

# HOPE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The monthly meeting of the Hope School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:15 p.m. on October 8, 2007, in the Hope District Board Room. All members were present except Tony Winterbauer. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:20 p.m. The Board reconvened in a Public Session at 7:05 p.m. The following is a brief outline of the actions and discussions addressed by the Board.

## ***The Meeting Reconvened at 7:05 p.m.***

The board president reported that no action was taken during closed session.

## ***Correspondence***

There was no correspondence to report.

## ***Public Comment***

There was no public comment.

## ***Consent Items***

The following routine consent items were presented to the Board for approval: The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the minutes of the special board meeting of August 24, 2007. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the minutes of the regular board meeting of September 10, 2007, as amended. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the minutes of the special board meeting of September 28, 2007. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the commercial warrant registry sheets for September 6, September 14, September 21, and September 28, 2007, as presented.

## ***Reports***

### **2007 STAR Testing Report**

District Psychologist, John Banister, presented a report on the results of the STAR achievement test that was administered to students in grades 2-6 during May 2007. Mr. Banister reported that the overall academic performance level of district students has declined or remained the same between 2006 and 2007. The district has not met all School Growth Targets but has not entered into Program Improvement Status and has met the requirements of No Child Left Behind. Superintendent Fausett reported that these scores are not good news for the district and student test scores have been better in the past. It is important to note that as our student population has changed, student achievement has also changed. Although students are progressing, the declining trend is continuing and there is concern about what that will mean especially to students who are at basic, below basic, and far below basic in math and English

language arts. The three district schools typically have two subgroups, Latino and White, while Vieja Valley has a third subgroup which is the socio-economically disadvantaged (SED) subgroup. This is the first year that two of the three subgroups (Latino and SED) at Vieja Valley have not met the required growth target. If they do not meet these goals in 2008 for either subgroup, Vieja Valley will enter into Program Improvement. Hope and Monte Vista schools have similar challenges but they do not have the immediate timeline that Vieja Valley faces. Superintendent Fausett emphasized that district teachers are working with students to prepare for the spring 2008 STAR testing and on plans for academic intervention services. This will involve challenges that include teaching not only current grade level standards, but also prior year standards that were not met, meeting the needs of students who need help while also meeting needs of higher achieving students, and informing parents of intervention opportunities. The superintendent said that the district must plan strategically and implement purposefully to target underperforming students and bring them to proficiency.

### **Report on 5-Year Site Plans for Schools**

The superintendent presented preliminary reports that she had requested from the school principals regarding a 5-year site plan for use of classrooms that will become available as enrollment declines. She stated that these reports are preliminary and tentative and reflect one view of the future. The Future of the District committee will review these ideas and will make recommendations and suggestions to the Board in December or January. Discussions and the decision-making process will begin after the Board has received more complete information.

## ***Action Items***

### **Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Administrative Regulation 5111.1 District Residency**

Superintendent Fausett presented Revised Administrative Regulation 5111.1 to the Trustees for a second reading and adoption. The regulation was presented for a first reading and discussion at the September meeting. The Board discussed the revised regulation and determined that further revisions are necessary. The revised regulation will be presented for a third reading and adoption at the November meeting. Action was not taken on this item.

### **Approval of Increase in Substitute Teacher Pay Rate**

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Superintendent Fausett presented a proposed increase in the daily pay rate for substitute teachers. She explained that the district periodically re-evaluates the pay scale for substitute teachers and the last adjustment was made in January 2006. It is necessary to keep our pay rate consistent with that paid by other districts in the area and substitute teachers perform a valuable service both in the regular classroom and special education. Ms. Fausett recommended that the daily rate be increased to \$120 (the current rate is \$100/day) and the long-term rate be increased to \$135/day after the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive day retroactive to the first date of the long-term assignment. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the increase of the substitute teacher pay rate as presented.

## **Approval of Variable Term Waiver Request**

Superintendent Fausett requested that the Board approve the hiring of a Speech and Language Specialist on the basis of a credential waiver for a Clinical or Rehabilitative Services Credential. Ms. Fausett explained that Speech & Language Specialists are in high demand and the district currently does not have a sufficient number of Specialists to meet the needs of the students. She reported that after months of advertising it was determined that this waiver would be the best solution for our district. The Board of Trustees approved (4 ayes; 0 noes; 1 absent) the variable term waiver request as presented.

## **Superintendent's Report**

The superintendent reported that no Williams Act complaints were received by the district for the third quarter of 2007. She reported that a search is still in progress to fill a need for Speech & Language specialists and Resource teachers. She thanked the Foundation for its recent efforts in a fundraiser mailing to community members. She thanked Mike Colee for his efforts in organizing this fundraiser and all foundation members for their effort.

## **Board Members' Reports**

Ms. Owen reported that Hope School teacher, Kim Faulkner, has been recognized as a County distinguished educator.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.