

**COLLEGE STATION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD WORKSHOP**

**February 7, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.
Administrative Conference Room**

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Valerie Jochen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and declared a quorum was present with six members present.

B. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

In attendance were President Valerie Jochen, Vice President Paul Dorsett, Secretary Jeff Harris, Trustees Randall Pitcock, Garland Watson, and Kimberly McAdams. Trustee Carol Barrett arrived at 5:05 p.m.

C. WORKSHOP SESSION

C-1. Consideration, discussion and possible action related to public school finance and the CSISD budget

Superintendent Eddie Coulson expressed that the administration wants to communicate with the staff and the community regarding the CSISD budget and the public school finance crisis. Dr. Coulson said that the focus of the administration as it pertains to the budget is: responsible use of tax dollars, responsible use of fund balance, and budget reductions.

President Valerie Jochen questioned how the community has responded to the 2011-2012 budget cuts. Discussion occurred regarding how the staff and teachers have absorbed the changes and that the parents and students have not felt it.

Trustees questioned growth, status quo, fluff, relation between reducing staff and increased discipline issues, taxes, how to determine priorities, extra-curricular activities, what the College Station community considers a comprehensive education package for students-overall education process, occupational health of work environment. Dr. Coulson explained that the changes that have been made so far have a cumulative effect; however, the more reductions we have as a system – the more stress is created and it has to play a part in there. Dr. Coulson expressed that it's like a slow dismantling of a system, rather than tearing down the system with a wrecking ball. Technical support and instructional assistants have been reduced. He is very hesitant to use fund balance for support and programs and later have to cut programs. Under the current financial system, CSISD cannot maintain everything we are currently doing.

President Jochen stressed that she wants trustees to agree on the type of student achievement CSISD community expects and wants.

Trustees took a break at 6:53 p.m. and resumed at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion occurred regarding “what are we trying to resolve?” Discussion occurred related to not taxing the community more – but expecting CSISD staff and teachers to do more for less money.

Superintendent Coulson stated that as CSISD continues budget development and heads into the election primaries, CSISD should hold budget forums. Dr. Coulson thanked the Trustees for showing great leadership in terms of the discussion and, again, expressed that it is imperative to think about “what is responsible” to: the taxpayers, budget cuts, fund balance. Trustees want to add CSISD employees and staff to that list.

C-2. Consideration, discussion and possible action related to a Joint Meeting with the City of College Station City Council

Brief discussion related to scheduling a Joint Meeting with the City of College Station City Council occurred and it was decided to schedule a meeting on March 7, 2012.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, President Jochen adjourned the workshop at 8:02 p.m.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY