

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

Meeting No. 297

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Friday, December 9, 2016, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Hon. Dale Wainwright, Chairman
Terrell McCombs, Vice Chairman
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III, Secretary
Eric Gambrell
Pastor Larry Miles
Derrellynn Perryman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Fordyce
Judge Larry Gist
Thomas P. Wingate

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent
Paul Brown
Dr. Latreace Craig
Amy Lopez
Michael Mondville

CONVENED

Chairman Dale Wainwright convened the meeting of the 297th Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Friday, December 9, 2016, at 11:02 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 recognized Judge Dale Spurgin from Jones County, as an elected official present for the meeting.

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 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 October 18, 2016, meeting, appraisers for the 2016-2017 school year, personal property donations and an excused absence for Judge Larry Gist for the October 18, 2016, meeting due to personal business.

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

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Tarrant County Workforce Partnership

WSD Superintendent Dr. Clint Carpenter and Workforce Administrator Dennis Beal met with the Tarrant County Workforce Board members on November 15. In attendance were Judy McDonald, Director of the Tarrant County Workforce Development Board; Dennis Boyle, member of the Workforce Board and the TDCJ Re-Entry Council; Jill Ackestake, Assistant Director of the Workforce Board of Tarrant County, and Debbie Crabtree, Director of the County Partner Portal for Business and Industry for Tarrant County.

During the meeting, Dr. Carpenter and Mr. Beal provided an overview of the changes in Windham programming and the efforts Windham is making with TDCJ Reentry as a partner to develop employment opportunities for released offenders. The meeting resulted in several agreed areas of cooperation. These include the sharing of corporate industry contacts, development of collaborative processes to assist the workforce board in reintegrating returning offenders, and the use of specific training and application processes Windham can provide to offenders prior to their release.

Dr. Carpenter identified a significant opportunity for Windham to partner with Tarrant County Workforce's grant applications. Windham personnel agreed to cooperate with some components of an upcoming grant application by Tarrant County which would provide specialized training and materials to offenders returning to the Tarrant County service region.

The meeting was very productive and Windham looks forward to a formalized partnership with the Tarrant County Workforce Board in the near future.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD

Federal Bureau of Prisons and the U. S. Attorney General's Office Tour of WSD Education Programs

Chairman Wainwright said on November 8th and 9th, Mr. Paul Vallas, Mr. Paul Pastorek, Ms. Nekia Hackworth, and Ms. Karen Burke, representing both the U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) and states who are reviewing best practices in correctional education programs, toured TDCJ/Windham educational programs.

The group visited the Torres and Dominguez units in the San Antonio area. On the tour, Windham staff members were able to demonstrate teaching techniques and share materials used in instruction and supporting achievement of students. While talking with the visitors, several students shared knowledge gained and expressed support of the teaching quality and methodology of Windham staff.

The visiting group members were impressed with the performance gains of more than two academic years of growth per Windham year of instruction. Additionally, the skills demonstrated in the vocational programs were cited as a best practice by the group. Specifically, the skills gained in the electrical trades and the telecommunications classes were viewed as highly employable and maintaining high levels of student interest.

After the visit, Mr. Vallas, who has extensive knowledge of educational programing having served as the CEO for both the Chicago and Philadelphia public schools, stated that the Windham educational program was superior to any other correctional educational program they have visited. Other members of the DOJ visiting group shared similar sentiments and were complimentary of the dedicated staff of Windham.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
PURCHASES AND CONTRACTS OVER \$500,000**

WSD Chief Financial Officer Paul Brown stated that board approval was being requested for a purchase over \$500,000. WSD recommends awarding the purchase totaling \$566,500 for Odyssey high school software and support to Compass Learning. WSD began using the kindergarten through eighth grade version of the Odyssey software more than a decade ago and has seen great results for the lower level educational students. A pilot of the high school version of this software has been completed and plans are to expand this to the remaining Computer Aided Instruction (CAI) Labs to assist students preparing to earn high school equivalency certification, formally known as the GED. The software prepares diagnostic, prescriptive computer-based instruction to support and enhance the academic programs offered by the district. Brown asked for the board's approval of the purchase as presented.

Larry Miles moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the purchase and contract over \$500,000, as presented.

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

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO WINDHAM BOARD RULE 300.2, WINDHAM
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Michael Mondville, General Counsel, stated that per the Board's prior approval, revisions to Windham Board Rule 300.2 were published in the September issue of the Texas Register. No comments have been received on the revisions. He requested the board's approval of the order adopting this rule as published.

Leo Vasquez moved that the WSD Board of Trustees adopt WSD Rule 300.2 regarding WSD Board of Trustees operating procedures as published in the Texas Register and that the chairman sign an order to this effect.

Pastor Miles seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
REVISIONS TO WINDHAM BOARD POLICY WBP-07.53, “ADMINISTRATIVE
LEAVE”**

Mr. Mondville informed the Board that WBP-07.53, Administrative Leave, was revised to clarify the policy concerning bereavement leave. There were no other changes. He asked that the board approve the policy as presented.

Derrelynn Perryman moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the revisions to WBP-07.53, “Administrative Leave,” as presented.

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

Chairman Wainwright thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated that the next meeting of the Windham School District Board of Trustees would be Friday, February 10th at the DoubleTree Hotel. On behalf of the Governor, Board members and the citizens of the state of Texas, he thanked all Windham and TDCJ employees for their dedication and job performance. “Together, you are making Texas a better and safer place to live,” he said.

He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the 297th meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees adjourned at 11:15 a.m. on December 9, 2016.

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.