Manor Independent School District

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BOARD NOTES

MISD *Board of Trustees*

The Manor ISD School Board met on Monday, March 24, 2008 for the monthly regular School Board Meeting.

Board Recognition

Recognition of New Decker Middle School Principal

Mr. Kim introduced Mr. Manuel Garcia, the new Principal for Decker Middle School.

Recognition of Campus Make-a-Wish Efforts

Mr. Wallace played a recording of an interview with this year's Make-a-Wish recipient. He announced that Blake manor elementary had raised $5,000.00 that went toward making this child's wish a reality.

Board Approvals

The board approved five consent agenda items. These included:

- The minutes of the regular board meeting on February 25, 2008.
- Hiring recommended administrators, teachers, and support staff.
- Extension of Professional Contracts.
- GMP for New Tech Phase II was approved.
- TASB Update 82 was approved.

The Board also deliberated and voted on three action items:

- Ms. Carlin-Gonzales presented a PowerPoint and explained to the Board how the textbook selection process occurred. The Textbook Committee selected MacMillan/Mcgraw Hill's *Texas Mathematics* as the favored Math Textbook for elementary campuses.
- The 2008-2009 recommended options for the Elementary and Middle School Attendance Zones were approved.
- Two cafeteria manager positions for the new campuses were approved.

Information, Updates, and Reports

Discussion of the research and results from other Districts pertaining to the ethical and confidentiality relations between the Administration office and the Board.

Ms. Sanders supplied the Board with the following information and answered questions.

The following is a current and historical explanation of DBE (LEGAL) in MISD board policy:

- MISD policy **DC (LOCAL)** adopted in January of 1999, gave the Superintendent the authority to hire contractual and noncontractual employees, thereby allowing board members' relatives to be employed by MISD, which was in accordance with **DBE (LEGAL) Employment Requirements and Restrictions: Nepotism** in effect at that time.

- As part of **Update 81, DBE (LEGAL**) was changed due to the legislature changing state law. Here is the explanation from TASB ***Vantage Points*** *A Board Member's Guide to Update 81*:

"For districts in counties with a population over 35,000, a provision from HB 2563 has been added to **DBE (LEGAL).** In these districts, the board remains subject to the nepotism prohibitions for all personnel even when it has delegated hiring authority to the superintendent. The superintendent, as a public official, is also subject to the nepotism prohibitions for the employees he or she hires. Employees hired before September 1, 2007, are not prohibited from continuing employment."

- Therefore, MISD can no longer hire a board member's relative who falls within the third degree by consanguinity and affinity (blood and marriage). Any board member's relative hired prior to September 1, 2007 is exempt from the rule.

I have called the following districts and asked what their policy and procedure was prior to the changing of this law.

- Elgin ISD – Yes, they have campus paraprofessionals who are related (spouse and daughter) to current board members. They have had teachers in the past who were related to board members also.
- Bastrop ISD – Yes, they have a paraprofessional who is related to a current board member. The current Board vice president's wife is the Superintendent's secretary. They have had others in the past.
- Pflugerville ISD – The current policy administrator has only been there 1 year and does not think that they have any. But, he said that it was possible since their policy did allow such prior to the change in the law and he just may not know about them. The Human Resources Director was unavailable.
- Del Valle ISD – Yes, they currently have an employee who is related (wife) to current board member. She is an administrative assistant on a campus. They have had others in the past.
- Taylor ISD – Yes, they currently have an aide and a counselor who are related to current board members. In addition, in the past they have had administrators who were related to board members.

Business Office Report
Willi Dion provided the Board with the following information:
- Monthly Security Report
- Taxes Collected Report

She also provided the compiled financial reports for the following:
- General Fund
- Special Revenue fund
- Food Service fund

The interim financial statements were prepared utilizing date generated from the Skyward general ledger system and did not include any information related to other capital project funds or trust and agency funds.

New Facilities Update
Dean Sharp provided a summary of the construction and development activities associated with the 2004, 2006 and 2007 bond programs.

Bluebonnet Trail Elementary
- Baird/Williams is working to complete punch-list items and compiling the close out documents.
- BLGY is developing plans and specifications for the re-flooring and re-painting of the interior this summer.

MISD Athletics Additions
- O'Connell Robertson is in the design development process for the new stadium.
- Aqua Water Supply Corporation plans to provide water service to the site through an 8" water main extension coming down FM 973 from north of the site then running east to west along the northern property line to the elevated tank site which is located at the

western most corner of the property. OBR continues to work on the easements and the service agreement that will be presented for Board approval in the near future.

Manor High School Additions Phase 4

- The erection of the structural steel for middle school weight room is nearing completion.
- Interior and exterior framing, mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-in and roofing continues at the two story wing.
- Erection of the structural steel for field house is complete and installation of the metal roof and wall panels is in progress.
- The mason continues to lay the masonry for the band hall expansion.
- Installation of the curb around track is in progress.
- BWC is continuing with the installation of the grade beams for the baseball concession and storage building.
- OBR is working with School Specialty and staff to finalize the furniture list so an order can be placed in the next few weeks. Furniture is scheduled to be delivered mid to late July.

Oak Meadows Elementary

- Metal roof decking at the administration and library areas as well as the 2nd-3rd grade wing is nearing completion.
- Installation of the metal wall panels at the 2nd-3rd grade and 4th-5th grade wings is on-going.
- Interior framing and rough-in of the HVAC ductwork and electrical continues at the 2nd-3rd grade and 4th-5th grade wings.
- Taping and bedding of the sheetrock has begun in the Pre-K and K wing as has installation of the ceiling grid.
- Exterior masonry continues on the west wings, wing end sections and the front wall of the library.
- Installation of the off-site wastewater line is completed up to the point of tie-in to the City of Austin system.
- OBR is working with School Specialty and staff to finalize the furniture list so an order can be placed in the next few weeks. Furniture is scheduled to be delivered mid to late July.

Decker Middle School

- Interior framing, drywall and MEP rough-in continues on the three-story classroom wing.
- Exterior masonry continues around the north side of the building.
- Roofing of most of the building is complete with the exception of the classroom wing. BWC anticipates having the building completely dried-in within the next two weeks.
- The stair tower for the classroom wing is in progress as well as the framing for the canopies.
- The tie-in of the waterline and meters is nearing completion.
- OBR is working with School Specialty and staff to finalize the furniture list so an order can be placed in the next few weeks. Furniture is scheduled to be delivered mid to late July.

2009 Elementary – 13 Acre "Samsung" Site

- The site development plans have been submitted and comments from the City of Austin have been addressed.
- 100% construction documents (CD's) have been issued to Baird/Williams for one final review and comment.
- A GMP is expected to be presented for Board approval at the April 21st Board meeting.

Admin & New Tech Phase II

- A pre-bid meeting was conducted February 27th and subcontractor bids are due to BWC March 12th. A GMP for this project is to be presented for Board approval at the March 24th Board meeting.
- O'Connell Robertson has refined the design of the Administration renovations with input from the administrative staff.
- The demolition plan for the administration project is being finalized and the asbestos abatement package is being developed to put out for bid.

BLGY is currently working on the design of the security entries at the various campuses.

The design of the 2010 elementary is set to begin once property in the central portion of the district is acquired.

Future Elementary Campus Opening Update
Ms. Hutchinson prompted a discussion as to the fiscal ramifications of postponing the opening date of new campuses.

Schematic Design of Stadium
Kurt Schwerdtfeger with ORA presented the schematic design before the Board as a 'refresher' item.

Middle School Redesign Process
Ms. Barrett gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding redesign process and informed the Board that a task force of parents, teachers, and administrators were formed to review Manor Middle School and Decker Middle School goals inclusive of academics, culture and climate, closing achievement gaps, college readiness, and teacher retention. The group will focus on a study of the impact of Instructional Teaming, Professional Learning Communities, and interdisciplinary curriculum. The task force initiatives will include a review of the Manor High School redesign and current data, Manor New Tech High School best practices, area middle school visits, teacher and student surveys, and a group study of *Breaking Ranks in the Middle: strategies for Leading Middle Level Reform* and *Professional Learning Communities at Work – Richard DuFour.* Fiscal implications will be addressed at the April 21st Board Meeting.

College Readiness Update
Ms. Haynes reported that Manor High School is making great strides in assisting students with the post-secondary education decision making process. Financial Aid Saturday events, college fairs, placement and college entrance exams, and college and career advising in the MHS GO Center, and ACC College Connections/dual credit are among the many initiatives taking place to help our students.