

SCONZO ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

By Tom Broad

December 23, 2015

Humble ISD Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo had been hinting about retiring for some time. He recently made the announcement official. He will retire next year. Those who know Sconzo well shared their thoughts on the news.

“Guy Sconzo has been able to create a distinct culture in our district, one that has had tremendous impact,” said Humble City Council Member Norman Funderburk. Funderburk, his wife Kathy and son Cagney, are all Humble High grads. Funderburk has been a faithful attendee at Humble ISD board meetings for years.

“I feel it’s important for the school board to recognize that the city [City of Humble], obviously a very large stakeholder, cares and is paying attention.”

“That culture and the results achieved obviously are recognized by others,” said Funderburk, “perhaps best when Humble was named H-E-B’s 2015 Large District Excellence in Education award winner. And I believe Guy has distinguished himself in the manner in effectively partnering with the community, finding ways to get engagement for a common vision and expectation, a shared commitment in the future of our students.”

Guy and Diane Sconzo moved to the Lake Houston area from Oklahoma City in June 2001, when both their son and daughter attended Texas A&M University.

“We were free to follow our children and Humble ISD made that possible,” Sconzo recalled. “We fell in love with the community very early on and I became increasingly impressed with our Humble ISD staff – teachers to principals to support staff. Even in retirement, this is the place we will continue to be a part of.”

“Where do I begin,” said Robert Sitton, Humble ISD Board of Trustees president and another Humble ISD grad.

“Dr. Sconzo has that ability to bring us together as one. He has worked hard to educate the board on the ‘business of education’ while the board has worked hard to be the eyes and ears of the community.

“Dr. Sconzo’s ability to articulate our vision, his knowledge of virtually all employee names and his timely responses – within 24 hours or less – to anyone’s email is unlike anyone I have ever seen,” said Sitton who will lead the board as it searches for a new superintendent. “His leadership will be truly missed and his shoes will be hard to fill. With that said, the future of Humble ISD is bright, and with Dr. Sconzo’s role changing from superintendent to grandfather, I’m sure his visibility will not simply vanish.”

Humble ISD Trustee Heath Rushing echoed Sitton’s praise.

“School boards are normally described either as a team of seven or a team of eight,” said Rushing. “Successful school boards are described as a team of eight. The Humble ISD school board is, without question, a strong team of eight due to Dr. Sconzo’s leadership and interaction with the board. Communication is always open and there are never surprises. We share in the many successes of Humble ISD and, most importantly, do not shy away from the tough conversations. When required, they are always done so in a respectful manner with every voice heard.”

“While managing Humble ISD, Dr. Sconzo never lost sight of the ultimate goal of advancing student achievement,” Rushing said. “What makes him unique is his relationships with people. He is the most genuine individual you will ever meet. He is all in on relationships and can be counted on to follow through with his commitments. You can trust that Dr. Sconzo’s heart is in the right place and that decision-making is based on what’s best for the children of Humble ISD.”

While many focus on Sconzo, the leader, District E City Council Member Dave Martin, a former 10-year trustee, focused on Sconzo, the person.

“Other than my father, Dr. Sconzo is the finest man I’ve ever known; a wonderful husband, father and grandfather, and remarkable friend,” said Martin. “His compassion for kids, cooperative nature, leadership, ability to bring people together, are traits he embodies second to none. We are forever indebted to Diane and Guy for making our district a great place to educate kids, but I will always be indebted to Guy Sconzo for showing me how to treat people and for making me a better man. Guy Sconzo is the best!”

“There are many months of important work ahead,” Sconzo said, “so it’s too early for good-byes. I do want to thank the many school trustees I’ve worked with for the support and opportunity they gave me to live a very real blessing in my career.”

Sconzo said he will most miss the smiles and greetings from the best educators, staff and children in the best largest school district in Texas.

And what about that first day of his retirement?

“I’m thinking an early round of golf followed by playtime with my grandchildren would be the best first day I could have,” said Sconzo.

Tribune owner and editor Cynthia Calvert also praised Sconzo’s record.

“When Guy was announced as the new superintendent, in preparing to write a story, I made calls to Oklahoma City and was very, very pleased to hear the glowing comments made. And they all came true! Not only has he made a significant, dramatic difference in the lives of everyone in the district, he set a tone of open, genuine care. That is so very rare. And somehow he served without arrogance. Unique,” said Calvert.

Sconzo will actually retire approximately one year from now, effective Dec. 31, 2016. He wanted to give the board more than sufficient time to search and decide the next superintendent. His last day as superintendent will be the day before a new superintendent reports to work. On that day, and through Dec. 31, 2016, he will then serve as a transition consultant to the board and the new superintendent.

TEA ANALYSIS BLAMES TEACHERS FOR FAILING PARK LAKES

By B.R. Kimbro

November 25, 2015

At its Nov. 10 meeting, the Humble Independent School District school board approved an improvement plan for the district’s single campus that failed to meet the Texas Education Agency’s accountability rating standards for 2015.

Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo recommended that the board of trustees approve an improvement plan for Park Lakes Elementary School, which was given the lowest possible TEA rating of “Improvement Required,” formerly “Academically Unacceptable,” when the state released the academic accountability ratings Nov. 10.

The plan addresses the root causes – areas of insufficient performance – primarily citing deficient teachers at the elementary school.

Park Lakes Elementary, located on Wilson Road near Beltway 8, opened in 2006 and met TEA’s standard until this year. All other Humble ISD campuses received a TEA rating of “Met Standard.”

“When a campus is rated ‘Improvement Required’ in the state accountability system, Title 19 Texas Administrative Code stipulates that a campus intervention team composed of a professional service provider, district coordinator of school programs and the campus leadership team develop and submit to the board of trustees for approval a targeted improvement plan to

address the areas of insufficient performance,” said Sconzo. “Student performance on the state assessment areas of reading and writing are addressed in the target improvement plan.”

The analysis summary of the improvement plan indicates educators at the elementary school are not using data effectively in lesson planning. The report states there is a “lack of consistent data and the knowledge of how to disaggregate it. Teachers need training in planning for and in the implementation of guided reading. Administrators and ALTs will monitor guided reading implementation in all grade levels for consistency and fidelity.”

The report also states teachers need to be trained on how to plan for and implement Writer’s Workshop, which consists of planning, revising, editing and conferencing.

Prior to 2013, TEA standards were assigned with the ratings of “recognized,” “academically acceptable” and “academically unacceptable.” The new rating system only states whether a campus met the state’s standards, an alternative standard or requires improvement. Under the new system, academic performance is based on four indexes focusing on student achievement, progress, closing performance gaps and postsecondary readiness.

The next Humble ISD school board meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at 20200 Eastway Village in Humble.

HUMBLE SCHOOL BOARD INCREASES ARCHITECT FEE, HIRES CFO

By B.R. Kimbro

October 28, 2015

The Humble Independent School District board of trustees approved a 1 percent pay increase to the architect firm designing the district’s ninth middle school and hired a new chief financial officer at its Oct. 13 meeting.

In March, the board voted to pay \$1.36 million to Kingwood-based Joiner Architects to repeat their 2010 design of Woodcreek Middle School for Middle School No. 9, which is scheduled to open next school year in The Groves near West Lake Houston Parkway. However, according to Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo, plans for the new middle school changed after special committee meetings and workshops took place in August. These meetings give an opportunity for high-level administrators or other direct reports to present information to the board or to provide trustees with updates on current programs or initiatives.

The collaboration accumulated in an extra \$390,000 in construction costs for Middle School No. 9, totaling \$1.76 million, representing 4.5 percent of the total \$39 million construction cost.

“After several meetings with staff, the board building and planning committee, and the board of trustees workshop held on Aug. 18, the design for Middle School 9 has evolved beyond a total repeat design,” said Sconzo. “Approval of this recommendation at this time will facilitate continued progress according to the planned project timeline and will authorize Joiner Architects to proceed to the construction document phase of the project.”

The approximately 204,000-square-foot middle school will have a functional capacity for 1,050 middle school students.

Also at the meeting, the board appointed a new chief financial officer, Robert Michael Seale, following the retirement of former CFO Lynn Lynn.

Seale, who holds bachelor’s degree in business administration from Baylor University and a master’s degree in educational leadership from Stephen F. Austin, has more than 19 years of experience at Fort Bend ISD, Galena Park ISD, Forney ISD and Birdville ISD.

The Humble ISD board of trustees meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month at the Administration Building located at t

20200 Eastway Village in Humble.

HUMBLE ISD MOVES FORWARD WITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 28

By B.R. Kimbro
September 16, 2015

The Humble Independent School District board of trustees reconfirmed its expansion campaign at its Sept. 8 meeting, authorizing architect firm PBK Architects to design the district's 28th elementary school.

The approximately 111,000-square-foot school will be a replication of Humble ISD's Ridge Creek Elementary School, which was opened last year and designed by PBK. The facility is designed for 950 students from pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade.

"It is a repeat of Ridge Creek Elementary and it has just proven to be a phenomenal elementary school design for us," said Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo.

The new elementary school is slated to open in The Groves off West Lake Houston Parkway south of Summerwood.

Trustee Brent Engelage said the building and planning committee already had a meeting with developers for acquiring land for Elementary School 29 on Sept. 9 as well as a new high school.

"We had a lively meeting last week, the land and purchase negotiations are almost complete for the new high school, 105 acres should be done in about a week or two," Engelage said.

Also at the meeting, the board approved extending the district's contract with TexanLive.com to stream live video recordings of school board meetings and to make the videos available to the public through a link posted on the district website. The agreement puts the district in compliance with House Bill 283, which was passed in June. The bill requires all Texas school districts with more than 10,000 students to make video recordings of school board meetings available online.

"While Humble ISD voluntarily began video recording more than a year ago, the 84th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 283," said Sconzo. "This bill requires elected boards of trustees for school districts with 10,000 or more students to video record regularly scheduled open board meetings."

Since April 2014, the vendor has provided live streaming and recordings of Humble ISD school board meetings. According to the district, the videos have been viewed online by more than 3,300 visitors.

The public can access the videos through a link posted on the Humble ISD website.

TexanLive.com is owned by Texan GMC Buick owner Bert Brocker.

The next school board meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 20200 Eastway Village in Humble.

HUMBLE ISD APPROVES NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

By B.R. Kimbro

August 5, 2015

The Humble Independent School District Board of Trustees approved its Discipline Management Plan and Student Code of Conduct for the 2015-16 school year at its July board meeting.

With the exception of five changes, the majority of edits to the plan were minor.

Included in the plan is a new section that was added and references board policy for clarification on student right to not self-incriminate.

“In an effort to clarify district practice and policies, as well as comply with state-mandated changes, revisions have been made to the 2015-2016 Discipline Management Plan/Student Code of Conduct,” said Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo. “Input was obtained from district administrators so as to ensure the necessary changes were identified and incorporated into the [plan].”

According to a new section in the plan, administrators, teachers and other professional personnel may question a student regarding the student’s own conduct or the conduct of other students. In the context of school discipline, the plan states, students have no claim to the right not to incriminate themselves.

Also in the plan are “Rights & Responsibilities” sections for parents, students and teachers. These are all new sections recommended by assistant superintendents and require parents to submit a signed statement that they understand and consent to the responsibilities in the plan.

The board also approved an interlocal agreement with Crosby ISD to provide Alternative Educational Program services to eligible students at the Community Learning Center. Crosby ISD will pay the district \$186,000 plus additional fees for services for the 2015-16 school year.

At the next board meeting Aug. 11, the board will vote on a proposed local policy specifically guiding and governing the planning for bond referendums.

According to the proposed policy, when voter authorization for a bond referendum for new capital resources is required, a comprehensive facility study will be initiated and led by the assistant superintendent of Support Services to identify capital projects associated with infrastructure and facilities.

“I do want to highlight that there is no legal requirement for a board of trustees to adopt a local policy governing bond referendum planning,” said Sconzo. Knowing that [a bond referendum] is definitely in our future because of our student growth, we thought it wise to establish a governing policy for the district to function under, by way of expectations for preparing and having specific work completed and reviewed by the board prior to the board ever considering about a referendum.”

HUMBLE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, OFFICERS

By B.R. Kimbro

June 17, 2015

The Humble Independent School District Board of Trustees bid farewell to its president and appointed a new one at its June 9 meeting.

Former Board President Robert Scarfo, who held Position 7 since 2008, passed the gavel to Trustee Robert Sitton during the meeting.

Scarfo spoke at length about his experiences on the board.

“It’s been a real privilege and honor to serve on this board and for this district for the last seven years,” he said. “My campus visits with our students and staff have always been a great deal of fun. But more importantly, it’s also been a great opportunity to see the learning going on at these campuses. It’s always made a great impression on me,” said Scarfo.

“For the seven years that you have been a trustee, I think the best way I can kind of characterize the myriad of issues, challenges, and problems and successes that you were very much a part of, for me, they would range from being chairman of the board Legislative Committee the year the district had to take a \$24 million cut, from that to serving as the board president the year Humble ISD was named the top large school district in the State of Texas, to the year you served as board president,” Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo said of Scarfo. “It’s been quite a ride.”

Scarfo lost his re-election bid May 9 to former school teacher Nancy Morrison, who was sworn in as the newest board member during the meeting.

“I just want to say ‘thank you’ to all the voters who have confidence in me,” Morrison said. “I look forward to the challenge and I look forward to working on the school board.”

The board also voted Keith Lapeze as vice president and Angela Conrad as secretary. Acting as president, Sitton appointed Heath Rushing as parliamentarian.

HUMBLE ISD TO ADOPT NEW BOUNDARY POLICY

By B.R. Kimbro

May 20, 2015

The Humble Independent School District revealed the first-ever local policy consideration governing changes to school boundaries at its May 12 board of trustees meeting.

The proposed policy, which will be voted on at the June board meeting, would limit student transfers and give the board the discretion to make changes to school attendance areas.

According to Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo’s recommendation, the purpose of establishing a local board policy governing school attendance areas is to disclose and provide goals, criteria and general procedures for effecting school boundary changes.

Although the proposed policy states that school attendance areas shall be kept as stable as possible, Sconzo said there is no guarantee some neighborhoods will not be re-zoned.

“With rapid growth going forward, it’s not a criteria that I can say is absolute, that every neighborhood will be able to stay together attending a certain elementary school, middle school, or high school, but that is a very sincere legitimate goal,” Sconzo said.

“The other problem with that, the term neighborhood is a very relative term. Many definitions get applied to that, depending on the individual viewing, their perception of what is the ‘neighborhood.’ Is it the subdivision, is it the development, is it my square block ... but I do think that as a stated goal it’s something that we will try to accomplish.”

Another purpose of the proposed policy is to limit transfers consistent with district transfer policies.

“I’ve gotten a lot of calls, especially from parents at Woodcreek, with the number of transfers already this year, that are coming from Humble Middle School,” said Trustee Charles Cunningham.

Sconzo said he would not recommend putting any restrictions on certain transfer situations, including employees' children.

"Recognize that employees' children have been and I would recommend continue to be given the option to attend any school that the employee chooses to enroll that child," Sconzo said.

"In my mind, that has everything to do with, at least our employees, putting them in a place where a parent can be working at a place physically closest to where their child is going to school," said Sconzo. "That's an area of transfers that I would not recommend putting any restrictions. There is also a number of transfers that occur for very necessary and legitimate reasons as it relates to the child or children involved in a situation. Again, I would not recommend holding back on those kinds of transfers. However, in a period of rapid growth, any other kinds of transfer requests need to be and work toward being tighter about approvals."

HUMBLE ISD BOARD CANDIDATES FACE OFF FORUM

By Susan McFarland

April 22, 2015

Keith Lapeze opened the Humble ISD Board Candidates Forum held April 9 with his thoughts on the importance of the upcoming election, which will confirm his board position and determine who will sit in two of the other board positions for the next four years.

"Whoever is elected next month will be responsible for making the most important decision a school board can make, and that is hiring a new superintendent. In the next four years, Dr. Sconzo will retire, and we will have to replace him. That decision will affect this district for the next dozen years or more, at a crucial time where we have significant growth," said Lapeze.

Humble ISD is projected to increase by 10,000 to 12,000 in the next decade, resulting in up to six new schools being built between 2017 and 2022.

While Lapeze, who has served on the board since 2006, is unopposed for re-election, existing board members Heath Rushing and Robert Scarfo face opposition. For Position 7, current board president Scarfo is running against veteran Humble ISD employee Nancy Morrison. For Position 6, current board member and Memorial Hermann Northeast CEO Heath Rushing will face Dr. Johnny R. O'Connor Jr. Positions on the school board are held for a four-year term and are filled under a predetermined staggered election schedule.

The forum began with a short summary from each candidate as to their qualifications and desire to sit on the Humble ISD board.

Position 6 incumbent Rushing was first elected to the board in 2013, filling the position vacated by Houston City Councilman Dave Martin. Rushing said he has lived in the community for eight years and initially ran for the school board because his mission in life is to build "family, work and community balance" and noted his mother was a teacher and his wife, Sara, was also a kindergarten teacher.

Rushing discussed some of the accomplishments he is most proud of as a board member and said he is particularly proud of improvements made in accountability.

"The first meeting I got to attend as a board member was the superintendent evaluation process. I learned a lot about the district, but most importantly, learned that we were a little fragmented. We had a lot of expectations but were not very focused. As part of an effort, and through some recommendations I made, we have made a much more focused effort in the superintendent evaluation process and goals are now streamlined across the district to help hold everyone on the same page

accountable to the results we want to achieve. Fifty percent of that is based on student achievement.”

Rushing graduated from Texas A&M University and holds a masters degree in healthcare administration.

Position 6 Candidate O’Connor said his desire to run for school board stems from his interest in the safety and success of all students and said he was raised by a long line of educators who motivated and instilled in him the desire to give back to his community. O’Connor briefly laid out his platform to include “four main points: school safety, quality workforce, fiscal responsibility and quality academics.”

O’Connor works as a school support officer for Houston ISD and as a professor at Lamar University and has received multiple degrees over the years, including a Ph.D. in educational human resource development from Texas A&M University, masters degrees in education and business and a bachelors degree in speech pathology from Texas Southern University in Baton Rouge.

O’Connor lives in Summerwood with his wife, Kendra, and their two daughters.

Position 7 incumbent Scarfo has served on the board since 2008 and currently serves as the board president. Scarfo said he is proud to have served as the finance chair for the board for the last three years.

“For the last two fiscal years, we have had balanced budgets to start the school year. At the same time, when you look back three years ago, we were dead last in terms of teacher pay, as compared to the 14 other districts we compare ourselves to, who we compete with for talent. We as a board decided something needed to be done, and something was done and we have moved to sixth place [among the same group]. We injected over \$20 million into the last two school years into additional compensation, not just for teachers, but for the entire staff. We have to stay competitive to attract and retain the most talented people to our district, because at the end of the day, high quality teachers have the biggest impact on student outcome,” said Scarfo.

He also spoke about the savings received from refinancing bonds and about his push to increase and update technology in the district.

Scarfo is director of credit services for Insperty. He lives with his wife, Jayme, in the district.

Position 7 candidate Morrison recently retired, but has more than 30 years of service with Humble ISD, beginning as a teacher at Humble Elementary and advancing to become assistant principal and later principal of Foster Elementary, principal of Pine Forest Elementary for 23 years and finishing her career as principal of Lakeshore Elementary for five years.

Morrison said she has chosen to run for the board because she believes in quality education for every student in the district.

“I know we will deal with growth, finances, boundaries and appointing a new superintendent. I think it’s very important that someone with an educational background be on the board,” she said.

Morrison lives in the district with her husband of 46 years.

Registered voters may participate in early voting from April 27 to May 1 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and May 4 to May 5 from 7 a.m.-7p.m. at Humble City Hall, the Humble Instructional Support Center (4810 Magnolia Cove Drive, Kingwood) or the Humble ISD Administration Building (20200 Eastway Village Drive, Humble). On Saturday, May 9, voters must vote at one of the six polling sites, based on their precinct, which can be found at humbleisd.net/boardelections.

The following websites have information about individual candidates:

rushingforschoolboard.com

voteconnor.com.

robertscarfo.com.

nancysmorrison.wordpress.com

BOARD MEMBERS AT ODDS OVER STADIUM NAMING

By B.R. Kimbro

March 25, 2015

Politics and policy were up for debate at the Humble ISD school board meeting March 17.

Board members were divided in opinion regarding the district's local policy on naming facilities. The item on the agenda which sparked the debate, a recommendation to rename Humble High School's baseball field after the brother of a trustee and current head coach David Sitton, drew opposition from board members Charles Cunningham and Angela Conrad.

Cunningham and Conrad voted against Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo's recommendation that the board approve the naming of the high school's baseball field after David Sitton.

"We've had several discussions and I'm still in agreement. As far as the naming rights go, period," said Cunningham.

"It has nothing to do with individuals, we are out of compliance. It's a policy issue. My main thing is I can't expect employees to follow policy if the board cannot follow policy."

Trustees Robert Scarfo, Brent Engelage, Heath Rushing and Robert Sitton approved the action while Keith Lapeze was absent. All board members present at the meeting spoke on the issue, except for Robert Sitton, David Sitton's brother.

"I'm not concerned about setting precedent. I have no second thoughts about supporting the recommendation," said Scarfo.

"I don't agree with [Cunningham's] interpretations of local policy CW. I don't believe we are out of compliance because it is, the key word, at the discretion of the board.."

Rushing and Engelage both said they understood Cunningham's argument, but they supported the renaming of the field.

"I understand completely where we're at with the issues and problems, and I hope that doesn't overshadow the fact that he's well-deserved, so I'm going to vote for it," Engelage said.

"I have a slightly different view just because I do believe there is some level of interpretation, and that it is at the discretion of the board," said Rushing.

The policy in question states that naming facilities should recognize the importance of community and corporate involvement in education. The board encourages donations to support the construction, renovation or acquisition of property. The board may consider naming new or existing property after major donors at its discretion.

"Look, I respect everybody's opinion but you seem to be getting it wrong," Cunningham said. "We're not supposed to put politics into policy. This is a policy issue with me. It has nothing to do against this individual. I've asked for the policy to be revisited, rewritten and I'm asking again. At this point I am not in agreement with the recommendation as it stands. Now, if you don't think it needs to be changed, then we don't need to change it. It's not politics, it's a policy issue."

HUMBLE ISD PREPARES TO BUILD NEW SCHOOLS

By B.R. Kimbro

February 25, 2015

The Humble Independent School District set in motion the construction of five new schools at its Feb. 10 board of trustees meeting.

In anticipation of an upcoming bond sale, trustees unanimously passed a reimbursement resolution, which allows the administration to proceed in land acquisitions and negotiations using \$250,000 from the district's general operating fund with the intent of reimbursement once the bond closes in May.

"[The Finance Committee] met today, we were planning our bond sale and bond refinance is coming up in the April-May time frame, so that's all in place and we're moving forward on that to kind of duck tail what's happening on the building and planning committee ... as we get ready to start construction, start planning as those things come down," said Board President Robert Scarfo.

The district is planning to issue up to \$106 million in new bonds in April to help purchase land for one high school, one middle school and three elementary schools. The money also accounts for the construction and equipping of Elementary School No. 28 and Middle School No. 9. According to the agenda, the resolution will allow the district to proceed with funding necessary costs associated with the projects.

During closed session, the board authorized Sconzo to finalize negotiations and execute contracts with several landowners for land purchases funded by Bond 2008.

"What the board did this evening was authorize the administration to now proceed to enter into and finalize negotiations for the properties that we are seeking to purchase for new campuses going forward over the next eight years," said Superintendent Dr. Guy Sconzo. "Given that the district is literally in negotiations with property owners, state law protects that information from public view until such time as negotiations are completed and the district enters into a purchase contract."

The district is in negotiations with Crescent LHTX 2012 for the purchase of a 45-acre tract of land located at the planned intersection of Timber Forest Drive and Madeara Run Parkway; KB Homes Lone Star Inc., for the purchase of approximately 15 acres of land located at the planned southwest corner of Lakewood Pines Drive; WP 70 LP, for the purchase of approximately 23.46 acres of land located along the 2300 block of Atascocita Road; and Land Tejas Park Lakes 1023 LP, for the purchase of 155 acres of land along the 13000 block of West Lake Houston Parkway.

"Trustees know full well the landowners that we're in negotiations with and the conditions, and have provided the administration with the parameters for negotiations," said Sconzo. "In other words, authorizing our negotiating and finalizing an agreement is within the parameters defined by the board. It is not an open ticket to negotiate whatever we want."

Also during the meeting, the board approved Party Props Inc., to perform a half-million dollars worth of fireproofing on district theater and stage curtains at several Kingwood campuses.

"Recently, the fire marshal in Houston requested certifications that our theater and stage curtains be fireproofed," Sconzo said. "This fireproofing requirement has not been asked of the maintenance department in the past nine years. We found that the majority of our stage curtains' fire proof certifications expire after 10 years. They expire at the end of January 2015. We are unable to locate documented certification of fireproofing for many of the stage curtains."

The \$516,523 needed for the fireproofing will be funded from a one-time increase to the maintenance department budget for unanticipated repairs.

GYM FLOOR RUINED, BOARD LEARNS

Susan McFarland

January 28, 2015

Water ruined the floor at the Kingwood Park High School practice gym in December. The Humble school board learned at the January board meeting that the incident will cost the district \$100,000 as that is the deductible on district insurance.

The meeting began with a tribute to the board members, in honor of School Board Recognition month. Portraits of the board members, drawn by students of Summerwood Elementary School, were presented, followed by a video prepared by Atascocita High School Audio Visual students and gifts from district FFA students.

It was reported to the board that a fire sprinkler head in the practice gym at Kingwood Park High School was struck by a basketball on December 16, 2014 around 4 p.m., causing it to open and release water on to the wooden floor. The floor quickly flooded with approximately 1 inch of water covering 2/3 of the floor. A flood damage restoration company was called immediately which assisted in extracting the water and drying the floor.

“We were hoping that this would keep damage to a minimum. However, after consultation and review with our insurance adjuster, we were advised that the floor could not be saved and that we needed to replace it,” said Roger Brown, assistant superintendent of support services.

The total cost to remove the existing flooring and replace it is \$126,327. The district is paying \$100,000 of this total cost based on the insurance deductible.

As of Jan. 16, the damaged flooring had been removed. The new flooring arrived on Monday, January 19 and installation should be completed by the end of March, Brown said.

A number of upcoming Humble ISD fundraising events were discussed at the board meeting.

FFA students provided details on the Humble Livestock Show to be held February 4-6, with a buyer's BBQ and live auction at the Humble Civic Center beginning at noon on Friday, February 7. Proceeds of the Livestock Show benefit local FFA chapters and students.

The Humble Golf Classic will be held Monday, February 16, at the Kingwood Country Club and the Deerwood Country Club. Individuals can purchase tickets to play in the tournament for \$100, which includes Kingwood Country Club green fees, lunch and the awards dinner. Tickets to play at Deerwood are on sale for \$800 for a foursome. Proceeds benefit Humble ISD golf teams and athletes.

The upcoming Humble ISD BBQ Cook Off will be held Jan. 30 and 31 and the Rodeo will be held Feb. 6 and 7. The Rodeo will feature performances by Frankie Ballard, Cody Johnson and Kevin Fowler. The BBQ and Rodeo benefit the Humble ISD Education Foundation.

In other business, board member Rober Scarfo provided information on the upcoming bond sale.

He said, “The sale will take place at the end of April, but the process will begin February 9.”

A number of board items were consented to at the meeting, including an exception to elementary class size waiver with the TEA, fees for graduation ceremonies at NRG Park, fees for new walk in freezers and coolers at Bear Branch and Elm Grove elementary schools and the emergency replacement of the gym floor at Kingwood Park High School.

