

**MINUTES OF THE WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**239<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

The Windham School District Board (WSD) of Trustees met in session on Friday, March 30, 2007, at the Omni Hotel in Austin, Texas.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Christina Melton Crain, Chairman  
Pierce Miller, Vice Chairman  
Adrian Arriaga  
Oliver Bell  
Greg Coleman  
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Patricia A. Day  
Pastor C. L. Jackson  
Thomas Mechler

**WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Debbie Roberts, Superintendent  
David McNutt  
Mike Mondville  
Bob Evans

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brad Livingston, TDCJ Executive Director  
Melinda Bozarth

**CONVENED**

Christina Melton Crain, Chairman, called the meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Friday, March 30, 2007, at 11:14 a.m. in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Crain stated that during the meeting, the Board would be conducting business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register. A quorum of the Board was present and the 239<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board was declared open.

Chairman Crain reported that the Board was committed to providing the opportunity for public testimony on topics posted on the meeting agenda, as well as public comments on issues within its jurisdiction as provided for in Board Rule 300.1. Persons interested in providing testimony or comments at the meeting were required to complete a registration card and submit it at least ten (10) minutes prior to the meeting's posted start time. As no cards were received for either testimony or comments, the Board would not hear public input on agenda topics or comments during the public comment portion of the meeting.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Crain called the Board's attention to the Consent Items on the agenda (Attachment A), which consisted of the minutes of the October 26, 2006, meeting, appraisers for the 2006-2007 school year, multiple employment requests, personal property donations and approval of excused absences

Chairman Crain asked if there were any amendments or objections to the Consent Items. Noting that there were none, she stated that the Consent Items were approved as presented.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. **Approval of Proposed New Board Rule, Title 19, Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 300.3 Concerning Employment Referral Services for Offenders and the Memorandum of Understanding (19 TAC 300.3)**

Michael Mondville, WSD General Counsel, presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Project RIO (Re-Integration for Offenders). The parties involved are the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Texas Youth Commission (TYC) and the WSD. All concerned parties have reviewed and approved the MOU.

Chairman Crain asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, she asked for a motion and a second.

*Adrian Arriaga moved that the Windham School District Board of Trustees approve for publication in the Texas Register the proposed rule 300.3 concerning Employment Referral Services for Offenders and the Memorandum of Understanding (Title 19 TAC § 300.3) for 30 days to receive public comment as presented.*

*Pierce Miller seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.*

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Debbie Roberts, WSD Superintendent, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Evaluation of the WSD Career and Technology Education Programs that was submitted to the Legislature by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). A copy of the executive summary of this report was distributed to members prior to the meeting.

H.B. 2837 was passed during the last legislative session and required WSD, in coordination with the LBB, to conduct an evaluation of the WSD's vocational program. The legislation identified the requirements of that evaluation, to include the type of services or training that was provided; the kind of employment the person obtains after release and whether that employment is related to the training they received; the difference in the amount of the persons earnings on the date of employment following release and then one (1) year after release to determine if the salary had increased; and finally, the retention factors associated with employment.

In order to conduct the evaluation, WSD reviewed the records of 64,364 offenders who were released between April 2004 and March 31, 2005. From those, approximately 31,000 were excluded for a variety of reasons, to include being released on a detainer or not having a valid social security number and, as a result, unable to be matched with employment data provided by the TWC. In order to isolate the impact of educational programs, offenders that had participated in intensive treatment programs and/or offenders who had participated in vocational training but did not have a completion of that training on record were also excluded. Because of these exclusions, 32,935 offenders were actually included in the study. Of that total, 4,747 completed vocational training.

Results of the study revealed that vocationally trained offenders were employed at a greater rate than offenders who were not trained through WSD. Of the vocationally trained offenders who gained employment, approximately 66%, or two (2) out of three (3), were actually employed in an area that was related to their training. The average salary difference for an offender who completed vocational training was \$1,331.00 compared to those who did not complete vocational training, which was \$1,053.71. This information was based on offenders being employed for three (3) consecutive quarters. Overall, vocational completers fared better in all comparisons than offenders who did not complete vocational training.

Ms. Roberts noted that this was the first evaluation of this type that the WSD has done. The LBB made some suggestions for improvement that will be incorporated in future reports.

Oliver Bell stated that this was a good initial start. He felt that vocational training was one of the best things available within TDCJ to try to impact people's lives after incarceration.

Chairman Crain agreed that this is a great first start and thanked the WSD staff for their work on this project.

Ms. Roberts noted that the Board, prior to this meeting, also received a copy of the executive summary of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) report that was submitted to the Legislature in February 2007. The report is approximately 250 pages long and contains a number of recommendations for which the WSD is evaluating and developing implementation plans. Ms. Roberts remarked that she would like to review this report at the next Board meeting, during an Education Committee meeting, to lay out TEA's recommendations and WSD's plans to respond to those recommendations. Chairman Crain concurred.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Topic was passed as no registration cards were received.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Crain adjourned the 239<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees at 11:30 a.m.