

**Harris County Department of Education  
Minutes of Special Board Meeting  
January 9, 2017**

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The Harris County Board of School Trustees met in a Special Meeting on January 9, 2017 in the Board Room, at 6300 Irvington Boulevard, Houston, Texas. Louis D. Evans III, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. and declared a quorum present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Gov't. Code §551.041 and §551.051.

**Board Members Present:** Erica Lee Carter; Eric Dick; George Moore; Don Sumners; Diane Trautman; Mike Wolfe

Louis Evans, Board Vice-President arrived at 1:20 p.m.

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Board Attorney:** Sarah Langlois

**Administration:** James Colbert, Jr., County School Superintendent; Jesus Amezcua, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Kimberly McLeod, Assistant Superintendent for Education and Enrichment; and Jonathan Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Support

Karla Cantu, Board Secretary; Louise Henry, Director Marketing; Victor Keys, Principal Adaptive Behavior School West; Dee Mattox-Hall, Senior Director Schools Division; Natasha Truitt, Executive Director Human Resources

**Visitors:** Andrew Dewey; Joseph Le; David Jennings; Alan Vera; Colleen Vera; David Wilson

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

- 1. Consider election of President and Vice President of the Board of Trustees**  
*Motion made by Diane Trautman, seconded by Erica Lee Carter to nominate and elect Louis Evans as Board President and Eric Dick as Board Vice President.*

*Substitute motion made by Don Sumners, seconded by Mike Wolfe to nominate Don Sumners as Board President and Mike Wolfe as Board Vice President.  
No action was taken on this item.*

*Motion made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by Don Sumners to divide the motions to decide on President and Vice President separately.*

*Motion to nominate and elect Louis Evans as Board President and Eric Dick as Board Vice President passes with 4-3 voting to nominate and elect with George Moore, Don Sumners and Mike Wolfe voting nay.*

*No action taken on motion to divide the motions.*

- 2. Consider appointment of Board delegates to the Public Facilities Corporation**  
*Superintendent Colbert recommended that Don Sumners be named a delegate to the PFC.*

*Motion made by Eric Dick, seconded by Louis Evans to appoint Don Sumners and Mike Wolfe to the Public Facilities Corporation.*

*Motion passes with 5-0-2 voting to appoint Don Sumners and Mike Wolfe to the Public Facilities Corporation with Diane Trautman and Erica Lee Carter abstaining.*

- 3. Consider terminating the contracts of current political consultants Pat M. Strong and Hill Co.**

*Motion made by Erica Lee Carter, seconded by Diane Trautman to consider the items separately.*

*Motion to consider the items separately passes with 4-3 voting to consider the items separately with George Moore, Don Sumners and Mike Wolfe voting nay.*

- 3.A. Consider terminating the contract of current political consultant Pat M. Strong.**

*Motion made by Eric Dick, seconded by Mike Wolfe to terminate the contract of current political consultant Pat M. Strong.*

*Motion to call the question made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by Eric Dick.*

*Motion to call the question passes with 5-2 voting to call the question with Diane Trautman and Erica Lee Carter voting nay.*

*Motion passes with 4-3 voting to terminate the contract with Diane Trautman, Erica Lee Carter and Louis Evans voting nay.*

### **3.B. Consider terminating the contract of current political consultants Hill Co.**

*Motion made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by Don Sumners to terminate the contract of current political consultants Hill Co.*

*Motion made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by Eric Dick to call the question.*

*Motion to call the question fails with 4-3 voting to call question with Erica Lee Carter, Diane Trautman and Louis Evans voting nay.*

*Motion to terminate the contract of current political consultants Hill Co. fails with 3-3-1 voting to terminate with Diane Trautman, Erica Lee Carter and Louis Evans voting nay and Eric Dick abstaining.*

### **5. Consider action directing that no additional HCDE funds be spent on the new ABS West campus without Board approval until a comprehensive feasibility and development plan is completed and approved by the Board.**

*Motion made by Don Sumners, seconded by Mike Wolfe to direct that no additional HCDE funds be spent on the new ABS West campus without Board approval until a comprehensive feasibility and development plan is completed and approved by the Board.*

*Motion to amend made by Louis Evans, seconded by Mike Wolfe to delay this item until the February Board Meeting during which the administration will return with a presentation to provide the Board with requested information.*

*Motion to amend fails with 3-4 voting to delay this item, with George Moore, Eric Dick, Don Sumners and Mike Wolfe voting nay.*

*Motion made by Eric Dick, seconded by Mike Wolfe to amend the item to strike out "feasibility and" so it will state, "Consider action directing that no additional HCDE funds be spent on the new ABS West campus without Board approval until a comprehensive development plan is completed and approved by the Board due no later than the April 2017 Board meeting."*

*Motion to amend passes with 6-1 voting to amend with Erica Lee Carter voting nay.*

*Original motion as amended passes with 5-2 voting to direct that no additional HCDE funds be spent on the new ABS West campus without Board approval until a comprehensive development plan is completed and approved by the Board due no later than the April 2017 Board meeting, with Diane Trautman and Erica Lee Carter voting nay.*

*The Superintendent requested that a Board Feasibility Sub-Committee be created, with Mr. Sumners serving as chair of the sub-committee to provide guidance concerning the ABS West campus project, recovery high school project, and other projects, as needed.*

- 4. Consider rescinding prior authorization for expenditure of funds for the recovery high school previously approved by the Board and consider action directing that no HCDE funds be spent on the recovery high school project, employment or improvements, without subsequent Board approval, until a comprehensive feasibility and development plan is completed and approved by the Board**

*Motion made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by Don Sumners to rescind prior authorization for expenditure of funds for the recovery high school previously approved by the Board and direct that no HCDE funds be spent on the recovery high school project, employment or improvements, without subsequent Board approval, until a comprehensive feasibility and development plan is completed and approved by the Board.*

*Motion to amend made by Diane Trautman, seconded by Erica Lee Carter to rescind prior authorization for expenditure of funds for the recovery high school previously approved by the Board and direct that no HCDE funds be spent on the recovery high school project, employment or improvements, without subsequent Board approval, until a comprehensive feasibility study is presented to the board no later than the February Board meeting. No action was taken on this motion to amend, since the second motion to amend passed.*

*Motion to amend made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by Don Sumners to rescind prior authorization for expenditure of funds for the recovery high school previously approved by the Board and direct that no HCDE funds be spent on the recovery high school project, employment or improvements, without subsequent Board approval, and for a feasibility and development plan including a budget to be brought to the Board no later than April but Administration may bring the plan sooner.*

*Motion passes with 5-2 with Diane Trautman and Erica Lee Carter voting nay.*

*Original motion as amended to rescind prior authorization for expenditure of funds for the recovery high school previously approved by the Board and direct that no HCDE funds be spent on the recovery high school project, employment or improvements, without subsequent Board approval, and for a feasibility and development plan including a budget to be brought to the Board no later than April but Administration may bring the plan sooner.*

*Original motion as amended passes with 5-2 voting to rescind and to direct, with Diane Trautman and Erica Lee Carter voting nay.*

**6. Consider changing the regular January 2017 Board Meeting from January 19, 2017 to January 25, 2017.**

*Motion made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by George Moore to change the regular January 2017 Board Meeting from January 19, 2017 to January 25, 2017.*

*Mike Wolfe and George Moore make a friendly amendment to change the regular January 2017 Board Meeting from January 19, 2017 to Thursday, January 26, 2017.*

*Motion passes with 7-0 voting to change the January 2017 Board Meeting to Thursday, January 26, 2017.*

**7. Consider changing the regular Board meeting dates to the third Wednesday of the month, including possible revision to Policy BE (Local).**

*Motion made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by George Moore to change the regular Board meeting dates to the third Wednesday of the month, including possible revision to Policy BE (Local).*

*Motion to table made by Don Sumners, seconded by Eric Dick to table this item until the January 26, 2017 Board meeting to allow the Board secretary to poll the Board to determine the best day for the Board to meet.*

*Motion passes with 7-0 voting to table the item until the January 26, 2017 Board meeting.*

**8. ADJOURN** - Next regular meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2017, Board Room, 6300 Irvington Blvd., Houston, Texas, 77022, at 1:00 p.m.

*Motion made by Mike Wolfe, seconded by Louis Evans to adjourn the meeting.*

*Motion passes with 7-0 voting to adjourn.*

*The meeting adjourns at 2:55 p.m.*