

BOARD OF EDUCATION DOCUMENT 1

The Board of Trustees of the Breckenridge Independent School District met in special session on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, 5:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the School Administration Building, 212 North Miller, Breckenridge, Texas.

The following Trustees were in attendance: Bryan Woodward, Skip Griffith, Mike Herrington, Todd Pennartz, and Koby Killion. Alissa Atkinson and Mark McCullough were absent.

Mr. Woodward called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 5:12 P.M.

2008-2009 District
Planning Workshop for
Goals, Objectives and
Board Member Training

A power point was presented to the Board and Administrators by Ms. Martin, Superintendent. The presentation touched on leadership concepts and lessons, the District Plan for Improvement, and the goal setting process.

Ms. Martin noted that leaders build bridges to the future. Leadership concepts are:

1. We are all leaders.
2. A leader builds bridges.
3. A leader is someone you choose to follow to a place you wouldn't go by yourself.
4. The characteristics of a leader never changes.
5. Keep leading until all have followed.

Leadership lessons are:

1. Focus the majority of your efforts on the future.
2. Understand the nature of fundamental change.
3. Appreciate complex systems and how they work.
4. Examine your leadership style to see how it affects productivity.
5. Create shared vision to build bridges to the future.

Ms. Martin reviewed the role of the board in the planning and decision-making process. She stated that the Board shall ensure that a District Improvement Plan and improvement plans for each campus are developed, reviewed, and revised annually for the purpose of improving the performance of all students. Ms. Martin explained that the District Improvement Plan comes from the needs assessment of teachers from all campuses. These campus needs make up individual campus plans that are all combined by a District Improvement committee into a

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District Improvement Plan. This plan is submitted to Region 14 to be checked before it goes to TEA for compliance.

The goal setting process and the school board's role was explained to board members by Ms. Martin. She stated that there were two different types of planning, strategic and operational. Strategic planning has long-term direction, provides for growth and improvement, addresses the whole system, and is driven by vision and outcomes. Operational planning addresses part of the system, is driven by budgets and resources, has direction for one year or less and is maintenance of an ongoing program. A goal is a desired future state to be achieved. Goals are not measurable or specific, they emphasize quality, not quantity, and they focus on next year or the next two or three years. Organizations should have at least three goals but no more than six.

Ms. Martin explained to the board that what should be desired from this framework is a community vision, district mission and goals, an integrated process that includes all priority district issues as goals, a local accountability system that reflects community and school desires, and active involvement by an informed community. Ms. Martin stated that facilities, curriculum and instruction, technology, budget, personnel, instructional leadership and transportation are all essential for student achievement and the board must provide guidance for the entire system. Planning is the primary responsibility of the board. A plan for success is Provide direction, Link priorities, Assess progress, and Notify the community.

Ms. Martin quoted Dr. Ed Flathouse, TEA with the following: "A School District is a CTD (Circling the Drain) School if the District has been experiencing declining enrollment, has not been raising taxes over time, has not been reducing school district staff commensurate with declining enrollment, and has been reducing fund balance or has no fund balance." She stated that this quote is a good example of the importance of balancing the budget. Ms. Martin also stated that during her tenure, she would not accept anything less than a balanced budget.

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Linda Sims, Director of Instruction, reviewed the district's local philosophy, All Children Can Learn, and reviewed the BISD Mission Statement, "to provide an exemplary education to all students empowering them to become successful, productive citizens, as well as lifelong learners."

Ms. Martin explained to the board the importance of goals. She stated that going through life without any goals is like getting into a car and driving without a destination in mind. "If you don't know where you are going, you are lost." She then informed the board that they going to set goals for the district at this meeting. She asked them what the most important things that they wanted to see accomplished, remembering to choose what is best for ALL of the students, our number one priority. She also told them to consider what direction or things that the community wants to see happening at school and what do we need to be doing today and what should be done five years from now.

The board members were asked to write 5 -10 goals – everything that came to mind or things they have heard in the community that they have said they want. The members did not discuss their lists of goals with each other. Administrators also wrote down goals without comparing with others. When all board members and administrators completed their lists, the lists were posted and compared, and then prioritized, with the items that were requested by several being at the top of the list. The final goals of the board members were as follows:

1. Build new facilities and maintain/improve existing facilities, upgrading technology.
2. Hire and retain the best individuals in all departments and review teacher performance.
3. Safe environment for students – drugs, weapons, etc.
4. All recognized and exemplary campuses within 5 years
5. Reduce unnecessary spending

Ms. Martin stated that these goals will be discussed further at the October meeting. No action was required.

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Adjournment

Mr. Woodward adjourned the meeting at 6:27 P.M.

Bryan Woodward, Board President

Date

Skip Griffith, Board Secretary