

suggesting it is limited only to the flawless few.

From 1836 to 2021, the story of Texas was, is, and will always be beautiful, ugly, complicated, and contradictory. We should not shy away from any of those dimensions. Instead, we should embrace them. Noble-minded people may struggle to live up to noble-minded ideals, but that doesn't make the ideals any less

valuable. We may not always succeed in living up to our ideals, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't keep trying.

Happy Texas Independence Day. May God bless Texas.

James Decker is the Mayor of Stamford, Texas and the creator of the "West of 98" website and forthcoming podcast. Contact James and subscribe to these essays at westof98.substack.com.

Robert Lee ISD board meeting minutes told

The Robert Lee ISD board of trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 5 pm. The meeting was called to order by President Washam.

Board members present included Wes Washam, Tom Sawyer, Jeffie Roberts, Erin Oleksiuk, Linda Burns, and Beverly Sinclair. Board member George Grim was absent.

The board enjoyed a meal prepared by FCCLA for Board Appreciation Month.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Washam with a quorum of members present.

The invocation and pledge was led by Linda Burns.

Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2020, and was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All were for.

Beverly Sinclair made a motion to approve the financial report, as presented by Robin Allen, and to approve the bills. She was seconded by Linda Burns and all were for.

David O'Dell gave the high

school report with 91.4% ADA for December. Lee McCown gave the elementary principal's report with 96.3% for December attendance rate and 247 total kids enrolled at Robert Lee school.

Supt. Aaron Hood held a public meeting on the Annual Report of Educational Performance.

Supt. Hood recommended to amend the 2020-2021 School Calendar to adjust January 11, 2021, to bad weather day and to add April 7, 2021, for an early release day for junior high district track. Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All were for.

Supt. Hood recommended to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented. Erin Oleksiuk made a motion to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All were for.

The board chose to take no action on the Letter from Tax Payer Requesting Tax Relief.

Supt. Hood made the recommendation to approve TASB Policy Update 116 as

presented. Tom Sawyer made a motion to approve the Policy Update 116 and was seconded by Erin Oleksiuk. All were for.

Supt. Hood made the recommendation to approve HB3 School Board Goals as presented. Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the recommendation. Tom Sawyer seconded and all were for.

Supt. Hood recommended to approve the Order of Election for Board of Trustees, May 1, 2021. Linda Burns made a motion to approve the Order of Election and was seconded by Erin Oleksiuk. All were for.

Supt. Hood gave his respective report on enrollment numbers, budget update, Team of Eight training, and read thank you notes.

The board entered into closed session at 6:15 pm and reconvened into open session at 6:35 pm.

Tom Sawyer moved to extend Dr. Hood's contract one year to make a five-year contract through 2026 with a three percent increase in salary. Beverly Sinclair seconded the motion and all were for.

The next regular meeting will



New Director! The Joseph Thomas Foundation recently announced the addition of Lee Sonnenberg to the Board of Directors. Lee, a longtime supporter of the Joseph Thomas Foundation, is also a Bronte High School graduate. He currently resides in Lubbock, Texas. Lee is the son of Fran Sonnenberg and the late Bruce Sonnenberg of Bronte. Founded by former Bronte resident and BISD student John Thomas and his family following the death of his son, the Joseph Thomas Foundation helps other medically fragile children.

be Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Texas State parks recommend reserving passes, campsites ahead of Spring Break

With Spring Break around the corner, Texans will be looking to explore and get outside. Texas State Parks are already seeing day passes and campsites filling up for the spring and summer months, so visitors planning a state park adventure this Spring Break are encouraged to make their

reservations as early as possible.

During holidays like Spring Break, state parks see more campers because of the extra time off from work and school. Those looking for a change of scenery during the holiday are encouraged to consider visiting on a weekday as they typically

see less crowds than on Fridays and Saturdays.

Many popular parks, especially those in Central Texas, are already seeing reservations for Spring Break and the summer months, but still have some availability.

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