

MINUTES OF THE THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL SESSION,
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: David Dawson, Charles Evans, Derwood Hickey, Nancy Hiers, Scott Morgan, Mark NeSmith, and Kay Streets.

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Hiers moved, with a second by Mr. Hickey, to approve the consent agenda (attachment A). The motion was unanimous.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of policy GARI: Employee Evaluation – Ms. Streets moved to approve the employee evaluation policy (attachment B). Mr. Morgan seconded the motion, with unanimous approval by the board.

B. Ratification of bids for technology items for Bishop Hall Charter School – Mr. Morgan moved to ratify the purchase of the digital signage system; chrome books and protective sleeves; 43 desktop computers; and a subscription to a digital library resource, OverDrive, for Bishop Hall (attachment C). Mr. NeSmith seconded the motion, with unanimous approval by the board.

IV. UPDATED BUDGET CALENDAR

A. Updated budget calendar - Dr. Kornegay explained that the budget calendar (attachment D) had to be revised because of a conflict with the SACS visit.

B. Possible dates for whole board training – After a discussion about a date for the whole board training, there was a consensus among board members to have the training on Tuesday, March 31, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

C. Legislative updates – Dr. Kornegay informed the board of the following pending legislation: 1) a bill that would allow students who had completed requirements of 10th grade to go directly to college or technical college. Upon completion of the diploma program or two certificate programs at a college or technical college, they would be deemed to have satisfied all high school graduation requirements and would be awarded a high school diploma at the same time they get their credentials at the college; 2) a bill that would allow former high school students who have met all requirements except passing the graduation test to get a diploma retroactively, if approved by the local board; 3) a house resolution that would authorize the governor to appoint the state superintendent and the state board would either be appointed by the legislature or elected by congressional districts; 4) a decision that IE²/Charter School/Status Quo initiative due this spring will not be postponed; and 5) a bill that would move up the age of students to start school in 2015-2016 to August 1 and in 2016-2017 to June 30. He also informed the board, on the federal level, of the Office of Civil Rights being very aggressive towards the disproportionality of referrals for In School Suspension and Out of School Suspension by student race.

D. Items for inclusion in system's mid-year budget amendment – Dr. Kornegay informed the board that he was anticipating about half a million dollars in enrollment growth and said some items to be included in the system's mid-year budget amendment are math textbooks, possibly some new band uniforms, increases in utility rates, increases in transportation for tires and fuel, and voice lessons for choral students.

E. Discussion of budget process, goals/priorities for FY2016 – Dr. Kornegay discussed goals and priorities (attachment E) for FY2016 and said the first priority is restoring furlough days, the second

priority is reducing class sizes and the third priority is establishing a special needs classroom for medically fragile students at Hand-In-Hand School.

F. Governor's FY2015 mid-year budget recommendations - Mr. Joey Holland, assistant superintendent for finance and operations, informed the board of the governor's mid-year budget recommendations which included additional money for enrollment growth, charter schools and charter systems, testing, technology and Forest Land Protection.

G. Governor's FY2016 budget recommendations – Mr. Holland informed the board about some of the governor's budget recommendations for FY2016 which included additional money to restore the full 190 days for PreK teachers plus more money for the handicapped grant equalization.

H. Health insurance for non-certified personnel – Mr. Holland said the Department of Community Health had recommended a delay, for the second year, in the increase of the employer's cost of insurance for non-certified employees. He informed them of the Governor's recommendation to discontinue insurance for employees who worked less than thirty hours per week which would mainly affect bus drivers in the system.

I. IE²/Charter/Status Quo – Dr. Kornegay gave the board information on IE²/Charter/Status Quo. He said Status Quo would require, at a minimum, a 3 mil property tax increase because it would take about 40 new positions to put the system in full compliance across the board plus meet expenditure tests. The Charter gives control to the school level instead of the system level and the school board would just ratify what happens at the school. He said the IE² has been simplified so systems can get waivers from the expenditure tests and class sizes.

J. Request from middle school to administer surveys regarding school uniforms – Dr. Kornegay informed board members of a request from the middle school to administer surveys regarding requiring students to wear school uniforms. He said there were serious issues with the dress code. After discussing the matter, Dr. Kornegay said he would have someone from the middle school survey other school systems that require uniforms to see how uniforms were working for them.

K. SACS visit - Dr. Kornegay reviewed the following topics in preparation for the SACS visit.


1. Review board member Code of Ethics policy
2. Review board member Conflict of Interest policy
3. Strategic Plan
4. Interviews

L. Executive session for personnel – The executive session was cancelled.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NeSmith moved, with a second by Mr. Dawson, to adjourn. The board voted unanimous approval of the motion.


Secretary


Chairman