

Crowley ISD Board of Trustees

Unofficial Summary of Actions

May 26, 2016

REPORT ITEMS

Trustees welcomed Lyndsae Benton to the Place 7 seat on the Board for her first term of service. Returning Board members Gary Grassia (Place 6) and Ryan Ray (Place 5) also took the oath of office. Trustees chose June Davis (Place 4) and Ray to continue serving in their previous positions as President and Vice President of the Board, respectively. Board members selected Grassia to serve as Secretary.



(Lyndsae Benton, Gary Grassia, Ryan Ray)



(Secretary Gary Grassia, President June Davis, and Vice President Ryan Ray)

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Outgoing Trustee Sherri Whiting's contribution to the district was recognized at the meeting. Fifth- and sixth-graders from the **Crowley ISD Honor Choir performed** during the board meeting. [Read more](#) about Whiting's 15 years of service to Crowley ISD, and [watch the choir's performance](#).

Valedictorians and salutatorians were recognized for their achievements. The valedictorian for Crowley High School is Stephanie Elbanna, and salutatorian is Rebecca Phung. Elbanna has a 4.73 GPA and plans to attend the University of Texas at Arlington. Phung has a 4.62 GPA and plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin.



(Stephanie Elbanna, Rebecca Phung)

The valedictorian at North Crowley High School is Leann Indolos, who has a 4.66 GPA and plans to attend Baylor University. Crystal Phan is the salutatorian for North Crowley. She has a 4.45 GPA and plans to attend the University of Texas at Dallas.



(Leann Indolos, Crystal Phan)

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Katherine Nelon, a student in the Education and Training program at the Bill R. Johnson Career and Technology Education (CTE) Center, was named the **State Board of Education Student Hero** for District 11. Nelon's teacher, Bobette Vroon, nominated Nelon for the recognition. According to the Texas Education Agency, she is one of just 15 Texas public school students honored for their outstanding volunteer efforts at their schools and in their communities. Nelon uses her experiences of being bullied to help offer a loving and accepting atmosphere to the children with whom she works. She also helps with reading programs at the local library and helps organize community events.



(CTE Education & Training Teacher Bobette Vroon and CTE student Katherine Nelon)

Crowley ISD students who placed at the **Texas Public Service Association's Law Enforcement/Firefighting State Competition**, were honored at the meeting. Students included:

- Shelbie Bell, Evan Miller, Joseph Lawton, Destiny Wright, Sandra Santander and Seth Leddy — First Place — SWAT
- Jaylin Lee — First Place — Marketing Display Posters
- Toiya Smith — Second Place — Inmate Processing
- Nayelly Reyes — First Place — Theme
- Joseph Lawton, Shelbie Bell, Sandra Santander, Tyreke Goodman, Seth Leddy and Jordan Long — Third Place — Cell Extraction

More than 600 students participated in the competition, which took place in Crowley ISD's Bill R. Johnson Career and Technology Education (CTE) Center on April 30. [Watch a video recap](#) of the events.

The **Heartbeat Team Award** winner for May (Sarah Locke-Smith, instructional coach at H.F. Stevens Middle School) was introduced to the Board.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Approved the **April 28, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes** and the **May 12, 2016 Called Board Meeting Minutes**.

Approved the **April 2016 Financial Statements**.

Approved **The Learning Together Company – B.L.A.S.T. Curriculum**. The Learning Together Company, along with Gallup, offers a program known as BLAST (Building Leadership and Academic Strengths Together) that is designed around a peer-based platform where students teach and learn from each other. The goal is to further assist students who may be struggling academically in reading or math. It will be implemented first at the high schools as a pilot program.

Approved **Out of State Travel – Employees** for 10 employees to attend the Learning Together BLAST (Building Leadership and Academic Strengths Together) training in Phoenix, Arizona; for 10 employees to attend the 21st Century Community Learning Center National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona; and for one employee to attend the American School Counselor Association's national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Approved the **Employment of Professional Personnel**, which includes 14 employees.

Approved the **Employment of Administrative Personnel**, which includes nine employees:

Principals

- **Holly Anderson – Principal at Bess Race Elementary School**; currently an assistant principal at North Crowley High School
- **Kevin Hunt – Principal at Dallas Park Elementary School**; currently an assistant principal at Sue Crouch Intermediate School
- **Shaketa Traylor – Principal at Sidney H. Poynter Elementary School**; currently a principal in Arlington ISD and previously the principal at J.A. Hargrave Elementary School
- **Camcea Craft – Principal at Sue Crouch Intermediate School**; currently an assistant principal at Crowley Middle School
- **Cayla Grossman – Principal at Summer Creek Middle School**; currently the principal at Sue Crouch Intermediate School
- **Kimberly Jackson-Buckhalton – Principal at H.F. Stevens Middle School**; currently a principal in Keller ISD and previously the dean of students at the Bill R. Johnson Career and Technology Education (CTE) Center

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District Administrators

- *Melissa Block – Supervisor of Talent Acquisition and Leadership Development;* currently the principal at Bess Race Elementary School
- *Amber Helms – Manager of Choice Programs;* currently a CTE teacher in Duncanville ISD
- *Michelle McCone – Elementary Reading Coordinator;* currently the principal at Dallas Park Elementary School

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussed **Contract Renewal with Tarrant County Tax Assessor/Collector to Collect Crowley ISD Ad Valorem Taxes**. The Tarrant County Tax Office has notified Crowley ISD that this year's pricing will decrease from \$1.10 to \$0.95 for in-county accounts. This is the lowest collection fee of any urban county in Texas. As of April 2016, the District had 96,615 accounts within Tarrant County, bringing the total estimated cost to \$91,784.25

BOARD ACTIONS

Approved a **Budget Amendment** for instructional and staff development travel expenses related to AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination).

Approved the **Resolution of the Board to Approve Immediate Implementation of Senate Bill 149 and suspend portions of local policies**. SB 149 modifies the state's assessment graduation requirements to qualify a student to receive a Texas high school diploma beginning with the 2015-2016 school year for currently enrolled students in Grades 11 and 12. The exceptions made by SB 149 to the state's assessment graduation requirements affect this school year's graduating 12th grade class. The emergency adoption will make available on an emergency basis beginning in May 2016 the awarding of a high school diploma based on the provisions of SB 149. A recommendation was proposed to suspend the portion of FMH(Local) and EI(Local) that require a student to pass all state testing requirements for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years and to adopt the provisions of SB 149.

Approved **Update to CE(LOCAL)** to satisfy the GFOA's (Government Finance Officers Association's) requirement to have terminology in the local policy that addresses a balanced budget.

Discussed the preliminary **2016-17 Budget**. The budget will be discussed further at a board work session on June 9. Taxable values are still changing, but district leaders hope to have more up-to-date numbers before the final budget adoption, planned for June 30.

Approved the **Armored Courier Services Request for Proposals (RFP)** with Texas Star Security, which has agreed to renew its agreement with the district for the 2016-17 school year at the same rates the district is

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currently paying for the 2015-16 year. The total cost for the service for the 2015-16 school year will be about \$22,000.

Approved the **2016-17 Contract Renewal with Education Service Center (ESC) Region XI** for various services, training and education resources.

Approved the **Insurance Request for Proposals (RFP)**. The District's insurance policies including property, general liability, automobile and errors and omissions (Educators Legal Liability) expire June 30, 2016. All available renewal options have been exercised under the current RFP. Therefore, the district performed a new RFP. Staff recommended Texas Political Subdivisions (TPS) for district-wide property insurance and Texas Association of Public Schools (TAPS) for district-wide General Liability (GL), Auto and Educator's Legal Liability (ELL) insurance. The TPS proposal was \$286,965. The TAPS Casualty proposal at \$83,036 includes excess coverage in the amount of \$4 million, which provides the District with a total of \$5 million coverage for any claim filed under GL, Auto or ELL.

Approved the **Regional Day School Program for the Deaf (RDSPD) Shared Services Agreement**. Crowley ISD and member districts of the Crowley Regional Day School Program have reviewed the current Shared Services Agreement (SSA) in relation to the proposed guidance requirements from TEA. Crowley ISD will remain the fiscal agent as well as the district of accountability. As defined in FDA (Local), shared services students with hearing impairments will transfer annually into the district. Students will be eligible to participate in UIL activities. Transportation will continue to be the responsibility of the district of residence. The program is funded through state and federal Deaf Education monies, as well as tuition from the seven member districts.

Approved the **Investment Policy and Resolution**. No changes were recommended to the policy. However, in compliance with the Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA), the number of hours of continuing education for investment officers has been changed from 10 hours every two years to eight hours every two years.

Approved the **Notice of Public Meeting to Discuss Budget & Proposed Tax Rate**. The public hearing on the budget and proposed tax rate is set for 6 p.m. June 30. [See the notice here.](#)

Considered the **Call for Nominations for the TASB Board Position for Region 11A**. Trustees agreed not to nominate anyone from the CISD board to serve in the position.

Considered a **TASB Letter Regarding Resolutions to be Included in the 2016-18 Advocacy Agenda**.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Powell provided updates on several District projects:

Congratulations to the students and staff at **Sycamore Elementary School**, who were recognized by a nonprofit organization for their commitment to achievement and college readiness. Sycamore is one of only

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five elementary schools in the Fort Worth area to be named a **Gold Ribbon School** by the Children at Risk organization. Gold Ribbons are awarded to top-performing schools with a high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. The school has earned a total of seven academic distinction designations from TEA over the last two school years.

The district had better than expected results from the **refunding order** approved by the board on April 28. The team at First Southwest told the board in April that the savings potential could be \$12 million. But after refunding two series of bonds on May 24, the total debt service savings was more than \$19.9 million and more than \$13.1 million in present value savings. This represents a savings of 12.7 percent. Since 2010, CISD has now saved more than \$48 million in debt service costs as a result of refinancing.

North Crowley High School's graduation is May 31, and Crowley High School's graduation is June 1. Both are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Seniors from both high schools have visited elementary campuses this month to meet with students and thank their former teachers. [Watch](#) one visit to Deer Creek Elementary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussed **Employment of Administrative Personnel** and **Employment of Professional Personnel**.

BOARD ACTIONS

Rescinded offer of employment to an individual recommended to the Board for hire as a professional employee.

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President
June W. Davis
Place 4



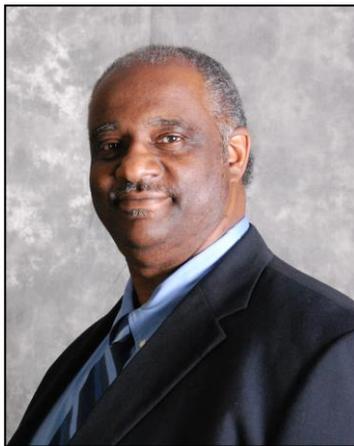
Vice President
Ryan Ray
Place 5



Secretary
Gary Grassia
Place 6



Trustee
Jay Hinton
Place 1



Trustee
Thedrick Franklin
Place 2



Trustee
Mia Hall
Place 3



Trustee
Lyndsa Benton
Place 7

This Unofficial Summary of Actions does not replace the official minutes approved by the Board of Trustees. To view complete agendas and additional information about each item, visit <http://esbpublic.crowleyisdtx.org>