



Van Alstyne Independent School District

P. O. Box 518
Van Alstyne, Texas 75495
(903) 482 – 8802

PRESS RELEASE

VAISD Board Welcomes New Members

The VAISD Board of Trustees honored outgoing board members Rodney Carroll and John Allen, welcomed new board members Steve Roddy and Jeff Burge, and accepted the resignation of trustee Misha Frey in action at their regularly called meeting May 18th at the VAISD Administration Building.

A packed house was in attendance to hear Board President Kyle Beall praise the service of board members Rodney Carroll and John Allen. Beall thanked Carroll and Allen for their service during the last three years and listed some of the accomplishments of the school district during that time. The board also honored the campus Teachers and Paraprofessional of the Year. Representing the high school were English teacher Karen Endicott and Nurse Cynthia Tillett. The middle school was represented by Reading teacher Nancy Mosby and Lead Custodian Lydia Binion. 4th grade teacher Laurie McGinnis and Educational Aide Susan Coburn were honored from the Elementary School.

After the recognitions the board accepted the results of the May 9 election and administered the oath of office to the new members and to returning member David Kerr. The board then reelected the current slate of officers: Kyle Beall – President, David Kerr – Vice President, and Kim Weber – Secretary.

District resident Ron Head addressed the board concerning the offering of a technology class as an elective at the seventh grade. Head said that several area schools offer an elective technology class to seventh graders where VAISD does not. He expressed a desire for the district to change their course offerings to allow an elective technology class. The board directed Superintendent Seay to respond to Mr. Head's comments.

The board then approved the district's Facilities Use Policy. The policy, which has been in development for several months, includes multiple provisions designed to protect the district against liability charges. It also contains charges for the use of district facilities that are consistent with area schools and are based upon actual costs to operate the facility. Assistant Superintendent Rick DeMasters explained the charges for facility use are based upon a square foot calculation of the actual cost to the district. In addition, DeMasters noted that the policy will better allow the district to adhere to the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Beall emphasized that the Texas Constitution prohibits school districts from using district resources to serve nonschool purposes and said charging no fees at all constitutes an improper "gift of public funds".

The board debated the local policy on participation in commencement exercises that currently allows students who have passed all the coursework but have not passed the appropriate state exit level tests to receive a "Certificate of Completion" during commencement exercises. Superintendent Seay said he personally agreed that a person participating in the

graduation exercises needs to satisfy all the graduation requirements, including passage of the appropriate test; however, he did not recommend changing the policy before the current class graduates on June 5, 2009. After some board discussion trustees approved changing the policy for next school year. Beginning with the graduating class of 2010 only those students meeting all the graduation requirements will be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

No action was taken on an extension of the district's depository contract, which means the district will bid the depository contract this summer.

Superintendent Seay shared a schedule of upcoming activities with the board, including the quarterly City Council – School Board meeting on May 28. He updated the board on the progress of education bills in the legislature and reported the results of the recent surplus vehicle auction. In the auction the district sold two full size busses for \$550 each, one small bus for \$255, and two military surplus trailers for \$416 and \$411 respectively. Seay stated that the districts other property will be offered for sale soon through renebates.com and that notice will be distributed through the local paper. A status report on the budget included payroll projections through the end of the year. Seay praised the efforts of district staff in working on a limited budget and predicted the district will end the year in positive financial situation. The board asked Seay to provide a report for them outlining the district's planned uses for the \$320,000 in federal stimulus money.

In routine business items the board approved the April financial report, the 1st quarter investment report, received TASB Update 85, and approved the minutes and enrollment report through the consent agenda. After a four minute closed session, the board accepted the resignation of trustee Misha Frey. The meeting adjourned at 9:26.