

foundations. Our country's so-called biggest "problems" are unlikely to be "solved" anytime soon, because the entire political ecosystem relies on problems continuing to exist. But we CAN solve the problem of rural prosperity on our own. We CAN revive this spirit of independence and bring forth a new era of yeoman farmers, shopkeepers, craftsmen, and artisans who can build all or a part of their livelihood around that independence, without the support or involvement of big business or big government.

This requires people who are

truly willing to dedicate themselves to their own efforts and to supporting others who are so dedicated. A single spark in a single community could soon envelop the rural countryside in a manner that would leave Jefferson in awe and admiration. Join us, will you?

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Report shows farming and ranching is a family business

A US Department of Agriculture (USDA) report released late last year shows that farming and ranching remains a family business in the US.

The 2023 America's Farms and Ranches at a Glance Report describes the characteristics of American farms and ranches.

"It's no surprise to us that the report shows that 97% of farms and ranches are a family business," John Ross Copeland, Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau president said. "Just take a look at the farms and ranches right here in our county. They're like mine - a family working together to make a living from the land."

The report shows that 88% of farms are classified as small family farms.

"Big or small - it doesn't matter. Farm and ranch families aim to be good stewards of the land and natural resources," Copeland said.

USDA measures farm size by

gross cash farm income (GCFI).

Farms with GCFI less than \$350,000 are classified as small family farms. Midsize family farms are farms with a GCFI between \$350,000 and \$999,999. Large-scale family farms are farms with GCFI of \$1 million or more.

The report shows small farms operated 46% of US agriculture land in 2022.

Large-scale family farms accounted for 52% of the total value of production and 25% of agricultural land in 2022.

Midsize family farms accounted for 21% of agricultural land and 19% of the total value of production.

"Agriculture has evolved so much over the years," Copeland said. "Technology plays a huge role in modern farming and ranching, and family farms implement climate-smart practices. Together, farms of all sizes, are working to grow our food and give us so many choices at the grocery store."

members Josh Schoenfield, Ashley Braswell, Lynsey Coalson, Scott Snyder, Ryan Webb, and Blaine Dyess; administration member Tim Siler; and guests Rhett Gallagher, Rebecca Siler, Marlayna Schoenfield, and Martin DeLaGarza.

The meeting was opened at 6:12 pm with a prayer by Ryan Webb.

A quorum was established at 6:12 pm with six members present.

Ashley Braswell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and was seconded by Scott Snyder. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0.

Ryan Webb asked if the core charge would be removed from the VanHool transmission repair. Mr. DeLaGarza said that he had not yet received an answer. Ashley Braswell made a motion to approve the bill listing as presented. Blaine Dyess seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0.

There were no audience items.

Principals' Report

Ms. Englert and Mrs. Robbins were absent due to the state volleyball tournament but they each left a report. Ms. Englert reported that the second six weeks Honor Roll Pep Rally was held yesterday. The Veteran's Day Ceremony and Thanksgiving Luncheon were both a success and full of community and family involvement. This week UIL Writing, Chess, and Spelling contests were held on campus. The UIL meet for elementary and junior high will be in Blackwell on Wednesday after Thanksgiving break. Students are scheduled to take interim assessments in all core areas that they have a STAAR test before Christmas break. The sixth grade boys will participate in basketball this year. Mrs. Robbins and Ms. Englert will

continue to complete TTESS observations on teachers to capture data for the TIA.

Mrs. Robbins reported seven students failed in grades 7 - 12 for the second six weeks. The drug dog has been on campus twice and Drug Free Campus Drug Testing was completed in October. On November 3 Colton Bilyeu ran at the state cross country meet. On November 10 the football team won and was named the Bi-District Champions. They will play on Friday for the Area Championships. On November 11 the Lady Longhorns won and were named the Regional Champions. They're playing in the state tournament on November 15. On November 28 there will be a Secondary Awards Celebration to honor students with A and A/B Honor Roll as well as those with Perfect Attendance. November 6 - 8 Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Englert, Mrs. Siler, and Mrs. Robbins attended the Texas Assessment Conference in Round Rock.

Current student enrollment is 208 and Year to Date ADA is 96.26%.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Siler reported that it's early in the year financially. One concern is Function 34 due to many bus repairs. The ADA of 208 is also not beneficial to the 23-24 budget.

Bus repairs and roofing issues with the rain have been the main concerns lately. The VanHool transmission is currently being worked on and should be completed by Friday or early next week.

Facilities Committee Report

There were 13 people in attendance. Mr. Blackburn said the committee's purpose was to work for the common good and come to an consensus. once a decision has been made, the goal is to support the decision from a team perspective, develop and present executable

recommendations to the board, inform the community accurately, and advocate and support projects when and if ethically applicable. The committee would finalize ideas and present back to the board to approve or disapprove.

Lynsey Coalson made a motion to approve the retainer with Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Kyle & Robinson PC as presented and was seconded by Blaine Dyess. The motion passed with a vote of 6 - 0.

Mr. Rhett Gallagher gave the school building and facilities assessment. He said the facilities have been well maintained. Evidence of moisture damage, inadequate electrical, deteriorating floor surfaces, ADA codes (sink wrapping for example), inadequate HVAC, inadequate air quality, and fire risk were all concerns.

He recommends the following be addressed: safety and security risks, repair all damaged ceiling tiles, repair electrical issues, drainage issues, review and update the building to meet current ADA/TAS Codes, and update finishes throughout the building. Outdated striping at the football field, damaged track, inadequate drainage at the tennis courts are all athletic facility concerns. He advised BISD to consult with a structural engineer and consider getting a geotechnical soil sample for the track (to determine if it's a subsurface issue or not, it would help with budgeting for the bond). He stated that they offer a political action committee with Gallagher which would work in tandem with the bond committee. Some rough budget numbers can be presented at the Facility Committee meeting on December 5. Mr. Gallagher will send verbiage for next month's agenda on officially working with Gallagher. Gallagher and the current architect, Jacob & Martin, plan to meet.

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Bronte ISD board meetings minutes told

November 14, 2023 Workshop

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a November Board Workshop on November 14, 2023, at 5:30 pm. Those in attendance were board members Josh Schoenfield, Ashley Braswell, Lynsey Coalson, Scott Snyder, Ryan Webb, and Blaine Dyess; administration member Tim Siler; and guests Rhett Gallagher, Rebecca Siler, Marlayna Schoenfield, and Martin DeLaGarza.

A quorum was established at 5:35 pm with six members

present.

There were no audience items.

The Overview of Goals and Key Progress Measures for the 2023-2024 School Year was discussed. Board members ranked the facilities needs list individually and then reviewed the overall ranking of the compiled priority list.

The workshop adjourned at 6:11 pm.

November 14, 2023 Meeting

The Bronte ISD Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on November 14, 2023, at 6 pm. Those in attendance were board

The Event Center

701 Austin Street • Robert Lee, Texas

Bingo Tonight, March 15 at 6 pm
at The Event Center in Robert Lee
(Please enter through side entrance)

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