

The Public Hearing was opened by School Board President Jerry Bates Jr. at 6:33 p.m. Superintendent McNeil announced that if the projected tax rate of \$1.04/\$100 property valuation is adopted by the Board then the local tax revenue would be \$2,207,077. This is based on a 97% collection rate. The state template is showing a Chapter 41 recapture of approximately \$214,262.00 which reduces our local revenue to \$1,991,951.00. The certified taxable property value for Real County is \$199,530,425. and Uvalde County is \$16,723,738 for a total of \$216,254,163.00. Community members were given an opportunity to ask questions. No one present asked any questions or made any comments. The Public Hearing closed at 6:42 p.m.

**Leakey Independent School District
Board of Trustees**

August 18, 2008

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Jerry Bates Jr., Shane Hohman, Martin Martinez, Ruben Navarro, Charlie Reagor, Beatsie Rubio, and Neville Triplett.

Members Absent: None

Visitors: Administration, Kathie Streib, Steve Gray and other community members.

Called to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Bates at 6:42 p.m. He announced that a quorum was present, that the meeting had been duly called and that a notice of the meeting was posted according to law.

Regular Session:

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jerry Bates Jr.
3. The Board and audience observed a moment of silent reflection.

Open Forum:

4. President Bates welcomed the visitors and gave anyone that was present an opportunity to speak to the Board. Kathie Streib signed up to speak to the Board. Ms. Streib expressed concerns to the Board regarding her daughter's TAKS scores for the Exit Level Test in History this past Spring. She said no one from the school contacted her regarding summer tutorial classes to assist her daughter before she had to take the test in July, 2008. Subsequently, she failed the retake test in July. Ms. Streib is concerned that since her daughter is a senior this year that she only has two more opportunities to pass this test before graduation or she will not be able to walk at graduation.

5. The Board read and reviewed minutes from the July 7, 2008 regular Board meeting.
 - a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2008 regular meeting.

This motion was seconded by Martin Martinez.

Motion carried 7-0

6. The Board reviewed payment of bills and invoices in the amount of \$29,022.49 for the month of August, 2008.
 - a. A motion was made by Charlie Reagor to approve payment of August bills and invoices totaling \$29,022.49.

This motion was seconded by Shane Hohman.

Motion carried 7-0

7. Kelly Shults with Real County Appraisal District was not in attendance so the Year End Tax Collection Report will be presented at the next regular Board meeting.
8. Tom Brown, a representative with Naismith Engineering, gave a presentation regarding the proposed City of Leakey Sewer System. The City of Leakey and the Nueces River Authority are working together to build a wastewater treatment plant. The funding will be provided by the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Brown said the city will be acquiring 160 acres for the project. He stated that there would be enough land not only for the sewer system but also to build a community park and athletic complex for the school. The proposed project should be completed by January, 2011.
9. Kelly Shults will present the Real County Appraisal Budget for 2008-2009 at the next regular board meeting since she was ill and not able to attend the Board meeting.
10. Mr. Ferguson, Business Manager, informed the Board that the substitute pay would be increased from \$50.00 a day to \$65.00/day for non-certified teachers and \$75.00/day for certified teachers for the 2008-2009 school year. Superintendent McNeil explained to the Board that these amounts had been figured into the 2008-2009 school budget so that when they approve the budget then this increase in pay would be automatically approved.
11. Item #11, Consider for approval growth plans: This item was discussed in executive session but no action was taken in open session.
12. The Board reviewed and discussed the 2008-2009 School Budget. Superintendent McNeil explained to the Board that Mr. Ferguson had worked very hard all summer to present a balanced budget this year because of the Chapter 41 status. The proposed budget calls for revenue/expenditures of \$3,059,404.00. This is only \$13,120.00 more than we spent last year. All school employees will receive at least a 6% raise.

- a. A motion was made by Beatsie Rubio to approve the 2008-2009 School Budget as presented.

This motion was seconded by Neville Triplett.

Motion carried 7-0

13. The Administration made a recommendation to the School Board that the 2008-2009 tax rate should be increased from \$1.00/per \$100 property valuation to \$1.04/per \$100 property valuation.

- a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to set the tax rate at \$1.04/per \$100 per property valuation for 2008-2009 school year.

This motion was seconded by Beatsie Rubio.

Motion carried 7-0

14. Superintendent McNiel recommended the approval of the 2008-2009 substitute list. He reported these are the same substitutes as last year with the addition of two new teachers, Mr. David Fisher and Mrs. Connie Sansom.

- a. A motion was made by Neville Triplett to approve the 2008-2009 substitute list with the addition of David Fisher and Connie Sansom.

This motion was seconded by Martin Martinez.

Motion carried 7-0

15. Principal Gonzalez presented a policy on Parent and Students Rights on Bullying, Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence and Sexual Violence that was recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). She explained that this policy, if approved, would go into the 2008-2009 Student Handbook. The teachers will have additional training during staff development and will be instructed to review this policy with the students.

- a. A motion was made by Charlie Reagor to adopt the policy on Parent and Students Rights on Bullying, Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence and Sexual Violence.

This motion was seconded by Ruben Navarro.

Motion carried 7-0

16. The Board reviewed the 2008-2009 Student Handbook. Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the changes with the Board. After reviewing a letter and petition from the LISD senior class of 2009 requesting a modification of the dress code, the following changes have been approved. The length of hair may be to the bottom of the ear lobe, "flip-flops" may be worn if the upper part of the shoe is leather, and baseball caps may be worn in the gym after school but not indoors during the school day.

- a. A motion was made by Shane Hohman to approve the 2008-2009 Student Handbook with the changes in the dress code as discussed.

This motion was seconded by Charlie Reagor.

Motion carried 7-0

17. Business Manager's Report – Don Ferguson

- a. Mr. Ferguson did not give a monthly Board report due to the fact he was still working on budget amendments and year end reports.
- b. The financial summary and investment report showed a beginning balance of \$1,174,605.00. Total revenue for the month of July was \$223,271.00 and total disbursements was \$253,494.00. The net cash position as of July 31, 2008 was \$1,144,382.00. The current interest rate for First State Bank of Uvalde is 2.26% and for the Lone Star Pool it is 2.40%. The year to date interest earned is \$55,993.00.
- c. Mr. Ferguson reported he had interviewed five applicants for the administrative assistant position. He reported one of the applicants moved back to San Antonio and he was waiting on a confirmation from another applicant.

18. Principal's Report – Lorri Gonzalez

- a. Ms. Gonzalez reported that there have been a few changes made to the master schedule since the last Board meeting. She said it was still in draft form but should be finalized this week.
- b. Ms. Gonzalez reported that the District recently received the 2008 District Accountability Rating of Academically Acceptable from TEA. She also reported that she is still working on an analysis of the TAKS scores as requested by the Board but she is still needing some additional information from TEA.
- c. Ms. Gonzalez presented the English as a Second Language (ESL) Annual Progress Report for the 2007-2008 school year. There were 11 students in ESL last year. All students showed advancement in their English skills from last year's report. All students except one were promoted to the next grade level. Emphasis will continue to be placed on English and math classes for next year by the ESL teacher as these are the areas to be tested on TAKS every year.

19. Superintendent's Report – Fred R. McNiel

- a. Superintendent McNiel reported all the summer renovations have been completed. He reported that the fencing and the new sound system have been installed at Eagle Stadium. The hardwood floors in the administration and library building have been sanded and refinished. He reported Larry Chisum added more drain lines to the septic system in the playground area.
- b. Superintendent McNiel reported he has made reservations and registered each Board member for the TASA/TASB Convention on September 26-28 in Dallas. He informed the Board that he needs to know by September 10th if anyone cannot attend so the hotel and event registration can be canceled.
- c. Superintendent McNiel gave each Board member a copy of a letter he sent to Mr. Homer Bermea, Maintenance Supervisor, with Texas Department of Transportation regarding a very dangerous pick-up/drop-off bus stop in front of Happy Hollow Grocery Store. He informed the Board he had received a call from Mr. Bermea advising him that the warning signs had been installed.

- d. Superintendent McNiel reported that he spoke to the PTO President, Blyth Cave, regarding the back to school BBQ. She told Mr. McNiel that they would like to combine the BBQ and “Meet the Teacher” night together. After discussing it with the Board and Administration it was determined that September 4th would likely be the best date. Mr. McNiel said he will contact Mrs. Cave and verify this date.

Executive Session

The Board entered into executive session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss item #11 on the agenda, Consider for Approval Growth Plans.

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:31 p.m.

Adjourned:

A motion was made by Martin Martinez to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

This motion was seconded by BeatsieRubio

Motion Carried 7-0

Jerry W. Bates Jr., President

Neville Triplett, Secretary

Approved 9-16-08/jf

