

Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 17, 2023
Richards Independent School District

The Board of Trustees of Richards Independent School District met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023 in the cafeteria of the school at 7:00 PM.

Members present included Wendy Graves, Jeannine Shead, Britney Ketkoski, Benny Lewis, Beau Conner, and Phillip Burnett. Members not present included Dan Hardin.

Also present: Superintendent Bill Boyce and Principal Delynn Decatur.

Agenda Item #1: Wendy Graves called the roll and meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Agenda Item #2: Benny Lewis gave the invocation.

Agenda Item #3: Phillip Burnett made the motion and Jeannine Shead seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled board meeting held on July 28, 2023. Motion passed to approve the minutes unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Wendy Graves recognized the guests and visitors.

Agenda Item #5: No community comments.

Agenda Item #6: Superintendent Boyce provided the tax collection report. He stated that Grimes is at 96%, Walker is at 92% and Montgomery County remains at 88% due to the large tracts of land being behind in their payment.

Agenda Item #7: Wendy Graves introduced Mrs. Delynn Decatur as the new Principal. Wendy noted that Mrs. Decatur had served as Assistant Principal at Montgomery ISD and Principal in Cleveland for many years. In the Principal's report Mrs. Decatur stated that she is excited to return home to Richards. She reported that enrollment is standing at 212 students with others pending which is exciting. Mrs. Decatur noted that the pre-k and kindergarten classes have 16 plus enrolled. Some teachers have started unpacking boxes and looking over the new rooms to create a plan. Mrs. Decatur expressed that she sees a lot of amazing school changes.

Agenda Item #8: Superintendent Boyce stated that in service will start Monday the 21st and the 28th will be the first day of school. He provided a construction report and noted that everything is a mess at this time, but things are being cleaned up. Except for one to two rooms all the furniture has been moved back in the building. The gym floor is halfway done, and all the goals are hung except one. The bleachers were delivered this morning. The first couple of games may be played in the old gym because all the crews have been temporarily pulled to complete the bathrooms, cafeteria and classrooms. Mr. Boyce also noted that Richards ISD has received a financial rating score of 100.

Agenda Item #9: Wendy Graves introduced Richards ISD financial consultant Mr. Johnny Zolman to give a budget presentation. Mr. Zolman provided handouts to the board with a breakdown of state revenue. He explained how schools are funded, the old state law versus the new state law and the projected state aid for RISD.

Agenda Item #10: Phillip Burnett mentioned that he has had some inquiries about the possibility of starting a girls softball team. Mr. Boyce explained the challenges, but it was agreed that it will be investigated and revisited yearly. Mr. Burnett also asked if prayer is allowed in classrooms. Mr. Boyce explained that prayer is allowed in classrooms if students decide to, but teachers cannot direct it. Mr. Burnett also asked if the microphones for the board members were still being ordered and Mr. Boyce stated that they have been ordered and will be hooked up to the sound system and hopefully be ready for the next board meeting.

Agenda Item #11: Phillip Burnett made a motion to approve the appointment of adjunct faculty with Grimes County extension agents for 4H. Benny Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #12: Wendy Graves read the following:

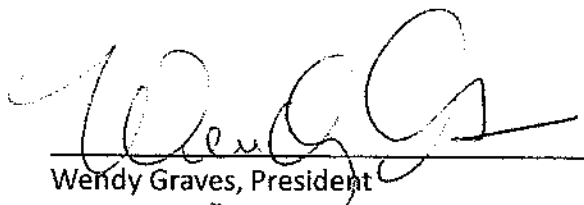
For the 2023–2024 school year, we delegated contractual authority to obligate the school district under Texas Education Code (TEC) §11.1511(c)(4) to the superintendent, solely for the purpose of obligating the district under TEC, §48.257 and TEC, Chapter 49, Subchapters A and D, and the rules adopted by the commissioner of education as authorized under TEC, 49.006. This included approval of the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit or the Agreement for the Purchase of Attendance Credit (Netting Chapter 48 Funding). Phillip Burnett made the motion to accept, and Jeannine Shead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #13: Britney Ketkoski made a motion to approve the of out-of-district student transfers for the 2023-2024 school year. Phillip Burnett seconded the motions and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #14: At 8:08 PM the board convened into executive session.

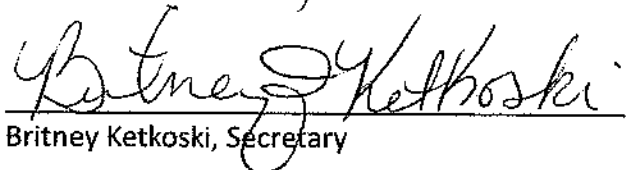
Agenda Item #15: The board reconvened in open session at 9:01 PM. A motion was made by Phillip Burnett to approve the contract for the first-grade teaching position. Jeannine Shead seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #16: Phillip Burnett made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM and Britany Ketkoski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.



Wendy Graves, President

Jeannine Shead, Vice, President



Britney Ketkoski, Secretary



Board Member