

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 31, 2023  
Richards Independent School District

The Board of Trustees of Richards Independent School District met in a special board meeting scheduled on Thursday, August 31, 2023, in the cafeteria of the school at 7:00 PM.

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

Agenda Item #1: Wendy Graves called the roll and meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Agenda Item #2: Phillip Burnett 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 August 17, 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: Wendy Graves asked if there were any board comments. Phillip Burnett thanked Mr. Boyce for finding and hiring the person who completed the gym mural. Mr. Burnett and all the board members spoke highly of the new gym. Wendy Graves also thanked Mr. Boyce and all the staff for a great start of the new school year. She expressed appreciation as a board member and parent for making the first week of school feel so welcoming to all the students and parents.

Agenda Item #7: Mr. Boyce recommended the budget amendments to the 2022-2023 general operating fund. He stated that it needs to be amended to \$283,700 due to other construction expenditures that were required to be added to the bond such as the ag shop, new sidewalk, and baseball field improvements. Jeannine Shead made a motion to approve the budget amendments for the 2022-2023 general operating budget. Phillip Burnett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8: Phillip Burnett made a motion to approve the financial statements and approve the payment of bills. Jeannine Shead seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #9: Mr. Boyce recommended approving the resolution 2023-2024 to approve free lunches for all employees. He added that this is one incentive we can offer to help retain teachers. Phillip Burnett made the motion to approve free lunches for all employees. Britney Ketkoski seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #10: Wendy Graves noted that the board previously approved a 3% pay increase for all employees and after holding a budget workshop with financial consultant Mr. Zolman, it has been recommended to add an additional 2% for a total pay increase of 5% for all employees. Beau Conner made a motion to approve the additional pay increase and Jeannine Shead seconded the motion. Phillip Burnett abstained from the vote due to his wife working for the school district. The motion passed ~~unanimously~~.

Agenda Item #11: Mr. Boyce recommended the approval of the 2023-2024 budgets. Mr. Boyce stated that the total general operating budget is \$2,839,000.00. Phillip Burnett made a motion to approve the General Operating Budget. Jeannine Shead seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Boyce stated that the Food Service Budget is set at \$153,000. Jeannie Shead made a motion to approve the food service budget. Phillip Burnett seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Boyce noted that the 599 Bond Fund budget is \$341,000 which is

usually set up in two payments for one in August and one in February. Phillip Burnett made a motion to approve the 599 Bond Fund. Dan Hardin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Wendy Graves stated that it is a great accomplishment to create and pass a balanced budget and thanked Mr. Boyce for his work on that.

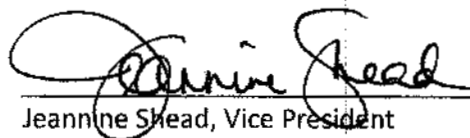
Agenda Item #12: Mr. Boyce stated that we are required to set the tax rate for the upcoming year. TEA uses a formula to come up with the rate. Last night during this special meeting we held a public hearing to set the tax rate. The proposed rate is lower than last year at a .6842 M&O rate and a .1428 I&S rate. Phillip Burnett made a motion to adopt the new tax rate for the 2023-2024 year. Britney Ketkoski seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #13: At 7:25 PM the board convened into executive session.

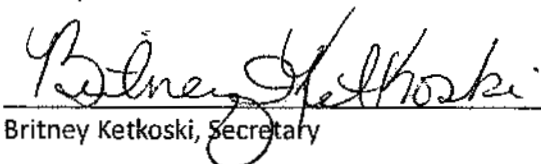
The board reconvened at 8:16 and with no action items to approve the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.



Wendy Graves, President



Jeannine Shead, Vice President



Britney Ketkoski, Secretary



Board Member