



Dr. Brent Hawkins
LISD Superintendent

Hawk's Talk

Thursday, December 17, 2020

LION COUNTRY CALENDAR

Monday, December 21, 2020

LISD Christmas Holidays

5:30 pm- LHS Boys JV/V Basketball @ Coldspring

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

LISD Christmas Holidays

1:00 pm- LHS Boys Fr/JV/V Basketball @ Jasper

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

LISD Christmas Holidays

Thursday, December 24, 2020

LISD Christmas Holidays

Friday, December 25, 2020

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 26, 2020

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Monday, December 28, 2020

LISD Christmas Holidays

1:00 pm- LHS Girls JV/V Basketball @ Big Sandy

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

LISD Christmas Holidays

1:00 pm- LHS Boys Fr/JV/V Basketball @ Lufkin

2:30 pm- LHS Girls Fr/JV/V Basketball @ Caney Creek

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

LISD Christmas Holidays

Thursday, December 31, 2020

New Year's Eve

Friday, January 1, 2021

New Year's Day

Saturday, January 2, 2021

LHS- Girls Varsity Soccer @

Huntsville

10:00 am- LHS Girls JV Soccer @ Huntsville

Saturday, January 2, 2021

LHS- Girls Varsity Soccer @

Huntsville

10:00 am- LHS Girls JV Soccer @ Huntsville

December School Board Meeting Summary

The December LISD School Board meeting opened with a report by school auditor Eric Carver with Axley & Rode. Carver reported how the last six months have been challenging in this difficult year. He gave a clean, unmodified opinion which is the highest level that can be given. Most of the revenue increased as well as the expenses. There was a \$3.5 million increase in revenue due to the increase in property values and increased state funding. The increase went into payroll expenditures most of which was for teacher salaries. Carver said that the general fund has good liquidity and will enable the district to handle anything that comes up. \$10 million will be held in the fund balance for capital projects. The general fund budget was in line with expectations. Expenditures were short due to the COVID shut down in March and payroll. The fixed assets reflected the \$1 million spent on buses last year. The COVID 19 expenses have already been dealt with but the revenue might not be realized for 18-24 months. LISD Superintendent Dr. Brent Hawkins says, "The LISD business office and district staff is to be commended for their efforts on such a great job of having a clean audit. We will have to continue our efforts to be prepared for what the state legislature may implement when they return to session in January."

LISD Chief Officer of Curriculum Janan Moore gave a Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment report. The TSI is the community college entrance exam. Up to this point, the exam was made up of four parts - math, reading, writing, and essay. Next month, there will be changes to combine the parts into one test. Any students who have only taken one portion of the English Language Arts will have to start over. There has been a push for Livingston High School students to finish taking the remainder of the ELA parts before this change occurs. There are forty-one, 10th and 11th-grade students and forty-four 12th-graders testing this week to complete the ELA portion of the exam. The focus of the district is for every graduating senior to be college-bound, career-ready, or military ready. In order for a student to be college-bound, they must be TSI complete before their senior year. There are currently forty-nine seniors who are TSI complete with an additional forty-four seniors who need one or more sections to be completed. The Class of 2024 has 89 students who are TSI eligible with plans to take dual credit classes.

LISD Chief Financial Officer Ben Davidson presented the quarterly financial report for September, October, and November 2020. The beginning balance was \$24,536,205 earning an interest rate of .24 and .25. Interest earned in September was \$4,692, October \$5,109 and November \$5,303 and an ending balance of \$27,579,154.

Items approved under the consent agenda included district maintenance and transportation supplies, equipment, vehicles, services, and rentals. The purchase of district instructional, office supplies, furniture, equipment, printing, library books, and musical instruments. The purchase of district athletic supplies and equipment, first aid supplies, equipment, awards, trophies, and custom clothing.

The approved action items of the board were the quarterly investment report, the financial audit, and assigning \$10 million to the fund balance.

Holiday Message

As we look back at 2020 in respect to a year in review, the job that has been ongoing in Lion Country is best described as a herculean effort to meet the needs of our students and community. The challenges that we have been facing are ones with no road map or playbook because it is truly a dilemma that only comes our way every hundred years. It has been a great honor to serve our district during this time alongside my colleagues and watch the success that we have seen in the face of unparalleled adversity. As this holiday season is upon us, I would encourage everyone to stay safe and healthy, but most importantly remember the reason for the season. Extend a spirit of love and joy to your family and friends as if this pandemic has taught us anything, it is how important those relationships are. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Dr. Brent Hawkins

LISD Graduates of the Ambassador Training Academy Series



#WELOVELISD Members of Livingston ISD faculty and staff gathered for a series of two-hour sessions of the Ambassador Training Academy. The ambassadors will lead the celebration of the great things happening in LISD.

Livingston ISD Administrators, Principals, and teachers participated in the Ambassador Training Academy Series prepared by Leslie Milder, Founder of the Friends of Texas Public Schools and CEO of Common Sense Communications. Milder shares the purpose of the Academy, “We bring inspirational messages to educators about being loyal to themselves, their schools and their profession. We must educate ourselves about our profession, defend ourselves against unfair criticism and harsh accusations of widespread failure, and have the courage to respectfully and professionally set people straight when they are misinformed. The Ambassador Training Academy professional learning series is designed to change the conversation about Texas public schools from the inside out. It addresses attitudes and mindsets among those who work in our schools, mobilizing each member of the profession as ambassadors for themselves, their classrooms, campuses, district, and their profession. The Academy unites staff around the organization’s purpose and strengthens your culture of brother/sisterhood among those who work in our schools. Participants learned how the power of professional unity and the power of their own voices profoundly impacts the profession. The forces that weaken

public trust and confidence in public education were discussed, as well as strategies for restoring public pride, hope, optimism, and confidence in the profession. Academy trainer Leslie Milder shares, “So much energy is focused on what’s wrong with our public schools and how to fix them that we often lose sight of the extraordinary work occurring in our schools every day, thanks to millions of caring, dedicated professional educators who work hard to ensure every student reaches their potential.” Each session begins with a celebration of the great things happening in your schools, explores one of the major issues negatively affecting public confidence identifies strategies for restoring the public’s faith and trust in our schools and closes with an assignment for each participant that challenges them to be an ambassador leader in their respective roles. The Ambassador program includes book studies on *Hard Optimism* by Price Pritchett and *Hello My Name is Public School* and *I Have an Image Problem* by Leslie Milder and Jane Braddock. Optimism breeds success. It motivates, inspires, and unites. Children and teachers thrive in environments that are full of hope and encouragement. Unfortunately, there is too little optimism and too much doom and gloom in the public debate about public education, generating a perception of

widespread failure. “We are not failing and I resent the harsh criticism of our profession,” Milder says. “Great things are happening in our schools. We move mountains for kids every day, but that’s not the story that’s being told.” “We have a massive image problem,” Milder added. “The conversation and debate about public education is ill-informed and mean-spirited. It’s time we take control of the conversation and let people know their children and their tax dollars are in good hands.”

At the conclusion of the Academy, LISD Superintendent Dr. Brent Hawkins said, “I am extremely passionate about what has occurred in this training. Public Education is responsible for building the greatest nation and economy in the history of mankind. The mass of our society will always be educated through public education and this is a true success story in our society. The progress of Livingston ISD is to be attributed to the herculean job of our faculty and staff here in our community. When one looks at the opportunities afforded our students it is staggering what the future will hold because of those individuals. While we may not be perfect there is a love of children and passion to inspire the next generation of our society. I’m honored to be a part of this excitement of impacting those we serve.”