

BURTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 9, 2021

The Board of Trustees of Burton Independent School District met in regular session on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Burton Independent School District Administration Office.

Board Members present:

Misty Lucherk, Demetrius Colvin, Sr., Jeff Harmel, David Warner, Sr., Dean Fuchs, Donna Putnam, Brian Hinze

Administrators present:

Superintendent Edna Kennedy, Principals Matthew Wamble and Melinda Fuchs, Assistant Principal Jeremy Johnston, and Caitlyn Staal, Business Manager

Administrator absent:

Jason Hodde, Athletic Director

<u>Visitors:</u> Ryan Lione, Powell Law Group, LLP	Melanie Jasek
Joshua Blaschke – KWHI	Rachael Unger
Alison Bryce – Banner Press	Michael W. Cole
Brad Muske	Eddy Jezisek
Mike Clyde	Daniel Douglas
Darrell Kieke	979-289-4881
Toni Jezisek	979-251-4595
Kelley Diller	979-277-5520

The following business was transacted:

1. The meeting was called to order by President Misty Lucherk. A prayer was given by Demetrius Colvin, Sr., and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Warner, Sr.
2. Open Forum  
Darrell Kieke stated that it is important to work together as a board and community to get the bond passed. It is a lot of money, but it will help with our growth.  
  
Brad Muske said the bond proposal is not a good idea. People are currently having a hard time with their budgets. Academics over athletics. The public needs to be more aware.  
  
Mike Clyde thanked the board for working hard toward the bond proposal. He discussed his past and current relationship to Burton ISD. He thinks that he is providing equality facilitation for all students.
3. Principals' Report
  - a. Melinda Fuchs, elementary principal presented a copy of the staff development schedule as well as information regarding the new staff member – Melanie Jasek to each board member. Mrs. Jasek will be teaching PreK. Mrs. Fuchs

also reported the following:

- Teachers and staff started back today. It was a great day to be a Panther.
- Burton State Bank donated \$2,500 towards a water fountain for the playground.
- Justin Bilski and family are going to donate \$2,500 towards a water fountain for the playground.
- ABM custodial services, Mrs. Patty Merryman, and our maintenance department has done a great job getting our campus ready for school.
- Mrs. Fuchs thanked the board for allowing the district to install new restrooms in the PreK/kindergarten classrooms. It will be very helpful to all our PreK/kindergarten students to have a restroom in their classroom.
- Meet the Teacher is Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm.

b. Matthew Wamble, secondary campus principal introduced the following new staff members: Toni Jezisek, Michael Cole, and Eddy Jezisek and reported the following:

- Teachers returned to campus, and we had a great day of professional learning. We conducted a training on Effective Behavior Strategies, a special education update, and campus goals and initiatives for 2021-2022 school year.

One of the big items that was addressed was how the secondary campus will navigate the newly mandated HB 45 which focuses on learning gaps of students in grades 3-12. Some of the additional trainings planned for the remainder of the week are:

- CPR certification and update
  - Edgenuity online curriculum resource training
  - Reading Plus curriculum training
  - Fundamental 5: Core concepts
- We will have several events going on this week for students and parents.
    - August 11<sup>th</sup> – Meet the Teacher/Meet the Panther 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
At this event, students will be able to pick up schedules, meet their teachers, and pick up a few school supplies if needed.
  - High School Renovations
    - We have installed a new solid floor in the band hall.
    - The rock building upstairs' walls have been scraped, replastered, and painted.
    - The teacher bookroom is now a classroom that will be used as the learning lab.
    - All classrooms and hallways have been cleaned and waxed.
    - I would like to again thank Mr. Hohlt, Coach Taplin, Carl Matthies, and the entire crew for all their hard work this summer in taking care of many projects.

4. Dr. Kennedy presented the athletic director's report. Football and volleyball have had their first full week of practice. Volleyball has eighteen JV and Varsity players. Football has forty-one JV and Varsity players. Volleyball has already had three scrimmages, and football will have their first scrimmage this Friday in Hempstead.

Both teams are looking good, and we look for good things this season. There will be a JV and Varsity game played in both sports. Cross Country also starts up this week. Currently, eleven students are participating. However, we have quite a few students that cross over from volleyball and football so those cross country numbers will increase.

The football team is also participating in a fundraiser called Snap Raise. Players reach out to family and friends via social media, email, text message, or in person and ask for donations for the program. We have already raised \$8,000 and will continue to run the fundraiser for two more weeks.

5. Superintendent's Report

- a. Dr. Kennedy reported that district facility planning has been taking place. She discussed a bond election and presented a handout that states what to do and not to do once a school bond election is called. She stated that messaging has been going out to the Banner Press, KWHI, and social media. The district has been working on developing a bond website and YouTube for the district.
- b. Dr. Kennedy thanked the Washington County Chamber of Commerce for the education forum which was well attended. She presented an update on the current district status and plans for the upcoming bond election project at the forum.
- c. Dr. Kennedy stated that professional staff development was excellent. It was great to see smiling and welcome faces without masks.
- d. The district's priorities are academics first. We are working on a COVID-19 protocol. The district will follow the Governor's Orders, the Center for Disease Control, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas State Health Department guidelines for COVID-19 in consultation with our legal counsel to keep our students and staff safe. We will have in-person instruction. Plans are to implement "no mask required" mandate unless COVID-19 situation changes. The district will respect the rights of students who wish to wear masks and/or parents who wish for their children to wear a mask. The district nurse will work through protocol individually as COVID-19 positive cases arise or symptoms occur and report to appropriate authorities. We will still be prepared to implement virtual studies if students need to be quarantined. The district will continue to clean and sanitize and practice good health and hygiene habits. Only essential visitors will be allowed in the district. UIL will not limit attendance capacity at athletic events.
- e. ABM custodial services thanked the board for allowing them to work for the district.
- f. Dr. Kennedy gave a huge thanks to ABM custodial services, Patty Merryman, Ronnie Hohlt, Charles Hodde, Robert McCullough, and all other crew members for maintaining the district facilities, doing upgrades and special projects, keeping the district landscaped, and preparing the buses. She also thanked the technology department (Jonathan Purvis, Carol Wilson, and Bailey Gober), the central office and campus office staff for keeping things going throughout the summer (Dana Moreno, Rosa Blum, Tracie Ely, and Caitlyn Staal; Delaina Callahan, Michele Ebner, Ann Knittel, and Amy Jozwiak), and the administration (Melinda Fuchs, Matthew Wamble, and Jeremy Johnston) for working so hard to be ready for staff today. Of course, also thanks to our staff who were in and out all summer attending training, preparing their classrooms, and setting up learning opportunities for students. Coaches have been spending

a lot of time preparing their students for athletics. Thanks to the cafeteria staff (Jackie Ray, Karen Harmel, Valerie Lehmann, and Wille Bea Fisher) who have been busy preparing the kitchen and cafeteria for the start of school.

- g. A new freezer was installed at the cafeteria.
  - h. Tickets will be purchased online for sporting events this year.
6. A motion was made by Mr. Colvin and seconded by Ms. Putnam to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed 6-0.
  7. A motion was made by Ms. Putnam and seconded by Mr. Fuchs to approve the order authorizing the Board of Trustees of the Burton Independent School District to call a bond election to be held within said District; making provisions for the conduct and the giving of notice of the election; and providing for any other provisions related thereto. Motion passed 7-0.

The proposed \$43.8 million bond includes academic and athletic projects such as adding and renovating classrooms, fine arts facility improvements, cafeteria and kitchen upgrades, an enclosed connection for district buildings, a new competition gym and stadium, and various site and drainage improvements.

8. A motion was made by Mr. Fuchs and seconded by Mr. Colvin to approve a resolution retaining the law firms of Powell Law Group, LLP (“PLG”) and Haynes & Boone, LLP (“HB”), (collectively “Co-Bond Counsel”) to provide specialized legal services in connection with the issuance of public securities by the District; finding that PLG and HB are competent and experienced in handling such issuances of public securities, having handled such matters for more than a decade in the State of Texas; finding that: (i) such legal services require specialized expertise and experience in state and federal laws governing the issuance of public securities and therefore cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the District; (ii) such legal services cannot be reasonably obtained from attorneys in private practice under a contract providing for the payment of hourly fees without contingency because the District will not be obligated to pay any legal fees unless the public securities are approved and actually issued; and (iii) entering into a contingent fee contract with PLG and HB to serve as Co-Bond Counsel is in the best interests of the residents of the District because PLG and HB will only be paid in the event that the public securities are actually issued; and all matters related thereto. Motion passed 7-0.
9. A motion was made by Mr. Fuchs and seconded by Mr. Hinze to set August 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. as the date to Discuss Budget and Proposed Tax Rate at the Burton Independent School District Administration Office. Public comments on the budget and tax rate will be allowed at this meeting. Following any public comments, the board will adopt the budget and set the tax rate. Motion passed 7-0.
10. A motion was made by Mr. Colvin and seconded by Mr. Warner to publish the proposed tax rate at \$0.9782 (\$ 0.90330 Maintenance & Operation and \$0.07490 Interest & Sinking Fund). Motion passed 7-0.
11. A motion was made by Ms. Putnam and seconded by Mr. Hinze to approve an agreement designating Washington County Extension Agents as adjunct staff members. Motion passed 7-0.

12. A motion was made by Ms. Putnam and seconded by Mr. Fuchs to approve the district teacher appraisal calendar as presented. Motion passed 7-0. (Copy attached.)
13. A motion was made by Mr. Colvin and seconded by Mr. Hinze to approve the employee handbook as presented. Motion passed 7-0.
14. A motion was made by Ms. Putnam and seconded by Mr. Colvin to approve the student handbook/code of conduct as presented. Motion passed 7-0.
15. A motion was made by Mr. Fuchs and seconded by Mr. Hinze to approve updates to Board Policy FM(LOCAL) – Student Activities as presented. Motion passed 7-0.
16. A motion was made by Ms. Putnam and seconded by Mr. Colvin to approve a Reading Academy stipend in the amount of \$1,500.00. Motion passed 7-0.
17. The board discussed the proposed budget.
18. Dr. Kennedy informed the board that Melanie Jasek has been employed as an elementary teacher for the 2021-2022 school year on a one-year probationary contract.
19. A motion was made by Mr. Colvin and seconded by Mr. Hinze to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary

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President