

Rescinds

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should not go forward."

Stone's speech met with resounding applause, and he turned over the podium to Davis.

"The first thing I need you to know is that I am one of the board's biggest fans and one of the district's biggest fans," Davis said.

He told Stone "it's never been about who's right or wrong - we're beyond that."

Davis also directed a challenge to those who opposed the measure who were in attendance.

"I challenge myself and everyone else here to get involved in everything that's going on in the district - both good and bad," he said. "There is special stuff going on at Bullard schools and we need to keep the momentum rolling."

The board took another vote with Sam Smith making a motion to rescind the decision on taking out-of-district students, with Stone seconding the motion.

It passed unanimously.

At last month's meeting, in a vote of 5-2, with trustees Smith and Doug Dotson opposing the measure, the motion passed opening the doors for students who don't live in the district to attend school in Bullard on a tuition-based basis.

Smith said since that time, he's received several calls and e-mails - almost all opposing the vote.

Stone, who asked the item be placed on last month's agenda, previously said this could open up the doors for high-achieving students living out of the district and enhance the climate of Bullard schools.

"While our primary mission will always be to educate the children who reside in the district, this is very attractive to parents of some high-achieving students who don't live here," Stone said in a telephone interview following the board meeting.

And while during the discussion, BISS Superintendent Jim Wright and trustees agreed everyone is also eyeing population.

"Bullard is going to grow and it's going to peak," Wright said.

Smith, however, never saw this as a long-term idea.

"Once elementary and intermediate population begins to move upward, I'm sure we'll revisit the decision," Smith said at the April meeting.

The school board meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the district administrative office, 1426 S. Houston St.

The public is welcome to attend.

TJC holds a ceremony for 58 associate degree nursing grads

Tyler Junior College presented pins to 53 graduates in the associate degree nursing program during a ceremony on May 9, in Wise Auditorium on the TJC main campus.

Rebecca Seeton, nursing department chair, gave introductions.

TJC President Dr. Mike Metke, Provost Dr. Mark Escamilla and Paul Monagan, dean of allied health and nursing, welcomed the candidates, their families and guests.

Seeton certified the class, presented the candidates and placed their pins.

The graduates recited the Florence Nightingale pledge.

The invocation and benediction was given by graduate nurses Kinde Cameron and Cindy Ward, respectively.

Graduates are: Susan Akin, Henderson; Tiffany Albarran, Tyler; Courtney Allen, Tyler; April Anderson, Lindale; Amanda Dawn Bell, Canton; Ember Benson, Tyler; Brooke Black, Longview; Jamie Bockemuhl, Sulphur Springs; Margaret Booth, Tyler; Anna Bragg, Chandler; Kinde Cameron, Pickton; Kathy Campbell,

Katy; Araceli Carrillo, Tyler; Chrystal Conaway, Tyler; Rebecca Davenport, Jacksonville; Jana Davis, Whitehouse; Lara Gardiner, Rusk; Roy Glover, Whitehouse; Britney Hager, LaPorte; Heather Nicole Head, Whitehouse; Debbie Hubbard, Jacksonville; Melissa Dawn Jernigan, Athens; Karen Kiarie, Tyler; Amber Marie Killmeyer, Tyler; Donna Lynn Littlejohn, Rusk; Matthew Maxwell, Tyler; Beverly Kay McCauley, Lindale; Stephanie McClure, Longview; Kelly McKenzie, Tyler; Barbara McKinney, Tyler; Lisa Dudley Meeks, Jacksonville; Amanda Metcalf, Winona; Kristina Mullican,

Arp; Jennifer Mullings, Lindale; Mitchell Netterville, Jr., Tyler; Teresa Owen, Whitehouse; Stephanie Renee Paul, Jacksonville; Jessica Peek, Quitman; Teisha Touchon Peters, Brownsboro; Cindy Pontius, Lindale; Jennifer Rawlinson, Jacksonville; Jessica Lauren Salinas, Tyler; Sherry Searle, Grand Saline; Chance Seay, Tyler; Kimberly Renae Starling, Jacksonville; Gail Stokes, Sulphur Springs; Ron Swartz, Tyler; Amy Turner, Quitman; Milton Villegas, Jacksonville; Cynthia Ward, Lindale; Maria Ward, Tyler; Johnnie Ware, Tyler; and Amy Winkler, Flint.

Veterans

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ETMC has signed on as the major sponsor for the event -- pledging \$5,000.

"They are a good neighbor to this community," Alexander said.

Last year, in recognition of Armed Forces Day, Alexander, spearheaded a well-attended and spectacular service in recognition of those who've served their country, under the direction of then-president Ray.

This time, it's "Run for a Veteran," and Alexander promises it will be just as magnificent.

"We expect a very large event - something fitting for those who rightly deserve the recognition," Alexander said.

The walk portion begins at 11 a.m. May 17 in the Brookshire's parking lot.

The run starts at 12:30 p.m.

Both will take the same route - which is where again, Alexander is asking for community support.

"We'd like to see businesses and homes - not just along the route - but across the city - decorated in a patriotic theme," he said.

The route will leave Brookshire's and travel down Lynch Dr. to 2493. From there the groups will go through the park, to Third St., left on Ralson, left on Ella, right on Hickory, where they will then cross FM 344 and do an "honor lap," around the track of the middle school.

Alexander said the money raised will benefit both veterans and the Bullard chamber.

"Any chance we get to honor these great men and women is a good thing for them and the community," Ray said.

The Rev. Donnie Baron and Bullard resident and Darren Davis, both veterans, have agreed to organize the veterans, and they are looking for participation.

"We are asking veterans to call Darline McKay to sign up," Alexander said. McKay may be reached at 903-894-4001.

"We want to show them that Bullard supports what they have done for us," Davis said.

At last year's Armed Forces ceremony, Davis and fellow pilots did a flyover with their planes to cap off the ceremony.

"It was well received, and we appreciate John asking us to do it," he said.

Following the run, closing ceremonies will be held at 1 p.m. at Panther Stadium at Bullard Middle School.

"This is an all-weather event," Alexander said, adding that in case of inclement weather the closing ceremonies will be held inside the gymnasium.

Boy Scout Troop 366 will be on hand for the flag ceremony, but - as usual for Alexander - he's tight-lipped about what else is in store.

Jack Rain and Justin Lee are slated to speak. The public is encouraged to attend closing ceremonies - even if they don't participate in the walk.

Tom Perryman from The Ranch will emcee the event.

Prizes will be awarded for first place walking team, first-third place for runners, awards for most patriotic decorated house and another for most patriotic decorated business.

"Let's make Bullard Red, White and Blue on May 17," Alexander said. "We want other Texans to see who we are and what we represent."



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