

WEST OSO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Administration Building Board Room
5050 Rockford Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78416

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 27, 2006

The West Oso Independent School District Board of Trustees held its regular board meeting on **Monday, November 27, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Administration Building Board Room, 5050 Rockford Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas.

AGENDA

Opening

1. Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.
2. Roll call
Board members present: George L. Barrera, Lucas Jasso, Shirley Jordan, Jose A. Lopez, Velma Rodriguez. Cella Boyd arrived at 6:45 p.m.
3. Declaration of quorum
Ms. Rodriguez declared a quorum.
4. Pledges of allegiance
The pledges of allegiance were recited.
5. Notice of Meetings: *The meeting was posted in Accordance with Government Code Chapter 551, State of Texas Open Meetings Act.*

Public Comments

6. Audience Participation [Policy BED (Local)]

Board members may not deliberate or make a decision on any matter presented at this time. The Open Meetings Act limits Board response to only two options: 1) a statement of specific factual information given in response to an inquiry; or 2) a recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry. Any deliberation of or decision about the subject shall be limited to a proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting.

No one addressed the Board during open forum.

Recognitions

7. Recognitions of Students, Staff, Community Members (Dr. Helms)

Dr. Helms invited Ms. McLemore to recognize a 5th grade West Oso Elementary student, Daniel Adame, who was invited to participate in the 2007 Junior National League Conference in Washington, D.C. in the spring of 2007. Ms. McLemore also took the opportunity to recognize Ms. Deena Taylor and Mrs. Monica Perez for their involvement in helping raise funds to assist Daniel with his trip expenses. Ms. McLemore presented Daniel with a recognition plaque. The Board congratulated Daniel for his achievement and also commended his parents and family for their support. Ms. McLemore assisted Dr. Helms with presenting a recognition certificate for their fund raising support. Dr. Helms also recognized the West Oso ISD Foundation for Educational Excellence, Inc., for its involvement in helping the student and parents meet trip expenses.

Dr. Helms proceeded with recognizing Mr. Bobby Lucas, a Corpus Christi community member for his recent donation of a trophy bear to West Oso High School. Mr. Lucas explained how he came about the trophy bear. Dr. Helms and the Board of Trustees thanked Mr. Lucas for his donation. The bear will be utilized as West Oso High School's mascot.

Ms. Boyd arrived at 6:46 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

The following items have been presented to Board Members for study prior to the meeting. These items are considered to be routine and are recommended for approval. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered as an item on the regular agenda.

8. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: (Dr. Helms)
Regular Board Meeting, October 23, 2006
9. Approval of Monthly Investment Report for October 2006 (Mr. Palacios)
10. Approval of General Fund Financial Report for October 2006 (Mr. Palacios)
11. Approval of Appointment of Official Textbook Committee Members (Dr. Garza)

Mr. Jasso motioned to approved Items 8 – 11 under Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Lopez.

Motion carried 6-0

Reports and Information

12. Report from the Project Architects and Construction Management Firm Regarding the Construction Status of the New High School Campus and Renovation Work for the Current WOHS Facility (Dr. Helms)

Mr. David Richter made a presentation of interior color selections.

Mr. Jasso asked Mr. Richter to show selection of interior colors to the audience. Mr. Richter acknowledged, complied with request and continued with his presentation.

During the presentation, Ms. Rodriguez asked Mr. Richter if consideration was given to the color scheme to enhance the learning. Mr. Richter responded to Ms. Rodriguez's question. Mr. Richter informed Ms. Rodriguez that studies indicate that daylight enhances the learning environment. Mr. Richter expressed their philosophy stating to go along with daylight and is best to have neutral earth colors as opposed to high energy colors so that the environment offers a comfortable background. Mr. Richter continued with the presentation of colors for the band hall and remaining areas of the new high school.

Mr. Kevin Krueger then took the floor for an update of the project. He informed the board that approximately 42 days have been lost due to rain. Mr. Krueger reviewed the report provided to the board during the meeting. He did inform the board that they are approximately one month behind and anticipates that the new school will be ready on or about September 10-15, 2007, provided there are unforeseen delays. Mr. Krueger informed the Board that the crew has been spending approximately 50 to 54 hours a week on the project.

13. Report on Del Mar College Dual Credit Program (Dr. Helms)

Dr. Helms introduced Ms. Bertha Flores and Ms. Sandra Valerio of Del Mar College. Ms. Flores shared a packet of information regarding the dual credit program with board members. She reviewed the different courses that are offered to West Oso ISD students and how the tuition and fees work and the District's involvement in covering the student's tuition. Ms. Flores added that Del Mar services four counties and 25 high schools. Ms. Flores elaborated on the courses offered on site at West Oso HS and those offered at the Del Mar premises. She also commented on the teacher's certification requirements to teach a dual credit course.

Ms. Flores provided Microsoft PowerPoint and DVD presentations of the dual credit program. They both provided an overview of the different courses offered and how these will benefit juniors and seniors eligible to take the courses.

After presentation of the materials, Board members asked if credits were transferable to other colleges/universities. Ms. Flores informed that she is learning that more often than before, colleges and universities, even in other states, are honoring the credits earned at Del Mar College.

Mr. Jasso inquired of Ms. Flores of how Del Mar is addressing individual's physical limitations. Ms. Flores informed that Del Mar staff is currently addressing the issue. She did inform that the curriculum is the same for all students, but the staff is considering modifying the length of class assignments/tests. She added that whatever accommodations are made by the College, these will be outlined in the partnership agreement that will be forthcoming to school districts in spring 2007.

Ms. Rodriguez asked about the tuition charges for students. Ms. Flores indicated that there are no tuition charges, but there are fees. Ms. Rodriguez asked about the number of students who enrolled in the EMS course. Ms. Flores indicated that the three-count reflected on the report was from the last spring semester. Ms. Flores indicated that the EMS course is only offered in the spring. Ms. Rodriguez also asked how Dr. Garza about how the information is disseminated to students. Dr. Garza informed that the guidance counselors are informing the students. Ms. Flores informed the Board that Del Mar staff came to West Oso High School to meet with the eight students interested in the EMS program and their parents. Additionally, Ms. Flores informed that these students and their parents were invited and attended a special meeting at Del Mar College, which addressed the program requirements and expectations.

Ms. Diana Clements informed the Board that they have met with all students at the time of registration.

Ms. Rodriguez asked if Del Mar has considered a Career Fair where students can attend. Ms. Flores said that Del Mar has not held a career fair for the dual credit program. She emphasized that her efforts as a Dual Credit coordinator include visits to the schools to speak to the target groups who will benefit of specific courses.

Ms. Flores commended the board for showing their interest and support in offering these opportunities to West Oso students and for financially assisting students with cost of tuition and fees. Ms. Flores indicated that only four of the 25 participating schools show this level of support.

14. Texas Educator Excellence Award (Dr. Garza)

Dr. Garza presented a PowerPoint slides handout to Board members and reviewed each slide individually. (A copy is kept on file for reference.) Requirements for this grant include a presentation of the incentive plan to the public, which is being accomplished during this board meeting; and posting the incentive plan for public viewing, which will be accomplished by posting the plan to the website. Dr. Garza distributed a copy of the incentive plan to each board member and then had Ms. Mary Fant, a West Oso High School teacher, present the plan to the board members.

Ms. Fant informed that all staff members received a copy of the incentive plan and were extended an invitation to participate.

Mr. Jasso asked how the janitorial staff fit into the plan. Ms. Fant responded that their effort in this plan would be measured by the janitors' disposition to assist staff with preparation for particular tasks/events. Their efforts could also be measured by their assistance in making sure teachers have the necessary supplies made available to them when needed or by the labor they provide the campus.

Mr. Jasso also asked for clarification about the school's eligibility for the grant. Dr. Garza informed him that at the present time, the school is eligible for the grant for meeting two of the three criteria established.

15. Report on Fall Benchmark Results (Dr. Garza)

Dr. Garza reviewed the benchmark results and explained the content of the TAKS test format. She provided information on the number of questions that will appear on the test and how many will not be scored; and also informed how the February test format will differ from the April test. Dr. Garza also informed the Board members of the students' progress made through the various benchmark assessments that have been given. She also explained the different strategies being utilized by the staff to help improve scores.

16. West Oso High School Preliminary Exit Scores (Dr. Garza)

Dr. Garza reviewed the Preliminary Exit Scores with the Board. She expressed serious concern about the seniors who have not passed the necessary exit-level exams. She reminded the Board that the District must meet a 75 percent high school completion rate in order to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) requirements. Dr. Garza informed the Board that a plan has been put into place by Mr. Franco, Mrs. Clements, Ms. Licon, and Ms. Clayton. She informed the Board that the senior class is in trouble, but that there is time to make a difference. She informed that the plan must be most active and purposeful.

Dr. Garza informed the Board that many of these students are a question or two away from passing the exam. She also informed that staff is aware of those students who are ten or fifteen questions away. Dr. Garza informed that she was asked by high school teacher Mrs. Rodriguez if there is a plan for each student and Dr. Garza informed her there is.

Dr. Garza turned the presentation over to the high school staff to discuss the plan. Ms. Clayton addressed the Board explaining the action plan implemented to help those students who are close to passing the exam. She informed that they are working on the strategies for those who have a number of questions to meet passing the exams. Ms. Clayton informed of the tutorials that have been setup where a group of science students assist those who need help. Ms. Clayton informed that before-, during-, and after-school tutorials services are available to students and that students who need to pass the exams are required to attend these services.

Items for Discussion, Deliberation, and/or Action

17. Consider, Discuss, and Act as Appropriate to Approve the West Oso ISD District Improvement Plan, 2006-2007 (Dr. Garza/
Dr. Helms)

Ms. Jordan motioned to Approve the West Oso ISD District Improvement Plan, 2006-2007, seconded by Mr. Lopez.

Motion carried 6-0.

Closing

- 18. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Board President (or Presiding Officer)

Board Secretary (or Board Member)