

# **FISD trustees hear campus reports, discuss various curricula matters**

The Frankston School trustees had a full slate of issues to consider on Monday, Aug. 16, principally the adoption of a budget and tax rate for 2021-22, addressed in another story on this website.

However, there were a host of other items to discuss and reports to hear as a routine part of business, particularly relating to the start of a new school year but also a continuing part of business periodically throughout the year.

Reports on activities from each school campus included introduction of new teachers and other personnel, campus and school enrollment, various handbooks governing students, employees and extracurricular activities, details related to the new CTE (Career and Technical Education) and various recognitions of community and business donations to the school system.

Campus principals made new teachers and personnel a primary part of their reports to the trustees.

Elementary school Principal Melanie Blackwell listed her new personnel. Those included Trina Lohr, kindergarten; MiLisa Colston, fourth grade reading; Rachael Blackstone, RTI (Response to Intervention) specialist; Elizabeth Ward, physical education; Anna McGuffey, math special education and Aeron Wallace, fifth grade social studies.

Ms Blackwell also reported total enrollment on her campus of 365, as of the meeting date.

Middle School Principal Cindy Owens reported on her new employees. They are Chelsea Lloyd, sixth grade English Language Arts (ELA); Terry Ward, MS/HS physical education; Myka Daniels, eighth grade math; Will Schneider, seventh grade math; Madison Crisp, seventh grade ELA; Jeff Teague, MS/HS assistant principal; Julia Walden, assistant band director; Stephanie Vittrup, Lisa Johnson and Shanna Morton, paraprofessionals.

Ms Owens also reported total enrollment of 198 with 61 sixth graders, 68 seventh graders and 69 eighth graders.

High School Principal Edgar Rodriguez reported the following new employees: Elizabeth Peek, math; Johnathan Longar, math; Riley Webb, agriculture; Laura Brownlow, English; Angela Severn, health science; Suzanne Brady, PE/coach; Julia Walden, assistant band director; Jeff Teague, MS/HS assistant principal; Kaitlyn Webb, ag; Ben Floyd, Spanish; and paraprofessionals Randi Phillips, Sarah Reynolds and Ashley Russom.

Rodriguez reported total enrollment of 231 which included 61 ninth graders, 61 tenth graders, 65 eleventh graders and 44 twelfth graders.

Supt. Nicci Cook addressed a number of matters in her report. She verified the campus enrollments related by the principals for a total district enrollment of 794. She compared that with “snapshot dates” in October 2019 and 2020 of 786 and 769, respectively.

Supt. Cook informed the trustees of revisions in the Employee, Student and Extracurricular handbooks. Details on these revisions are available on the FISD website. [www.frankstonisd.net](http://www.frankstonisd.net)

She also addressed general information about the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, introducing Cheryl Milgrim, district CTE coordinator. The superintendent said CTE currently offers 29 CTE courses and in the fall of 2021 there are 759 seats in CTE, 540 in high school and 219 in middle school. There are four certificate courses, with an additional three certificate courses begun in the fall of 2021; 18 of 44 current seniors are TSI (Texas Success Initiative) complete.

According to the superintendent, the TSI Assessment is an online test that high school students must take and pass to see if they are ready for college-level course work in reading, writing and math. She said that if a graduating senior has an industry-based certification and is TSI complete (passes all three parts of the assessment), the district gets what is called a College, Career and Military Readiness (CCMR) bonus of \$3,000 per each regular education student and \$5,000 for each special education student.

More information on the CTE program is available on the school website. [www.frankstonisd.net](http://www.frankstonisd.net) . A CTE link is provided in the Local Area News sidebar.

Recognition was given to area businesses and churches for donations of food, school supplies and other items. They included Walmart, Austin Bank, First Baptist Church, United Methodist Church, UMC Rainbow House Food Pantry, Hilltop Baptist Church, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, The Villages Resort, Amped Up Nutrition, Tyler Balloon Bar and Kona Ice.

A progress report was given on facilities projects at Jeff and Opal Austin Stadium and the baseball field.

Supt. Cook told the trustees that the visitor bleachers at the football stadium should be complete by Sept. 1. FISD has already made accommodations for the Aug. 27 home-opener football game with Timpson. She said the band will sit on the track, like last year, and Timpson fans have been asked to bring chairs, she said.

Regarding the track renovation, Supt. Cook said the track project is going out for bids around the first of September. She said Business Manager Randi Westbrook hopes for a vote on the bids at the September board meeting so the track can be complete before the spring track and field season.

The superintendent said the extent of work on the baseball field is still being discussed and a compromise solution sought on the needs for that project.

Other discussion items included student attainment goals, the Return to School Plan, employee leave related to COVID, and TVCC Dual Credit Courses.

Supt. Cook said that, as of Aug. 16, two students and seven staff members were confirmed to be COVID-19 positive and appropriate protocol followed.