

A
Clear
Vision...



2007 - 2008

Board of Trustees

Every heart. Every mind. Every day.

LAKE TRAVIS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



... of Success Through Service!



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Communication with a Board Member

- Employees, students, parents or other members of the public who bring concerns or complaints to an individual Board member for the purpose of seeking remedy or perspective shall receive guidance that reflects:
1. a commitment by the Board, individually and collectively, to be approachable and open to members of the public;
 2. an understanding by each Board member that information provided to a Board member, in some specific situations, could cause the Board member receiving the information to be disqualified from participating in future hearing(s) or action by the Board specific to the issue; and
 3. adherence to the Board's policies (DGBA, FNG and GF) regarding complaints and grievances.

In Texas, local school board members are elected by the registered voters within specific school district boundaries. Lake Travis ISD is one of approximately 1,040 public school systems in Texas, and its Board members are elected at-large. This means each Board member represents the entire school district, rather than single member positions that represent a sub-portion of the district.

The Lake Travis ISD Board of Trustees meets twice monthly, once in a workshop setting and once in a regular Board meeting setting. These meetings are typically scheduled on the first and third Thursdays of each month, respectively. Since workshop meetings are primarily designed to allow the Administration and Board an opportunity to discuss issues and topics in an in-depth manner, audience comments are not posted for the workshops, except in rare instances when action items are on the agenda. Rather, audience comments are posted on the regularly scheduled Board meeting agendas that follow approximately two weeks after the workshop.

As you review the contents of this brochure, it is the desire of the Team of 8 that many of your answers to how the school district is governed and operated will be answered. Also, it is our hope that you will be guided by the information as you seek to participate in one of the most basic and important democratic endeavors: the education of our children through public education.

How Board Meetings Work

While Board Meetings are for the purpose of the Board conducting the business of the District in public, and are not public forums for the purpose of securing interaction with the public, the Board recognizes that flexibility is desirable to allow meaningful public interaction with the Board as well as meaningful dissemination of information concerning Board actions.

Good Governance



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Action a Board Member can Take

Excluding only closed session materials, or materials that were unavailable or in incomplete form or otherwise protected from disclosure by policy, law or advice of legal counsel, the entire Board Packet for every Regular Meeting or Workshop of the Board will be published, along with the agenda on the District Web site approximately 24 hours before the scheduled meeting date.

The Open Session (public portion) of every meeting of the Board will begin at a designated time. Closed Session items for which there is a corresponding action item to be considered during the public portion of the meeting will be scheduled prior to the beginning of the public session. The consent agenda includes items of routine and/or recurring nature, grouped together under one action item.

Citizens who have signed up to address the Board at the regular monthly meeting of the Board will be given the option of doing so at the conclusion of the Superintendent's Report portion of the agenda. If comments relate to a particular Item on the Board agenda, citizens will be given the option of sharing their comments following the Administration's presentation of the agenda item, but prior to Board deliberation. Board members may request permission from the Presiding Officer of the meeting to seek clarification of the citizen(s) speaking on the agenda item. All such dialogue will be strictly controlled by the Presiding Officer of the Board, and all citizens shall respect the fact that Board Members are forbidden by law from discussing or commenting upon any subject which is not on the posted Board agenda.

The Presiding Officer shall determine the time limitation for each speaker. Typically, each speaker will be limited to five minutes, unless the time is otherwise increased or decreased prior to the beginning of the public comments portion of the agenda. Groups of five or more people wishing to speak on a single subject will be asked to appoint a spokesperson to express the views of the group.

- Board members shall notify the Superintendent's Office of the of any concern they receive.
- As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall guide the complainant to the appropriate staff member.
- When the concern or complaint directly pertains to the Board's own actions or policy, for which there is no administrative remedy, the Trustee may request that the issue be placed on the agenda.
- Anonymous calls or letters will not receive the Board's attention, discussion, or response and will not be referred to the Administration for action.



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Mission

The mission of the Lake Travis ISD is to educate all students by teaching a comprehensive curriculum which emphasizes scholastic excellence. The District will serve as a model of educational excellence by making use of the combined skills of students, teachers, support staff, involved parents and citizens through the efficient use of resources. Our graduates will have lifelong problem-solving skills. They will understand that responsibilities accompany the privileges of citizenship and will have the foundation to be successful in their chosen endeavors.



Jim Cummings, President

Position 1, Term Expires: May 2009

Elected to Board: 1997

Graduated:

University of Wisconsin (Electrical Engineering)

University of Houston (Masters-Business Administration)

Professional Experience: Custom Home Building

Curriculum

Student Achievement

Fred Goff, Vice-President

Position 8, Term Expires: May 2008

Elected to Board: 2002

Graduated:

Rice University (Mechanical Engineering)

Purdue University (Masters-Industrial Administration)

Professional Experience: Engineering



Community Involvement



Kim Nixon, Secretary

Position 2, Term Expires: May 2009

Elected to Board: 2003

Graduated:

Ohio State University (Health Education, Dental Hygiene)

University of Texas (Computer Science)

Professional Experience: Dentistry, Software Engineering, Technical Documentation

Meet the Board



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Jason Buddin

Position 4, Term Expires: May 2010
Elected to Board: 2007
Graduated:
Stephen F. Austin University (Business Administration)
Professional Experience: Finance

Accountability



Mayo Davidson

Position 7, Term Expires: May 2008
Elected to Board: 1999
Graduated:
Rice University
Harvard Law (Doctor of Jurisprudence)
Professional Experience: Law

Highly Qualified Staff



Susan Tolles

Position 3, Term Expires: May 2010
Elected to Board: 2001
Graduated:
University of Texas (Business Administration & Finance)
Professional Experience: Banking & Financial Management

Safe Student Environment

Alan Williams

Position 5, Term Expires: May 2010
Elected to Board: 2007
Graduated:
University of Texas (Finance)
Professional Experience: Banking, Commercial Brokerage,
Construction Contract Bonding, Restaurateur



Code of Ethics

As a member of the Board, I shall promote the best interests of the District as a whole and, to that end, shall adhere to the following ethical standards:

Equity in Attitude

Trustworthiness in Stewardship

Honor of Conduct

Integrity of Character

Commitment to Service

Student-Centered Focus



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Core Commitments

The Board of Trustees has adopted the following Core Commitments:

- I. Provide world-class curriculum and educational opportunities for all students.
- II. Utilize open communication and collaboration with and among staff, parents, business and community members to ensure unity and ownership in the vision and goals of the District.
- III. Establish an educational environment defined by high expectations that promote responsibility and accountability of students, staff and parents, and one that nurtures and motivates students to pursue their full potential in academic performance and citizenship.
- IV. Integrate a technologically advanced educational environment and support system that promotes student learning and overall efficiency and effectiveness of District operations.
- V. Recruit, develop, and retain the highest quality faculty and staff.
- VI. Provide a safe and secure educational setting for students and staff.
- VII. Vigorously pursue enhancement of the district's capacity to provide conditions for quality teaching and learning within the parameters of fiscal capacity and responsibility.

School Board Member's Creed



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I am a citizen elected to represent the people of the entire school district, not just a specific group of people, or those living in a certain subdivision or area.

I realize that my authority as a member of the Board of Trustees only exists during a legally announced meeting and that at all times I am a private citizen.

I do not need to know all the facets of the educational process or of general school administration. I am not expected to do this work, but I am responsible for seeing that the work is done.

My work as a member of the Board of Trustees consists of assisting in choosing a competent superintendent to guide the district, deciding within the provisions of the applicable laws what is to be done, setting educational priorities and appraising the work to see that it is done competently and economically. The administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the superintendent of schools and his staff.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I deal directly with the superintendent or through the Board president and do not attempt to handle school business matters with other district employees.

I listen impartially to all persons who come to me with questions, problems and/or comments on the capabilities or personalities of school employees, and direct them to the appropriate employees of the school district and apprise them of the administrative procedure for all grievances.

I must make my own decisions. I will not join any faction or group of the Board of Trustees. Each time I cast my vote it will be because of my feelings on the individual issues, not because of anyone else's position or voting alignment. I abide by majority decisions of the Board and publicly support these decisions even though I may have voted with the minority.

I do not seek special privileges for myself, my relatives or my friends.

I desire that the people of the community shall have an education that is as complete and adequate as it is possible to provide.

I must never neglect my personal obligation to the community and my legal obligation to the State, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group or organization.

With dignity and honor, I want to serve the school district; with humility and to the best of my ability, I shall discharge my great public trust.

Adopted from publications of: The National Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Boards



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