue HVAC installation
- Nichols Intermediate (66.4% complete)
  - Demolition at existing band hall
  - Grading and concrete drive prep
  - Electrical top-out
  - Installing millwork
  - Plumbing top-out
  - Painting on-going

- Next: renovate new practice rooms (band hall); installing ceiling tile; final grading; installing concrete drive and flatwork; irrigation and landscaping

## **5. Reports / Discussions**

### **A. Discussion of the JISD Family Walk Night Scheduled for May**

JISD Director of Health Services, Leslie Moore, addressed the Board to inform them about, and ask for their support on, the JISD Family Walk Night scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of the event is to bring out families and community members to participate in activities and educational events regarding nutrition, exercise and healthy lifestyles. Ms. Moore stated that she is seeking volunteers to help at this event and is encouraging board members, faculty, coaches, PTO's and students to participate.

### **B. Report on TASB Leadership Training**

Board President, Todd Travis, gave a brief report on the recent TASB Leadership training he attended in January. The group visited three school districts:

- Cypress-Fairbanks ISD: third largest school district in state with 109,000 students; growing by 2000 students per year; passed a \$ 1.2 billion bond last May; has New Arrival Center at Cy-Falls high school for refugee students from other nations in crisis; has the Berry Center (a \$78 million special events center) with an interchangeable football stadium, coliseum or basketball arena which also hosts concerts, graduations, and a church service on Sundays; a theater seating 550, convention center with sliding walls to divide the space into 18 rooms and catering staff capable of feeding 2000 meals per day; all food for the district is prepared here and transported to each campus.
- Clear Creek ISD: Their Education Village is a 4000 student campus on 144 acres containing an elementary, middle, and high school under 1 roof; observed elementary students in the high school classroom working with high school students; also visited Stewart Elementary which is a 2-time Blue Ribbon campus (2014 and 2007) with a dual language program, 14 after school clubs. The dual language program admits 22 English speaking and 22 Spanish speaking students each year. Last year they had 55 English speakers apply and 65 Spanish speakers so less than half are accepted into the program. 60% of students are low income.
- At LaPorte ISD: group attended their theater production of The Wiz where over 250 students who represent all aspects of the community. About 50 adults volunteer to help make costumes, build sets, design back drops. Most have been volunteering for many years as this program has been bringing the community together since 1968.

### **C. 2014 JISD Trustee Election Update**

As of February 27, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., the deadline passed for filing to run for the school board, the following incumbents remained unopposed:

- Place 5 – Dean Dublin
- Place 6 – Todd Travis
- Place 7 – Randy McCown

At the March 16, 2015, regular board meeting, the Board will take action on Certificates of Unopposed Candidacy and the Order to Cancel Election resulting in the cancellation of the 2015 JISD School Board Election.

## D. Board Meeting Dates for March 2015

Board members reviewed a calendar noting the following board meetings scheduled for March 2015:

- March 5, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.: JISD Special Board Meeting to Hire Superintendent
- March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – 6:30 pm.: JISD Regular Board Meeting
- March 30, 2015 –
  - 3:00-5:00 p.m.: Retirement Reception for Dr. Wardell
  - 5:30 p.m.: JISD Special Board Meeting to Hire Construction Manager-At-Risk for JHS Girls Complex

## 6. Action Items

### A. Consider and Approve Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Blaine Verhelle and a second by Dean Dublin to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the January 20, 2015 Special Meeting, January 21, 2015 Special Meeting, January 22, 2015 Special Meeting, January 26, 2015 Regular Meeting, February 3, 2015 Special Meeting, February 4, 2015 Special Meeting, February 5, 2015 Special Meeting, and February 11, 2015 Special Meeting; monthly investment report; monthly finance reports; ADA summary report; Budget Amendment 15-04; current amended budget report; and tax refund application in the amount of \$608.26 to Alfonso Valdez Hernandez; and tax refund application in the amount of \$854.52 to James H. and Priscilla Warren.

Yeas: Messrs. Travis, Horton, Dublin, McCown, Chavira and Ms. Devillier

Nays: None

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed to address the Board of Trustees.

## 8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Wardell reported:

- Enrollment: **4933** students, **57** students **more** than end of last school year
- January 29<sup>th</sup> – Annual Chamber Banquet held at Norman Center
- February 4<sup>th</sup> – National Signing Day for Senior Athletes
  - Josh Ambrosin – McMurray
  - Carter McCown – Tyler Junior College
- February 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Job Shadowing Day
  - JEF Vision 20/20 College Dinner held
- February 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: Band Solo & Ensemble Contests at Lindale
  - JMS Band - earned **103** 1<sup>st</sup> Division Medals – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in history of school band
  - JHS Band – earned 63 1<sup>st</sup> Division Medals of which 21 advance to State Solo & Ensemble Competition
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – “Jump Rope for Heart” at Joe Wright & Fred Douglass elementary campuses
- February 24 – Vision 20/20 trip to SFA cancelled due to inclement weather
- February 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Freshman Fair at JHS for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders
  - Charmer Competition Show-Offs, 6:30pm at JHS Boys' Gym
- February 14: The Cherokee Charmers competed against over fifty teams at the Gussie Nell Davis Classic at Kilgore College. The Charmers took eight different routines; three team, three officer, a large ensemble, and a medium ensemble. The Charmers brought back to JHS **eighteen** different awards!
- Sports
  - Football: National Signing Day was Wednesday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>:

- Josh Ambroson – McMurray College
- Carter McCown – Tyler Junior College
- Tennis: Spring season play began January 20<sup>th</sup> in Tyler; continuing to travel and play in tournaments – JHS will host District 16-5A Tournament April 9-10
- Powerlifting:
  - Girls: Top 10 Girls competing today in Regional competition at Paris, Texas with the hope to advance to the State competition in Corpus Christi
  - Boys: Boys (not announced yet) will compete in Regional competition this Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at Lindale
- Basketball: (no advancement to playoffs)
  - Boys: district play began December 19<sup>th</sup> and ended season on February 17<sup>th</sup> against Whitehouse
  - Girls: began district play on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Nacogdoches and ended season February 10<sup>th</sup> against Lufkin
- Soccer: (both boys and girls have 5 district games left)
  - Boys: district play began February 3<sup>rd</sup> hosting Lufkin; host Whitehouse tomorrow (Mar. 3)
  - Girls: district play began February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lufkin; travel to Whitehouse tomorrow (Mar. 3)
- Track: competed on February 27<sup>th</sup> in Rusk; will compete at Chapel Hill on Friday (Mar. 6)
- Golf: JISD Annual Tournament rescheduled from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup> and then to March 6<sup>th</sup>
- Softball: played first tournament Saturday at Central Heights; JV won 1<sup>st</sup> place; Varsity won 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- Baseball: began pre-season tournament play at Chapel Hill this past Saturday (had been postponed)

**9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS – BOARD MEMBERS**

No items for future agendas were requested by any board members.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

In Closed Session the Board met from 7:12p.m. until 7:24 p.m. to discuss:

1. Legal Matters, Student Discipline and Other Items for Closed Session
2. Hiring, Termination/Retirement, or Transfer of Professional Personnel

**11. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION FOR ACTION RELATIVE TO ITEMS CONSIDERED DURING CLOSED SESSION**

No action was taken by the Board upon any items discussed during closed session.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Todd Travis  
Board President

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Blaine Verhelle  
Board Secretary