

JOSHUA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
March 28, 2022
310 East 18th Street
Joshua, Texas
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

President Ronnie Galbreath called the meeting to order at 5:28 P.M. A quorum was present and the notice of the meeting had been posted in the manner and for the time required by law. Other members present were Kevin Lee, Nini Wilson, Cody Lee, Charles Hudgens, Myra Pruitt and Gene Loflin.

BOARD WORKSHOP

- A. Superintendent Reports
- B. Agenda Items
- C. School Budget
- D. School Safety Procedures
- E. Review of District's Monthly Activities
- F. Texas Teacher Incentive Allotment

REGULAR MEETING - OPENING CEREMONIES

President Ronnie Galbreath called the regular meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

PLEDGE

Loflin Middle School students Jack Merrell and Emma Massie led the Pledge of Allegiance and recited the district vision statement.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

The Board Members received information on student enrollment and attendance, an ADA Report, a report from the child nutrition department, a property tax collection summary, monthly financial reports, a monthly and year to date status of special revenue funds report, a quarterly cash & investment report, a copy of the February check register, a Joshua ISD police department report, a calendar of district events, district & campus survey results, district of innovation letter of intent, and a campus presentation from Loflin Middle School.

RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Board recognized the 9th grade girls' basketball team for their undefeated season. They had an overall record of 20-0 and 9-0 in district play. Team members recognized were:

Auburn Aton, Bri Tomerlin, Krysten Loeak, Mavane Franks, Kylan Noblitt, Reagan Koller, Brynn White, Carlie Menzel, Emma Hopkins, Laurne Nichols, Maddi Valles and Coach Megan Atkinson.

The Board recognized the JV girls' basketball team for their successful season which ended in being tied for 1st Place. They had an overall record of 19-8 and 9-2 in district play. Team members recognized were:

Tyler Pool, Raylee Bowling, Grace Elmore, Marissa Darnall, Payton Koller, Kiara Lackey, Cassie Schnug, Zaidyn Streeter, Karli Day, Madeline Sumien, Emma Carroll and Vivian Rogers-Barnett.

The Board recognized the Varsity girls' basketball team for making history by earning a spot in the play-offs for the third consecutive year, which is a first in school history. The Lady Owls had a winning district record for the first time since 2008. Team members recognized were:

Leah Mendoza, Sawyer Colbert, Skyler Brooks, Karsyn Jones, Peyton Cole, Kamdyn Graves, Ella Tallent, Calley Liles, Kallie Connelly, Riley O'Banion, Jaivan Torres and Coach Michelle Connelly.

The Board recognized the boys' Varsity basketball team for making history by having back to back play-off appearances and for earning 3rd place in a very competitive district. The Owls overall record was 22-13 which is the first time in 40 years that the Owls won over 20 games. Team members recognized were:

Nathaniel Fernandez, Bailey Sosebee, Deaven Connelly, Tyler Gray, Bryce Ballew, Alex Kuhlman, Jayden Ponce, Trenton Lane, Aiden Raccuglia, Aiden Haskins and Coach Brandt Lockhart.

The Board recognized the JISD Swim teams Regional and State qualifiers. Regional qualifiers recognized were: Zachary Boydston, Renn De Los Santos, Braxton Galbreath, Donald Palmer, Kylie Keeler, Sophia Bustillos, Anna Creach and Samantha Link. State Qualifier was Donald Palmer.

The Board recognized Ninth Grade Campus student, Audrey Brown, for her accomplishment of becoming a published illustrator of a children's book, "The Walnut Warrior". Audrey autographed a book and presented it to the principal of the elementary school she attended, Caddo Grove Elementary.

OPEN FORUM

Aaron Manges addressed the board about following up on his concerns regarding the student dress code issue. He read the "Crown Act" and stated he is making a formal plea and he would like a response from the board on this issue.

Tami Carmichael addressed the board as a follow up from her December public forum comment. She stated that it has been 12 years since her son took his life and would like to know why laws have changed but the district has not changed its rules. Ms. Carmichael stated that it is time for bullying to stop and JISD needs to start a program in the elementary schools. Ms. Carmichael passed out a t-shirt to each board member and the Superintendent.

Aristeo Arredondo passed out a handout to each board member and Superintendent and addressed the board about his frustrations that surround bullying and his son. He asked the board to consider the action items presented in the handout at an open meeting this year. Proposed action items are as follows:

1. Permit JISD teachers and parents into the existing safety committee. Grant teachers and parents the ability to serve on this board, individuals willing to better the community, those who have first-hand experience navigating through the reoccurring problems we are attempting to address.
2. Add bullying as a report item to the monthly reports that goes to the Superintendent and to the School Board. In this report, the following should be included:
 - a. Monthly student education seminars
 - b. Survey parents and students quarterly on bullying until improvement, then annually
3. Provide a staffing update ASAP, add more headcount to investigate bullying incidents, address them more quickly until the problem is under control.
4. Monthly training of all staff, including substitutes, on how to best prevent and mediate bullying, as well as ensuring they are aware of all the policies and procedures.
5. Immediately train all district staff and faculty on the local grievance process; what it is, why it is in place and where to locate documents.
6. Evaluate all campus locations to identify any blind spots that lack camera surveillance to either add a camera or ensure appropriate staffing is in place to monitor areas where students are present. When there are rumors of a fight or incident to come, proactive measures to include an immediate increase of staffing as well as efforts to address the threat.
7. Create online portal access in skyward for parents and students to submit bullying incidents, this will help encourage students to report assaults that may otherwise be reluctant to do so at school. This would create an automated reporting mechanism that can be implemented to track trending issues. Such a tool would help the Administration at each campus solve incidents quicker and might save a life.
8. Provide parent communication forums or meetings to attend that provide guidance on how to look for signs of bullying and how to address issues, including parental guidance on how to submit incident reports and shed light on the proper path for the escalation process.
9. Ensure counselors engage with any student that has been physically assaulted; also, for students that are continuously facing such incidents. Counselors should also engage students via assemblies, classrooms or through campus administration immediately following incidents such as fights, assaults, or coordinated group shaming occurring on campus.
10. Implement a zero-tolerance rule with victim shaming by staff or other students. At no point should someone coming forward be further shamed for doing what's right.
11. The Safety Committee should also monitor and ensure that the district is in compliance with their own policies and procedures while ensuring they are up-to-date. This should include:
 - a. Recording bullying trends across district and campus levels
 - b. Include the number of student statements and JISD assault reports
 - c. Identify trending issues
 - d. Make proposals on how to address them
 - e. Implement changes
 - f. Monitor progress

Stephanie Arredondo addressed the Board. She stated that she loves and supports the district but it needs to address bullying. She stated the district lacks listening and transparency. Mrs. Arredondo was present at the December board meeting and spoke during the public forum but did not receive a response from the board. She is concerned about students withdrawing, and hurting themselves. She requests that the board respond to this public forum presentation. She requests that an Open Meeting Agenda item be added. Mrs. Arredondo supports the bond but until she sees support for their cause she will not give her vote. Bible verse quoted.

Ashley Myers addressed the board about bullying issues. She feels the main focus is on test scores and sports stadium. Kids need a safe place to go to school. She stated that her kids have never been bullied in Joshua ISD, but their friends have been. Her child recognizes that it could be him being bullied. Ms. Myers stated that schools need to put bullying on the front burner and that staff needs to be positive and have compassion instead of being harassed for no ID.

Richard De Los Santos addressed the board about his decision to move to Joshua as the best decision he has made for his family. He thanked the board for the tough decisions they have to make. He thanked the board for the swim team and mentioned a possible natatorium shared between surrounding communities. He stated that he is all for the bond election.

Russell Rojas Sr. addressed Board President, Mr. Galbreath directly regarding his displeasure of not receiving a response to his email that he sent regarding a complaint against the Superintendent. He stated that Mr. Galbreath's friendships are the reason he does not act. He stated that Mr. Galbreath has been on the board for over 20 years and that he wants personal gain by having a school named after him. Mr. Rojas is also displeased that he has not received a response regarding an email he sent about a campus Principal's husband. The board has a responsibility to the tax payers. Mr. Rojas also stated that he will be back.

SUBJECTS:

- Subject A Consider Consent Agenda Items
Motion by Myra Pruitt and Second by Kevin Lee to approve the minutes of February 21, 2022 and March 8, 2022, the budget amendments, accounts payable and purchases over \$50,000. Motion carried 7-0.
- Subject B Consider TASB Risk Management Fund Interlocal Participation Agreement
Motion by Gene Loflin and Second by Myra Pruitt to approve the TASB Risk Management Fund Interlocal Participation Agreement. Motion carried 7-0.
- Subject C Consider Revised Resolution of the Board Regarding an Inclement Weather Closure
Motion by Charles Hudgens and Second by Cody Lee to approve the revised resolution as presented. Motion carried 7-0.
- Subject D Consider Amendment to Drainage and Road Agreement with Panchasarp, L.P.
Motion by Cody Lee and Second by Myra Pruitt to approve the amended drainage and road agreement with Panchasarp, L.P. Motion carried 7-0.
- Subject E Consider Amendment to Utility Work Agreement with Panchasarp, L.P.
Motion by Gene Loflin and Second by Kevin Lee to approve the amended utility work agreement with Panchasarp, L.P. Motion carried 7-0.
- Subject F Consider Revision to the 2021-2022 School Year
Motion by Nini Wilson and Second by Myra Pruitt to approve the revision to the 2021-2022 school calendar. Motion carried 7-0.

7:32 P.M. The board convened in a closed session to discuss items authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Sections 551.001-551.084.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A) Consultation with the Board's Attorney
- B) Discussion of Purchase, Exchange, Lease, or Value of Real Property
- C) Discussion of Property for School Site
- D) Discussion of Personnel to Consider Compensation, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Contract Extensions, Resignations, Dismissal, and/or Leave of Absence Requests
 - 1. Resignation/Retirement
 - 2. Employment

3. Contract Recommendations District Level Administrators, Principals and Assistant Principals

9:32 P.M. The Board returned to open session.

Superintendent Fran Marek made a recommendation to the board for Kari Trevino to be named as the Joshua High School Assistant Principal beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Motion by Myra Pruitt and Second by Cody Lee. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Fran Marek made a recommendation to the board that contract recommendations for District Level Administrators, Principals and Assistant Principals be accepted as presented. Motion by Gene Loflin and Second by Kevin Lee. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Marek announced the following resignations were accepted: Michael Agnello, Tina Bernard, Lindsay Lemaster, Ronald Snyder, Ann Gerbine, Angela Seibold, Beverly Trammell and Scott Trammell.

Motion made by Myra Pruitt and Second by Cody Lee to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0.

9:35 P.M. Meeting adjourned.

Date

Ronnie Galbreath, President

Gene Loflin, Secretary