

**COLEMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
and  
NOVICE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**Special Joint Meeting**

The Board of Trustees of the Coleman Independent School District and the Novice Independent School District met Monday, July 2, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the Coleman Varsity Gymnasium, 2400 S. Concho Street, Coleman, Texas for a special joint meeting.

Present: Coleman ISD board members Sue Sloan, Viki Hambright, Mike Barker, Billy Bledsoe, John Casey.

Novice ISD board members Angela Whittington, Mike Beets, Linda Smith, Kerri Barnett, Bruce Pittard, and Joseph Taylor.

Absent: Coleman ISD board members Mark Martinez and Jody Payne.

Novice ISD board member Tonya Kincaid.

Others Present: Royce Young, Coleman ISD Superintendent; Dale Freeman, Novice ISD Superintendent; Christine Badillo and Haley Turner, attorneys representing the Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green and Trevino, P.C., Attorneys at Law; Amber Hardin, media representative; Ethan Fowler, Abilene Reporter News media representative; 37 community citizens

Recorder: Mary Strickland

Call to Order: Sue Sloan, Coleman ISD Board President, called the meeting to order. Mrs. Sloan introduced members of the CISD Board of Trustees and the Novice ISD Board of Trustees. Mrs. Sloan read the public comment guidelines.

Discussion of the Boards: Dale Freeman, Novice ISD Superintendent, reviewed the events that led up to Novice ISD seeking possible consolidation with Coleman ISD. Mr. Freeman also outlined the process for consolidation. Royce Young, Coleman ISD Superintendent, addressed both boards and assured everyone that regardless of the timeline for consolidation, the students of Novice ISD would be welcome at Coleman ISD and that both boards would work to make certain that all of the students would be able to attend school for the 2012-2013 school year.

Public Comment:

Mike Calk addressed both boards stating that he had wondered why the current Novice students could not just attend the school of their choice if Novice ISD no longer existed. He acknowledged that Mr. Freeman had stated earlier that this was not allowable under current TEA law and that Novice ISD had to consolidate in its entirety. No one else from the public addressed the board.

Presentation by Walsh Anderson regarding possible representation of both Novice ISD and Coleman ISD with respect to possible consolidation, annexation, and/or any additional related matters:

Christine Badillo and Haley Turner, attorneys representing the Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green and Trevino, P. C., Attorneys at Law addressed both boards regarding possible representation of both Novice ISD and Coleman ISD with respect to possible consolidation, annexation, and/or any additional related matters. Both boards would have to consent to multiple representation by Walsh, Anderson, Gallegos, Green and Trevino, P.C. in order for the law firm to continue representing them.

Consideration and possible action by the respective Boards regarding agreement to consent to multiple representation of Coleman ISD and Novice ISD by Walsh Anderson with respect to possible consolidation, annexation, and/or any additional related matters:

Novice ISD board member Mike Beets made a motion to consent to multiple representation of Coleman ISD and Novice ISD by Walsh Anderson with respect to possible consolidation, annexation, and/or any additional related matters. Kerri Barnett seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Coleman ISD board member Viki Hambright made a motion to consent to multiple representation of Coleman ISD and Novice ISD by Walsh Anderson with respect to possible consolidation, annexation, and/or any additional related matters. Mike Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Closed Session:

The Coleman ISD Board, Novice ISD Board, and legal counsel went into a joint Closed Session at 6:43 p.m. under Texas Government Code Section 551.071 to discuss options related to consolidation, annexation, and related legal and procedural issues raised by Texas Education Code Chapter 13. The Board came out of Closed Session and back into Regular Session at 8:00 p.m. with no action taken.

Agreement to Provide Instructional Services to Novice ISD Students:

Kerri Barnett, Novice ISD board member, made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Coleman ISD to provide instructional services to Novice ISD students for the 2012-2013 school year. Bruce Pittard seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Viki Hambright, Coleman ISD board member, made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement to provide instructional services to Novice ISD students for the 2012-2013 school year. Mike Barker seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Closing statements:

Royce Young and Dale Freeman both stated that both boards would move forward to consider pursuing consolidation.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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SUE SLOAN

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VIKI HAMBRIGHT