

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

Meeting No. 293

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Friday, April 15, 2016, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Dale Wainwright, Chairman
Terrell McCombs, Vice Chairman
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III, Secretary
Thomas Fordyce
Judge Larry Gist
Pastor Larry Miles
Derrelynn Perryman
Thomas P. Wingate

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eric Gambrell

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent
Paul Brown
Dr. Latreace Craig
Martha Fields
Amy Lopez
Michael Mondville
Mike Vickers
Michael White

CONVENED

Judge Dale Wainwright, Chairman, convened the meeting of the 293rd Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) on Friday, April 15, 2016, at 9:46 a.m. in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the *Open Meetings Act*. During the regular session, the Board conducted business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register. A quorum was present and the meeting was declared open.

Judge Wainwright reported the WSD Board was committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations on posted agenda topics as well as for public comments on issues within its jurisdiction as provided in Board Rule 300.1. As no speaker registration cards were received by the board staff, no public presentations on posted agenda topics or comments within the board's jurisdiction were heard.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Chairman called the Board's attention to the Consent Items on the agenda, which consisted of the minutes of the February 19, 2016, meeting, appraisers for the 2015-2016 school year, a personal property donation and excused absences.

There being no other comments, objections or amendments to the Consent Items, the Consent Items were approved as submitted.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Clint Carpenter, WSD Superintendent, reported that on March 11, 2016, he and Dominguez State Jail Principal Teresa Craiker, along with senior staff from TDCJ, accompanied U. S. Senator John Cornyn on a tour of programs at the San Antonio Food Bank. On the tour, Senator Cornyn was shown the partnership between TDCJ and Windham, which offers training to offenders and gives back to the local communities. The culinary arts program and warehousing training that Windham and TDCJ offer at the San Antonio Food Bank provide opportunities for offenders to learn new skills in high demand in the workforce. The commercial environment that the facility offers gives the offender real and meaningful skill training. Senator Cornyn asked both TDCJ and Windham staff about the jobs available to offenders with this training and was complementary of the close working relationship between TDCJ, Windham and the San Antonio Food Bank which allows this to happen.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD

Chairman Wainwright said the second quarter of the Chairman's Fitness Challenge ended February 28, 2016. Due to its size, Windham is divided into four regions for the competition. The top three competitors were West Texas Region, which earned first place, North Texas Region took second place, and South Texas Region took third place. The total points earned by WSD participants was more than 2.2 million points. Those points are gained by exercise over designated periods of time.

The third quarter challenge is "Too Fit to Quit" and it begins on April 18, 2016, and runs through May 29, 2016. The Chairman encouraged everyone to pledge their commitment to the challenge and the goal of a healthier life style.

On March 1, 2016, Dr. Clint Carpenter, joined by Paul Brown, Director of Finance and Operations and Amy Lopez, Director of Instruction, met with Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath. In this meeting, programs within Windham School District were described to the commissioner, as well as information on performance of the District. It was shared with Commissioner Morath that WSD students show academic gains of over two years for every year in WSD programs. Mr. Morath was told how vocational offerings to the state jail offenders and other short term offenders has been expanded in response to the latest data evaluations of WSD programs. Mr. Morath was impressed with the use of cutting edge data analytics within Windham and encouraged the district to pursue options to bring more technology to the instruction of offenders within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION
REGARDING TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS – SPONSORED MEDIA
HONOR ROLL**

Dr. Carpenter said WSD has been very fortunate this year in media relations, giving the district the opportunity to present Media Honor Roll recognitions to five news organizations. These media organizations made visits to the schools to interview, film and photograph teachers and students during classes. The visitors reported exactly what makes Windham successful in motivating students to obtain an education and the job skills needed to change their lives. Positive, accurate news about WSD appeared in newspapers, on television, and throughout social media, sharing good news about Windham for approximately six months.

The five news organizations and the staff that are being nominated include:

- Nicole Wilcox of The Navasota Examiner; Navasota, Texas
- Johnathan Silver and Neil Cooper of The Texas Tribune; Austin, Texas
- Evan Folan of ABC KVIA – 7; El Paso, Texas
- Tim Chipp and Nellie Doneva of The Abilene Reporter News; Abilene, Texas
- Alecea Rush, Nick Bradshaw and George Levesque of ABC KTXS – 12; Abilene, Texas

Dr. Carpenter said WSD greatly appreciates the time and efforts of these journalists in sharing Windham’s story, and he looks forward to teaming up with the Texas Association of School Boards to honor them later this year. Each journalist will be invited to our Board meeting to meet the WSD Board of Trustees and receive a framed certificate of appreciation. All of their stories have been linked to the WSD website.

Judge Larry Gist moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the resolution regarding the Texas Association of School Boards Media Honor Roll as presented.

Terrell McCombs seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

**OVERVIEW OF THE WSD ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE 2014-2015
SCHOOL YEAR**

Amy Lopez, Director of Instruction, gave an overview of the WSD Annual Performance Report for the 2014-2015 school year. She discussed some of the highlights and accomplishments of the 2015 school year. During the presentation, she also commented on current innovations to expand and improve educational and vocational services.

Some of the highlights included:

- WSD served 60,648 offenders during the 2015 school year.
- 5,194 of the 6,366 offenders who took the High School Equivalency Certificate exam earned their certificate. This is a pass rate of 82%.

- The computerized High School Equivalency Certificate exam is being evaluated in six TDCJ units. This computerized test is not internet based.
- WSD served 32,587 students in life skills programming, which includes CHANGES, Cognitive Intervention and Parenting & Family Wellness.
- The Cognitive Intervention Program and CHANGES curricula are being rewritten in consultation with Dr. Robert Morgan, who is a member of the psychology department at Texas Tech University.
- During the school year, WSD offered 37 Career & Technical Education courses (CTE) and served 10,554 students in these courses.
- CTE students earned 11,183 industry certifications during the school year. Each certification earned is a nationally recognized standard indicating an individual has demonstrated specialized abilities to be successful in a job field.
- To illustrate the emphasis WSD is placing on industry certifications for students, during the 2012 school year there were 5,643 industry certifications earned compared to 11,183 in school year 2015.
- The U. S. Chamber of Commerce lists Texas as the third-fastest growing state in the country for middle-skill STEM jobs. These are occupations that require at least a high school credential, but less than four years of college. They are focused in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Windham is working to help fill this gap by offering courses with industry certifications such as Telecommunications Connectivity, Copper and Fiber Optic Network Cabling, Home Energy Systems, and Home Entertainment Systems.
- WSD will expand educational opportunities for offenders by providing specialized courses during summer school in July 2016. These additional opportunities for students will include courses such as career planning, workplace skills, financial literacy, and parenting skills.

Mr. McCombs was complimentary of the report. He asked why the CHANGES and Cognitive Intervention Program curricula were being rewritten.

Ms. Lopez responded the two existing curricula are similar and have been in place since 1995 and 1996. The goal of the revision is to develop a curriculum which will incorporate a robust assessment instrument to assist with the identification and placement of students, as well as student progress, as they complete the various lessons or modules.

Mr. Tom Fordyce asked if there was a testing program that is used to determine the educational achievement level of the students when they come into the program.

Ms. Lopez explained that WSD uses the Test of Adult Basic Education Assessment (TABE). The test is norm referenced for correctional education as well as for public schools.

Mr. Fordyce asked if WSD had to comply with the STARR testing.

Ms. Lopez responded that WSD does not have to comply with the STARR testing.

Chairman Wainwright thanked Ms. Lopez for her report and for the outstanding job WSD continues to do.

Judge Wainwright thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reminded them that the next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees will be Friday, June 24th, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Austin.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the 293rd meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Chairman*

Secretary*

*Signature on File

Note: Referenced attachments for draft minutes are available upon request. Following approval of the minutes, attachments will be maintained with the signed minutes in the Office of Record.