On this the 23rd day of July, 2003, 12:00 PM, the following persons met at the HISD Administration Building:

Dr. Duffy McBrayer, Chairman  
John Stribling  
Mick Stevens  
Judge Tom Simons  
Jerry Stevens  
Clint Formby  
Rick L. Hanna  
Mike Schueler  
Argelia Alaniz  
David Alvarado  
Judy Detten  
Jeremy Fowler  
Dale Kleuskens  
Raul Mariscal  
Esrael Silva  
Mary Thomas  
Loretta Urbanczyk  
Glynn Yosten  
Mann Rivas  
Suzanne Finch  
Janie Alejandre  
Scott keeling  
Kim Middleton

Absent:  
Richard Saucedas  
Dennis Artho  
Lupe Dominguez  
Linda Gonzalez  
Susan Robbins  
District Judge Roland Saul  
Diego Barela  
Raul Briones  
Brenda Fuentes  
Sandra Maldonado  
Mona Romero

Dr. McBrayer opened the meeting with an invocation given by Judy Detten.

Dr. McBrayer asked Judge Simons and Dr. Mick Stevens to address the issue of the pros & cons of the School vs. the County being appointed the taxing entity.

Judge Simons began the discussion by stating if HISD is chosen as the taxing entity tax relief is granted for persons over the age of 65 which is not the case in the County. If the School is
Mr. Stevens inquired as to whether or not once we set tax entity is it possible to change.

Dr. Stevens stated it would be very hard to do.

The discussion returned to the issue of out of district fees. Dr. Stevens advised the fees would not be substantial, probably less than $50.00 per course. Dr. Stevens advised Dumas gets people from Dalhart.

Dr. McBrayer advised Dr. Joiner stated the fee was $11.00 per hour, which would be $33.00 per 3 hour course. Dr. Stevens advised the cost of a course for WT runs about $390.00 vs. $150.00 to take a community college course.

Mrs. Thomas inquired as to how it will affect voters. She stated the entity selected should create the least amount of controversy possible, whether it is the School or the County chosen.

Dr. Stevens stated it is hard to avoid controversy as there is already controversy on the college.

Mr. Formby inquired as to whether one or the other (School or County) would be more vulnerable.

There followed a discussion on the Petition whether or not the taxing entity was stated on the Petition. In looking at what Dumas did, the Petition does have the taxing entity on it. It would have to have either the Voters of Deaf Smith County or the Voters of Hereford Independent School District.

The question was asked again why Moore County chose the County over the School. It was because by choosing the County, Sunray was included in the taxing base and thereby increased the revenue substantially.

Dr. McBrayer reiterated our income does not make a substantial difference as in the case of Dumas. We must decide which one (taxing entity) will "sell" easier. Mrs. Detten does not want anyone excluded.

Dr. McBrayer advised it is not possible to not exclude someone. The difference is only $33.00 per course for those not in the taxing district - so it would not be a severe economic disadvantage. Financial assistance would be available,

Dr. Stevens stated we have a low-income population — so we would attract grants and aids to help out of district students. Mr. Formby questioned as to whether or not the grants would be very specific. Dr. Stevens advised Walcott only has a very few children living in
their area. Wildorado will go to Amarillo and Walcott students have a Hereford address.

Chairman McBrayer advised we must look at perception. We should be able to work it out and decide which one we can sell. Dr. McBrayer advised the Committee the decision as to who will be the taxing entity must be made before we can go forward and he would like to make the decision today. The School Board or the County Commissioners must approve whichever one is chosen.

The HISD governing body will remain the same for the next two years.

City Manager Hanna advised bond issues pass more often for schools as people are more inclined to sponsor financial hardship for the education of their children. The School could sell easier.

Lt. Silva made the motion to appoint the School as the taxing entity, Mr. Keeling seconded the motion and a vote was taken. Asst. D. A. Fowler, Mrs. Detten, and Mrs. Thomas were opposed. All other members present voted to approve the 1-JISD as the taxing entity.

Dr. McBrayer asked to hear any serious objections so they may be addressed and discussed. He called for any significant problems to be heard. There was none. The majority ruled and the HISD will be asked to serve as the taxing entity.

Dr. Stevens will go to the School Board at the next meeting for approval.

Mr. Formby will need to meet with the Liaison Committee to present to School Board.

It was asked if we must wait for their approval before the letter of intent can be sent.

On the list of procedures for establishing a branch college it states step number two is the Steering Committee jointly with a community college file a Letter of Intent with the Coordinating Board Commissioner.

Mr. Formby asked if it was presumptuous to think the School Board will accept. Dr. Nick Stevens advised the School Board will be notified today and it will be put on the formal agenda. What we voted on today was
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$10,000,000 difference in tax base between the County and the School. Judge Simons stated he does not think the Community has a preference. But, the County would be willing to assume the responsibilities if chosen to be the taxing entity.

Dr. Mick Stevens concurred with Judge Simons. He agreed there is not much difference in tax base when you look at exemptions.

Dr. Mick Stevens stated the School would be willing to do it as they are in the education business and understand what all is involved in being the taxing entity. He stated the School is the logical choice.

There followed a discussion on what role the School Board would assume if the School was chosen as the taxing entity. Dr. Stevens stated the School Board would only be involved to the degree of fiscal responsibility, not in the decisions of where and what would be offered at the Branch College.

There would be a Board set up to oversee. It would be an Advisory group to the Amarillo College Board.

Dr. Joiner had addressed this issue when he was here last time by saying the AC Board would be foolish not to respond to the local advisory board.

There is not much difference in the dollar figures. With a 5 cent tax, approximately $300,000 would be generated by School or County. There is not a big difference in county size. Approximately 200 voters difference between the County and the School. Approximately 275 registered voters fall outside the County. It would require an out of district fee for those wanting to take courses not within the taxing district. Dr. Stevens advised Walcott students not a big issue as they have a Hereford address and may not be considered as being out of district. The Hereford Schools do take in part of Castro County.

Mr. Jerry Stevens asked if there would be a fee charged for the facility. Dr. Mick Stevens advised it could come to leasing, but not a problem. We would be generating $300,000 initially, but the spending would not be as much to begin with if the College Branch was housed in an existing facility. He stated the old J. C. Penney building would be ideal place. For example, we could use money to re-do. But, for now we can use School facilities at no cost probably. It makes sense not to leverage dollars initially.
for **HISD** to assume the duties of the taxing entity as it must still go before the school board.

Dr. McBrayer called for individual Committee reports.

Some of the Committees have not met yet. Liaison has not met. Feasibility. Dr. Stevens has a booklet they put together three years ago. He had it on disk. We could use it and make appropriate changes. It meets the Higher Education Board requirements. Student surveys will be given to Grades 9–12. We will have approximately 98% participation. Also, survey of businesses to see what they are looking for in a branch college. The feasibility Committee will meet as soon as possible and start compiling information. Dr. Stevens advised he also has the capability to do on-line surveys. This was put together for exact same purpose, just a different place. Mr. Kleuskens asked if we can give survey to ingoing High School seniors.

Dr. Stevens advised we can do survey for grades 9-12 as well as Dirrnitt, Friona and possibly Bovina. School starts here August 18, 2003. The survey will only take five minutes to do and he will get the maximum amount of students possible to take it. They can sit at a computer and take the survey on-line, so we can have instant data. We should have numbers from surveys completed by October. Dr. Stevens stated we need to do some legwork on this to get some initial feedback.

Mr. Rivas stated the Texas Workforce Commission would have twelve computers available. They could offer survey on-line to their clients. Dr. Stevens advised the survey could be done on-line by accessing their website.

Mr. Stribling advised the Finance committee did not meet. A lot of people do not realize the cost is only $50 per $100,000 of valuation.

Dr. Stevens advised the recent reappraisals could cause problems. We could wait till March or April to look at the atmosphere of the Community. Have 30 days before election to decide. May 7, 2004 would be an ideal time but could make the decision later.

Mr. Jerry Stevens advised the last day to order an election is March 1. Must file 60 days before.

Mr. K].euskens asked on the 5 cent tax, do we go for the maximum.
Mr. Stribling stated it would be a mistake not to do. Dr. Stevens suggested we must look at the mitigating circumstances.

Mr. Kleuskens stated the Community perception is a lot of it.

Judge Simons agreed with Mr. Kleuskens. We could do a lesser tax of four cents instead of five cents. For example, if $240,000 is enough to fund, then do the four cents instead of the five cents. Then the perception is we are trying to help by doing the lesser amount.

Dr. Stevens stated if we do the three cents initially, it would take care of the needs to begin with if we use an existing facility. However, we must be careful not to put ourselves in the position, where we cannot raise enough revenue. We must look at three to four years down the road. It is much easier to come down on the tax rate than to go up.

Judge Simons stated we do not need to “rat hole” funds.

Mr. Formby suggested we are getting ahead of ourselves. We need to know how much we need before we decide what tax rate should be.

Chairman McBrayer advised the Finance Committee can address.

Mr. Kleuskens has already had questions from farmers.

Mr. Keeling advised the only response to inquiries should be we will only go with what we need and be prudent with it.

The Finance committee should talk to Dumas and Amarillo College to try to come up with a cost before the decision is made on the tax amount.

Judge Simons stated the Publicity/Public Relations Committee met. He received a brochure from Dumas. They discussed town hall meetings and various other ways in which they think they can do some things to be helpful in promoting the Branch College.

Mr. Jerry Stevens spoke to David Ruland. On the Petition, 418 names would be the minimum required. Mr. Stevens felt we need more than the minimum we
petition and brochures to educate as many people as possible. Mr.
Stevens also spoke to the Texas Secretary of State Office, Election
Division on Petition requirements. In order to do a May election,
March 1 would be the last day to order. January 1 would be last time
to get petition out.

Must know the tax rate before we get the Petition out.

Chairman McBrayer advised a lot of things must happen concurrently
to get all this going. Need Letter of Intent, tax rate, brochures
and petition. Two weeks seems too short a time frame to allow the
Committees to get what they need to get done before meeting again
with the Steering Committee.

The Finance Committee would need to look at cost of facilities. Dr.
Stevens advised if use a school facility, the School just tries to
break even on the deal. The Finance Committee would also need to
look at funding sources.

The Liaison Committee would need to get with Amarillo College.

The Finance Committee may also need to get with Amarillo College.

Chairman McBrayer set the next meeting date for the
Steering Committee as a month from today, August 20,
2003.

We can design a brochure, Judge Simons will leave the original (from
Dumas) with Mrs. Finch to make copies for the Committee Members.

Mr. Jerry Stevens will look at least possible amount needed to make
it run -taking into account the tax rate cannot be more than a
maximum of 5 cents and trying to keep it as low as possible.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15pm