

Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees meeting held

The Robert Lee ISD Board of Trustees held an emergency meeting, along with the regular meeting on Friday, March 20, 2020, at 12 pm.

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

At 12 pm, the meeting was called to order by President Washam with a quorum of members present.

The invocation and pledge

were led by George Grim.

Supt. Aaron Hood recommended to approve the Attestation of Closed but providing instruction. Jeffie Roberts made a motion to approve the recommendation and was seconded by Tom Sawyer. All were for.

Supt. Hood recommended to approve an Order Postponing the May 2, 2020 Election until November 3, 2020. There is an auto extension on incumbents until that time. Tom Sawyer made the motion to approve and

was seconded by George Grim. All were for.

Tom Sawyer made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2020, and was seconded by Jeffie Roberts. All were for.

Beverly Sinclair made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented and to approve the bills. She was seconded by Erin Oleksiuk and all were for.

David O'Dell gave the high school report. Enrollment for grades 7 - 12 was 104 with an attendance rate of 95.3% for February. Elementary enrollment for February was 156 students with an attendance rate of 94.1%.

Rusty Hodges with BTC Construction gave an update on

construction progress.

Supt. Hood gave an update on the Coronavirus Report for Robert Lee ISD.

Supt. Hood recommended signing the Resolution Regarding Employee Pay During School Closure. Tom Sawyer made the motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Erin Oleksiuk. All were for.

Supt. Hood recommended signing the Resolution Regarding Emergency Purchases. Beverly Sinclair made the motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by George Grim. All were for.

Supt. Hood recommended signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council for the

Concho Valley. Jeffie Roberts made the motion to approve and was seconded by Erin Oleksiuk. All were for.

Supt. Hood handed out election ballots for ESC Region 15 Board of Directors.

Supt. Hood gave his report on enrollment numbers, budget update, and calendar activities.

The Board entered in to closed session at 12:55 pm and reconvened in to open session at 1:30 pm.

Tom Sawyer made the motion to accept the resignation of Will Howard and was seconded by George Grim. All were for.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2020, at noon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.



This Too Shall Pass

by James M. Decker

I'll be honest, I wasn't sure which direction I wanted to turn for this week's essay. There's a lot on my mind right now. To be more clear, there's a lot on all of OUR minds right now. COVID-19. The economic fallout of COVID-19 and the government restrictions meant to limit the outbreak. The sadness of Texas schools being closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year and what that means to the students, teachers, and parents affected. Then, as I was considering this essay on Monday morning, the price of West Texas Intermediate (the benchmark crude oil price in America), slipped from an already low point into previously-unseen negative territory.

For some reason (maybe the Good Lord encouraging the path for this essay), out of nowhere I heard the phrase "this too shall pass" in my mind. At that point, my essay topic was set.

You might think that the phrase "this too shall pass" appears in the Bible. It does not. It first appeared in Western literature in the 19th century as the retelling of a Persian fable. One such version of the fable attributes the saying to King Solomon. In that telling, a sultan asked King Solomon, in his unparalleled wisdom, for a saying that would always be true, in good times or bad. King Solomon replied with "this too will pass away." A similar version was told by future president Abraham Lincoln in an 1859 speech to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society:

"It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence, to be ever

in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: 'And this, too, shall pass away.' How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction!"

The saying might not appear in the Bible, but it certainly fits with the biblical principle that life on Earth is temporary and fleeting. What I find most interesting is the application of the saying in its original form. When we think "this too shall pass," we most likely think about it when faced with anxiety, stress, grief, or other negative emotions. But the origin story points out that the saying is true in ALL times. Lincoln speaks of both the "hour of pride" and the "depths of affliction."

Ever since I first learned about the boom-bust nature of the oil business (in part thanks to reading the book "Friday Night

Lights" at an age probably younger than appropriate), I've always been struck by its constant cycle. No matter how bad things get in the oil business, they always improve. No matter how good things are in the oil business, they eventually decline. The cycle began when Colonel Edwin L. Drake drilled the first oil well near Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1859 and it hasn't stopped since.

"This too shall pass" applies exceedingly well to the oil business. But even though the oil business cycles might be more extreme than other aspects of life, those cycles exist throughout our lives. Many of us, perhaps even most of us, have muttered "this too shall pass" at a hard point in life. But as we are reminded by the wise words of President Lincoln, we should remember those words equally during our hours of pride.

This is an unusual season in

our lives - in Stamford, in Texas, in America, in the world. Many of us are experiencing hard times. Others are experiencing new joys amidst unusual circumstances. I'm thinking hard about answers for how our rural communities will move forward from COVID-19 and the associated effects on our economy. Many parts of our lives will never be the same. Some parts may be better, others may be worse, and still others may not be better or worse, just different.

But above all, no matter what you're dealing with, whether it's the hour of pride or the depth of affliction, remember—this too shall pass.

James Decker is a lawyer, farmer, and mayor in Stamford,

and the creator of the forthcoming "West of 98" podcast and website. He may be contacted through Facebook at facebook.com/james.decker.

RLJH/HS 5th Six Weeks Awards 'A' Honor Roll

7th Grade

Jaiden Brunkow, Jose Heredia, Denver O'Dell, Carlos Olguin, Rhett Rangel

8th Grade

Abigail Arthur, Brea Cranor-Cummings, Caitlyn Eubanks, Kailey Freeman, Mackenzie Galicia, Tristan Grantham, Natalie Immel, Jason Jowers, Nolan Mathis, Jimma Richardson, Brayden Sherwood, Ammleigh Smith, Judah Smith, Koltun Williams

(Continued on next page)

SHOP LOCAL

Please Support Your Hometown Businesses!

FLOYD C. PETITT INSURANCE

LIFE • HEALTH • GROUP HEALTH
LONG TERM CARE • ANNUITIES
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS
AUTO • HOME • COMMERCIAL

WE PUT YOU FIRST!

YOU'RE NOT A NUMBER TO US, BUT A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY!

(325) 453-4551 (325) 223-1563
PO BOX 184 • 715 AUSTIN 5002 KNICKERBOCKER
ROBERT LEE, TEXAS 76945 SAN ANGELO, TEXAS 76904
floyd@floyddepittinsurance.com

WE KNOW BANKING

We're Always Discussing Individual Retirement Accounts!



We know how to help people plan for retirement and that's exactly why we offer the popular Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Wouldn't you like to have more money when you retire? Drop by today and let us give you all the details. Too, you might want to consult with your tax advisor for even more information on an IRA!



Robert Lee State Bank

621 Austin Street Robert Lee, Texas



453-2545

MEMBER FDIC

HELP IS ALWAYS HERE!