

Crowley ISD Board of Trustees

Unofficial Summary of Actions

August 31, 2017



PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Trustees held a **public hearing** to discuss the proposed tax rate of \$1.67.

BOARD ACTION

Approved the **adoption of a total tax rate of \$1.67**, which includes \$1.17 for Maintenance and Operations and an Interesting and Sinking rate of 50 cents.

BOARD CELEBRATIONS

Board Vice President Mia Hall praised **CISD's employee convocation**, calling it "exceptional." She said she left the event feeling energized and ready to Ignite The Future!

Board Member Dr. La Tonya Mayfield echoed Hall's praise of convocation and **noted the great first day of school**. Mayfield volunteered at a school on the first day, where she saw excited student and teachers. "Teachers were all on point," she said, noting it was "a pleasure being a part of that."

Interim Superintendent Dr. Patricia Linares congratulated the Crowley ISD Board of Trustees and announced that the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) received proposed resolutions submitted by the CISD Board for inclusion in the **2016-2018 Advocacy Agenda**. TASB combined two of the CISD board's resolutions regarding **three-point seat belts on school buses** into one resolution. TASB will recommend the assembly adopt that combined resolution, which reads: TASB supports state funding to retrofit existing school buses and purchase new school buses with three-point seat belts. Linares thanked the CISD Board of Trustees and **Secretary Lyndsaë Benton** for writing and approving the resolutions.

REPORT ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

Students from Crowley and North Crowley high schools earned 70 Advanced Placement Scholar awards in 2017 for college-level achievement demonstrated through AP courses and tests. There were **45 students** who earned **AP Scholar** designations — recognition given to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Thirteen students were awarded **AP Scholar with Honor** distinctions — given to students who receive an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of the exams. **Nine students** earned **AP Scholars with Distinction** awards for scoring at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and receiving a score of 3 or higher on five or more of the exams.

Crowley ISD Board of Trustees Unofficial Summary of Actions

August 31, 2017



Three students won the distinction of **National AP Scholar** by receiving an average score of 4 on all AP exams taken and receiving a score of 4 or higher on eight or more of the exams. The highest score on an AP exam is a 5. National AP Scholars were 2017 graduates Kathie N. Nguyen, Juan A. Piña and Logan J. Reed.



(Crowley High School and North Crowley High School AP scholars)

Crowley ISD's **Mock Trial Team advanced to the national competition** in Chicago from July 31-Aug. 4, after earning one of the two top spots at the state competition in Austin. In Chicago, the team competed against more than 30 team from across the nation. The team placed ninth in the nation and Attorney Toiya Smith was named Most Outstanding Attorney, an honor only given to four students in the entire competition. District Court Team members include: Attorney Toiya Smith, Attorney Christina Gonzales, Witness Amaya Ronczyk, Witness Everett Chace, Witness Tionne Wilson and Bailiff Ty'Reke Goodman-Harris. Markeith West serves as the district's CTE law enforcement department chairman.



(Everett Chace, Toiya Smith, Christina Gonzales, Tionne Wilson, Amaya Ronczyk and Ty'Reke Goodman-Harris)

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August 31, 2017



The board recognized the **Crowley ISD Fine Arts Department** for participating in the City of Crowley **Celebration of Freedom Parade** on July 8. Students and directors from the Crowley High School and North Crowley High School bands, cheer, drill teams and JROTC marched in the parade. A float was created by art students, under the direction of CHS art teacher Misty Ressler and CHS theatre teacher Kenneth Harrington. The City of Crowley awarded the float third place. In a letter to the Board of Trustees and Dr. Linares, Crowley Mayor Billy Davis said, “The school district’s willingness to partner with the city on this endeavor is greatly appreciated and is so important in building a stronger community.” The Fine Arts Department is overseen by Stan Swann, Chief of Student Services, and administrative assistant Karen Garcia who both played an important role in CISD’s involvement in the Celebration of Freedom parade.



(Participants on the Crowley ISD float at the Celebration of Freedom Parade)

The board received a **bond update**. At the July meeting, the board approved a parameter sale authorizing the issuance of up to \$100 million from the May 2007 bond authorization. The sale was executed on Aug. 22 for the full \$100 million. The actual interest percentage is 4.064 percent, and the maximum parameter approved was 4.75 percent. The final total debt service is \$3.3 million lower than what was originally presented because of favorable certified values. The closing is set for on or before Sept. 21.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved the **July 20 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the July 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27 and Aug. 9 and 10 Called Board Meeting Minutes.**

Approved **June and July 2017 Financial Statements.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

This Unofficial Summary of Actions does not replace the official minutes approved by the Board of Trustees. To view complete agendas and additional information about each item, visit <http://esbpublic.crowleyisdtx.org>

Crowley ISD Board of Trustees

Unofficial Summary of Actions

August 31, 2017



The board heard an overview of the results of the 2017 **State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)**. Texas Education Agency (TEA) accountability ratings show Crowley ISD continues to exceed state standards in all four of the key academic indexes of STAAR. The district and 84 percent of its tested campuses (16 of 19) have been rated at the top level of “Met Standard” for 2017. Three campuses have been rated “Improvement Required.” An in-depth study of results will be reviewed at the Sept. 14 board study session.

The board celebrated schools across the district with **STAAR academic distinction designations**. Ten designations were awarded to six campuses for achievement in several different areas:

- North Crowley High/Ninth Grade Campus:** Top 25% Student Progress, Academic Achievement in Math and Academic Achievement in Social Studies
- Sue Crouch Intermediate:** Top 25% Student Progress, Academic Achievement in Math and Academic Achievement in Science
- Dallas Park Elementary:** Top 25% Student Progress
- Jackie Carden Elementary:** Academic Achievement in English, Language Arts and Reading
- Meadowcreek Elementary:** Top 25% Student Progress
- Sycamore Elementary:** Postsecondary Readiness

BOARD ACTIONS

Approved **Chisholm Trail Education Foundation donation** of 12 innovative teaching grants with a value of more than \$30,000. Grants include:

- Districtwide:** \$4,546.68 to “Elementary and Intermediate Green Screen Rooms,” submitted by Michelle Bothel
- North Crowley High School:** \$5,000 to “Panther Emporium,” submitted by Kristin Easter
- **J.A. Hargrave Elementary:** \$2,000 to “Hargrave Home Connection,” submitted by Haley Pennington and Jana Godkin
- Crowley High School:** \$639 to “One Note Collaboration,” submitted by Natasha Antonini
- H.F. Stevens Middle School:** \$5,000 to “Automation and Robotics,” submitted by Tim Crump
- Bill R. Johnson CTE Center:** \$895.05 to “Cinemographs: A Synergy between Animation and Photography,” submitted by Joseph Ryan Caruthers
- Crowley High School:** \$3,750 to “Take Home Calculators,” submitted by Monica Moore
- J.A. Hargrave Elementary:** \$916.26 to “Coding and Technology in Music Class” submitted by Karen Brown,
- Districtwide:** \$3,750 to “CISD Elementary Battle of the Books,” submitted by Jan Hodge
- Dallas Park Elementary:** \$1,700 to “Recover, Regroup Refocus Zone,” submitted by Nikki Petties and Nikita Trice
- North Crowley High School:** \$1,000 to “CISD Panther Olympics,” submitted LaToya Banks
- North Crowley High School:** \$1,000 to “CISD Special Education Dance,” submitted by Laneece Yarbough-Anderson

Crowley ISD Board of Trustees

Unofficial Summary of Actions

August 31, 2017



Approved **Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) for CTE Student Internships** with employers or organizations including: Angels Dog Spaw, Clayton Youth Enrichment, Crowley E-Repair Shop, Crowley Nursing Center, Texas Health Huguley, Tarrant County Sheriff's Department and Youth Entrepreneurs.

Approved **Tarrant County College CISD Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** to renew the partnership between Tarrant County College and CISD. This allows TCC to house and offer courses on the second floor of the Bill R. Johnson Career and Technology Education Center and allows CISD access to college credit courses.

Approved T-TESS-certified **teacher appraisers** for the 2017-18 school year.

Approved **Budget Amendments**.

Approved **Professional Services Provider Agreement**. One of the TEA requirements related to the Accountability Intervention Program is the hiring of a Professional Service Provider (PSP). Dr. Vicki Harper has worked as a PSP with Crowley ISD schools identified as Improvement Required and/or schools in the follow-up year after being identified as Improvement Required. This year Dr. Harper will work with J.A. Hargrave Elementary, Deer Creek Elementary, Parkway Elementary, Bess Race Elementary, Sidney Poynter Elementary, Mary Harris Intermediate and Crowley Middle School. Her services for the year will not exceed \$75,000. The funds come from a combination of funding sources (local and grant) as permissible by state and federal guidelines.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Interim Superintendent Dr. Patricia Linares gave several updates:

Linares thanked teachers, principals as well as non-instructional staff members for helping Crowley ISD have a wonderful **start of the 2017-18 school year**. "It was an extremely smooth opening of school," Linares said. [Watch highlights](#) from the first day of school.

Crowley ISD is launching a coordinated, districtwide effort to raise money for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, Linares announced. **Crowley Cares — A CISD Coin Drive for Hurricane Harvey Relief** with proceeds going to the American Red Cross. Every campus and central office are receiving a Crowley Cares bucket, donated by Home Depot. The coin drive will run through Friday, Sept. 8. The fundraiser is in partnership with EECU, which has volunteered to count the coins collected.

In addition to the Crowley Cares coin drive, the district has a supply of donated uniforms, school supplies and toiletries for any evacuees who might enroll in CISD schools. The central office team has collected donations for toiletry bags. CISD partner Crowley Family Dentistry donated a box of toothbrushes and toothpaste. Linares noted that 272 school districts serving nearly 2 million children are in the designated disaster area. "Let's let everyone know that Crowley Cares," she said.

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Unofficial Summary of Actions

August 31, 2017



EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board discussed the employment and duties of the superintendent.

BOARD ACTIONS

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to **hire Dr. Michael D. McFarland as the new permanent superintendent of Crowley ISD**. The board announced him as lone finalist on Aug. 10, and he has completed a state-mandated 21-day waiting period.

McFarland will officially assume his permanent duties on Oct. 1. In the interim, he will spend time learning more about Crowley ISD, its students, teachers, staff and community. Dr. Patricia Linares will continue serving as interim superintendent through September.

[Read more](#) about the new superintendent.



(Dr. McFarland signing his contract to serve as superintendent of Crowley ISD)

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Unofficial Summary of Actions
August 31, 2017



June W. Davis
President
Place 4



Mia Hall
Vice President
Place 3



Lyndae M. Benton
Secretary
Place 7



Gary Grassia
Trustee
Place 6



Ryan Ray, J.D.
Trustee
Place 5



Nedra Robinson
Trustee
Place 1



La Tonya Mayfield, Ph.D.
Trustee
Place 2