

Windham School District
Board of Trustees
290th Meeting



Minutes

October 15, 2015

Austin, Texas

WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Courtyard & Residence Inn Marriott – Rio Ballroom
300 East 4th Street
Austin, Texas 78701**

**October 15, 2015
11:00 – 11:45 AM**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Convene Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board)

I. Regular Session

- A. Recognitions
- B. Consideration of Approval of Consent Items
 - 1. Minutes of the August 7, 2015, WSD Board Meeting
 - 2. Excused Absences
- C. Superintendent's Report
- D. Report from the Chairman, WSD Board
- E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding the Annual Review of WSD Board Policy WBP-11.12, "Investment Policy" and Resolution Adopting the Investment Policy (*pages 1-26*)
- F. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Revisions to Windham Board Policy WBP-07.15, "Sexual Misconduct with Offenders" (*pages 27-33*)
- G. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding New Windham Board Policy WBP-07.56, "Employee-Offender Relationships" (*pages 34-39*)
- H. Presentation by Library Staff on Book Studies to Promote Reading

Adjourn WSD Board

The WSD Board may discuss and/or take action on any of the items posted on this meeting agenda. The WSD Board may also convene into Executive Session on any of these matters when attorney-client privilege is warranted.

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

Meeting No. 290

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Thursday, October 15, 2015, at the Courtyard & Residence Inn Marriott, Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent
Jody Addy
Kevin Ainsworth
Toni Beckett
Paul Brown
Dr. Latreace Craig
Martha Estrada
Martha Fields
Brent Frailicks
Bambi Kiser
Jon Lilley
Amy Lopez
Michael Mondville
Keith Morgan
Cindy Renshaw
Karin Ruppelius
Jaclyn Shipley
Mike Vickers
Luke Ward
Michael White

CONVENED

Judge Dale Wainwright, Chairman, convened the meeting of the 290th Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the *Open Meetings Act*. A quorum was present and the meeting was declared open. During the regular session, the Board conducted business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register.

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.

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Wainwright stated that he had been appointed by Governor Greg Abbott as Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and the Windham Board of Trustees. He said it is an honor for the Governor to place that confidence in him and he was excited about the opportunity to serve as the chairman of both boards. He said he looks forward to working with outstanding men and women with incredible accomplishment who have the best interests of the state and Department at heart. He is also excited about working with the entire state and employees to continue to do good things.

Judge Wainwright said that he served on the Supreme Court of Texas for ten years. Prior to that, he was a trial judge in Harris County appointed by Governor George W. Bush. After service on the Supreme Court, he moved back to the private sector and is currently the managing partner of the Austin office of the international law firm of Bracewell and Giuliani. He said he handles appeals, not trial law.

In addition, the governor also appointed two new members to the Board. Tom Fordyce replaced Carmen Hiles, and Derrellynn Perryman replaced Janice Lord. Mr. Fordyce was the Director of Agribusiness, Land and Minerals for TDCJ. He is a rancher and cow/calf operator and hay producer. He served as a commissioner for the Board of Pardons and Paroles and most recently a member of the Trinity River Authority. Mr. Fordyce also served in the U. S. Marine Corp. during the Vietnam War. He currently serves as a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Lone Survivor Foundation and the Huntsville Veterans Advisory Board.

Ms. Perryman brings a vast amount of expertise as a victim service coordinator for the Arlington Police Department, a position she has held since 1994. She has been twice recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for excellence in providing victim services. She also serves as adjunct professor for the School of Social Work in the Criminal Justice and Criminology Department at the University of Texas Arlington. She is a certified peace officer instructor and is a member of the critical incident team of the Arlington Police Department. Ms. Perryman earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from the University of Texas Arlington.

Recognition of the 2015 Lane Murray Excellence in Teaching Honourees

Dr. Clint Carpenter, WSD Superintendent, said it was a pleasure to honor the Lane Murray Excellence in Teaching winner and finalists for the Windham School District. He said teaching behind prison walls can be a challenging task, but these teachers demonstrate tremendous skill and dedication to changing lives through education.

He also welcomed each teacher, family member, friend and Windham colleague who was there to celebrate the achievement. He thanked them for their support and encouragement and told them they were instrumental to the District's success. He also thanked the Wardens and Regional Directors for attending and said they are valuable partners who provide strong support.

Dr. Carpenter informed the Board that they were meeting three of the best teachers in Texas: the Lane Murray 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award winner Jody Addy, and the top two finalists for the honour: Brent Frailicks and Martha Estrada.

This is the seventh time the district has recognized gifted teachers through the Excellence in Teaching initiative, named after Windham's first superintendent, Dr. Lane Murray. These teachers bring lessons alive for their students through carefully planned activities, unique lessons, and a lot of energy. He challenged every teacher in Texas to teach WSD's population with as much success as these individuals. He said they work behind prison walls and help unlock lives. WSD students not only master academic and vocational objectives, but also learn responsibility and develop self-confidence so they can be contributing members to their families and communities.

Dr. Carpenter thanked the Excellence in Teaching Committee for their work in making the final selections of the winner and finalists: Martha Fields, Toni Bechtold, Luke Ward and Bambi Kiser.

Ms. Kiser, chairman of the Excellence in Teaching Committee, stated the principals are the academic leaders working every day to support and encourage amazing teachers. There is no one closer to the instructor, so they were asked to introduce the honourees, revealing why each one is special. They also introduced their wardens and regional administrators.

Jon Lilley, principal of the Cole and Moore units in Bonham, introduced Warden Donna Kazmierczak and thanked her for her support of the education programs on the Moore Unit. He publicly thanked Region II Director Kelvin Scott, who was not in attendance, for his continued support.

Mr. Lilley introduced the North Texas finalist for teacher of the year, Brent Frailicks. Mr. Frailicks is a graduate of Baylor University and is currently working on his master's degree in counselling at Texas A&M University. He has taught the cognitive intervention class for five years at the Choice Moore Unit in Bonham. He has been instrumental in assisting numerous students to change their thinking process through the cognitive curriculum. He sings regularly at the WSD graduations and is an accomplished musician. He has opened for Willie Nelson, Charlie Daniels and Merle Haggard.

Jaelyn Shipley, principal of the Sanchez State Jail in El Paso, recognized Warden Kevin Foley and Region IV Director Joe Grimes. Warden Foley has always been available to encourage the success of the students and teachers at the Sanchez State Jail. Region IV Director Grimes was unable to attend but is always supportive of education.

Ms. Shipley introduced Martha Estrada, South Texas finalist for teacher of the year. She said Ms. Estrada did not come to teaching on the usual path. She first substitute taught in her daughter's pre-kindergarten class when her daughter's teacher was in an accident. This teaching experience influenced her to leave a business career and obtain her teacher certification. Ms. Estrada came to work for WSD in 2008, she teaches GED prep students at the Sanchez State Jail in El Paso. Her high expectations for her students and her enthusiasm contribute to the excellent

GED pass rate at Sanchez. She represents many amazing correctional educators in South Texas. Keith Morgan, principal of the Robertson Unit, introduced Warden Ron Fox of the Robertson Unit. The Region VI Director, Eric Guerrero was unable to attend but sent his regards.

Mr. Morgan introduced the 2015 Lane Murray Excellence in Teaching Award winner Jody Addy. Ms. Addy received a bachelor's degree in English from Sam Houston State University and a master's degree in English from Abilene Christian University. She began her career with WSD in 1995, shortly after the Robertson Unit opened. Most of her 20 year career with WSD has been dedicated to teaching literacy. She has worn a wide variety of hats and is currently serving as the computer lab instructor. Ms. Addy's passion for what she does daily is summed up in her statement: "I believe the cruellest thing you can do to students is to accept excuses for why they can't better themselves. After 20 years, the difference that attaining a GED makes still amazes me. How students stand taller, speak and act more maturely and gain a peace and confidence they have never demonstrated before."

Ms. Addy addressed the Board. She stated that until recently, she was considered the youngest person in the education department at Robertson. The cumulative experience of the staff at Robertson is over 200 years. She thanked everyone for their support and encouragement. She read a poem that she had written that captured the essence of what the teachers and other unit staff do every day.

Dr. Carpenter stated that he had visited Ms. Addy's classroom at the Robertson Unit and was impressed with her dedication and the dedication the students have toward her. He said it is something that can be felt when a person walks in the room, that students enjoy learning from her, and that she inspires them.

Dr. Carpenter said it was an incredibly hard decision that the committee had to make. These teachers represent the finest, not only in WSD teachers, but in teachers in the state of Texas. He thanked them for their hard work and for the opportunities they give the students every day.

Chairman Wainwright congratulated the winner and finalists of the 2015 Lane Murray Excellence in Teaching Award and told them their dedication and commitment was inspiring. What they do every day in WSD classrooms has tremendous impact on the state, he said. "Please let all of the Windham teachers and employees know that the work they are doing to help these men and women change their lives is appreciated," he said in closing.

WSD Employee Service Awards

Chairman Wainwright stated that the Board annually recognizes WSD employees who have dedicated 20, 25 and 30-plus years of service to the State of Texas. These individuals represent the strong commitment of the district staff system-wide. He, along with the rest of the board members and Superintendent Dr. Clint Carpenter, expressed deep gratitude for the continued service of these employees. During the 2014-2015 school year, 41 Windham employees attained 20 years of service, 13 employees attained 25 years of service, one employee attained 30 years of service and one employee attained 35 years of service. The names of these employees will be submitted for inclusion in the official minutes of this board meeting. The Board of Trustees congratulated each of these employees and thanked them for their unwavering loyalty and dedication to the citizens of Texas. As a symbol of appreciation, these individuals will receive a board certificate, along with a personal letter of gratitude. (*Attachment A – Employee Names*)

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 August 7, 2015, meeting 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. Carpenter said he made a presentation to the Texas Board of Pardons and Parole on October 2, 2015, regarding Windham activities to support effective reintegration of offenders into communities after release. The presentation consisted of an update on the expansion of the vocational opportunities and employment partnerships Windham is implementing for this school year. Additionally, the Board of Pardons and Parole was given an update on their request in 2014 to review Windham's practices of supporting opportunities for offenders to reengage in educational programming after a program refusal. The Board of Pardons and Parole was informed that all offenders who have an educational program refusal more than two years ago were counseled by educational staff and encouraged to reapply for educational programming if their ITP called for such. Additionally, those qualified individuals who have been identified with intellectual impairment were offered educational counseling by licensed specialists in school psychology and encouraged to reengage with education. The program was found to be very successful with many students electing to return to educational programs and vocational training. A similar presentation made the following day, October 3, to family members of TDCJ offenders at the annual PACT Conference, was equally impactful. It resulted in many questions and a significant number of family members expressing an awareness of the changes Windham was making and an appreciation for the school district's efforts to reach out to offenders in new ways to help them be successful upon release.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD

Chairman Wainwright stated that on September 10, 2015, Superintendent Carpenter presented the WSD's final agency implementation plan for vocational and academic programming to the Texas Workforce Investment Council's (TWIC) Strategic Implementation and Advisor Council or SITAC. This nine member agency council supports the training and education of a robust workforce for Texas business and industry to keep the state economically competitive both nationally and internationally. This plan officially became part of the Texas five year workforce training plan when it was presented to TWIC in September. This statewide document will be the guide for training of Texas workers when it replaces the Advancing Texas 2010-2015 publication later this fall.

This plan, in which Windham and TDCJ's contribution is significant, is mirrored in the new initiatives Windham has adopted for this academic year. A focus on higher level training in the STEM Careers, such as copper and fiber cabling, electronic switch programming, and other low

voltage industrial training is being expanded this year after successful pilots in 2014-15. Additionally, alignment with higher skills in heavy industry trades and a focus on expansion of practical apprenticeships while incarcerated are being implemented this school year. Combined with industry employment partnerships, TDCJ Reentry, parole and Windham are developing channels to support offenders working in high paying jobs as soon after release as possible. Windham and TDCJ's alignment with statewide employability standards and recognized certifications and State Licensure is bringing success to not only released offenders, but also to the economic growth of our State.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF WSD BOARD POLICY WBP-11.12, "INVESTMENT POLICY" AND RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE INVESTMENT POLICY

Paul Brown, WSD Chief Financial Officer, stated that in accordance with Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code, *Public Funds Investment Act*, and in conjunction with the board's responsibilities as the WSD Board of Trustees, WBP-11.12, "Investment Policy" was being brought to them for annual review. There were minor grammatical revisions to the policy as well as updating the signature authority. He asked for board approval of the policy as presented.

Judge Larry Gist moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the annual review of WBP-11.12, "Investment Policy," and the Resolution Adopting the Investment Policy as presented and that the Chairman and Secretary sign the resolution adopting the policy.

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

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVISIONS TO WINDHAM BOARD POLICY WBP-07.15, "SEXUAL MISCONDUCT WITH OFFENDERS"

Michael Mondville, WSD General Counsel, stated this policy and the next policy on the agenda are being split from the existing policy of WBP-07.15. This contains the policies relating to relationships and sexual misconduct with offenders. The format and the content have been revised to be consistent with TDCJ PD-19 "Sexual Misconduct with Offenders". He asked for board approval of the policy as presented.

Eric Gambrell moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the revisions to WSD Board Policy WBP-07.15, "Sexual Misconduct with Offenders" as presented.

Leo Vasquez seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NEW
WINDHAM BOARD POLICY WBP-07.56, “EMPLOYEE-OFFENDER
RELATIONSHIPS”**

Mr. Mondville stated this policy is the other half of the old policy of WBP-07.15. It is now in its own policy. It incorporates a large portion of the language that was in the old policy. It largely follows TDCJ PD-22 rule 42, Relationship with Offenders. He asked for board approval of the policy as presented.

Judge Thomas Wingate moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the new Windham Board Policy WBP-07.56, “Employee-Offender Relationships” as presented.

Judge Gist seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

Chairman Wainwright stated that the next item regarding a presentation by WSD library staff has been postponed until the December meeting. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated the next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees would be Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Austin.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the 290th meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary

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.

**Signature on file*