

MINUTES OF THE THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN WORKSHOP SESSION,
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: David Dawson, Charles Evans, Derwood Hickey, Nancy Hiers, and Mark NeSmith.

II. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. NeSmith moved, with a second by Ms. Hiers, to approve the consent agenda (attachment A) which included the agenda; fundraising requests, out-of-district students and meeting schedule. The board voted unanimous approval of the motion.

III. APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD TRAINING PLAN

Mr. NeSmith moved, with a second by Ms. Hiers, to approve the School Board Training Plan (attachment B). The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. APPROVAL OF BID FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICE ENTRY UPGRADES FOR BOE CAMPUS

Mr. NeSmith made a motion to approve the low bid (attachment C) from Wiregrass Electric, Inc. for \$100,000 to replace the old electrical service entry to the board of education campus. Mr. Hickey seconded the motion, with unanimous approval by the board.

V. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

A. SACS update - Dr. Bob Dechman presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the SACS procedures.

B. Plaques for new Bishop Hall building - Dr. Kornegay presented copies of the wording (attachment D) for plaques for the new Bishop Hall building and asked board members if they had any changes to the wording or the way their names appeared. No one had any changes.

C. FY2016 budget outlook discussion

1. Insurance outlook - Mr. Joey Holland, assistant superintendent for finance and operations, said there is no indication from the state about what is going to happen next year with the health insurance but he speculated that there would be an significant increase since changes were made to the current year's insurance benefits. Dr. Kornegay added that the increase was in the system budget this year and school systems had complained about it so the increase was taken from state reserves and there is not enough money in reserves to cover it again. He said the state will have to come up with additional money or increases may be passed on to school systems. Mr. Holland estimated the costs to be \$150 additional for teachers and \$100 for non-certified employees.

2. Impact of expiration of class size waivers (2015-2016) - Mr. Holland and Dr. Kornegay explained the impact of the expiration of class size waivers. Dr. Kornegay stated that this is the last year that systems can have a class size waiver unless systems become IE² or charter system. Mr. Holland informed the board of the number of teachers and estimated costs that would be required without the waiver.

3. Restoration of full academic year - Mr. Holland said his estimation of the restoration of the full academic year for teachers would cost \$525,000.

4. Equalization grant - Mr. Holland explained possible changes in the Equalization Grant.


5. Possible new funding formula - Dr. Kornegay explained that the governor, if reelected, is possibly considering a new funding formula. He said some systems would be winners and losers and most likely, Thomas County would be a loser.

D. IE²/Charter School/Status Quo decision – Dr. Kornegay showed a PowerPoint presentation (attachment D) comparing the IE², Charter and Status Quo for school systems.

I. ADJOURNMENT

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


Secretary


Chairman