

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

Meeting No. 296

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Austin, Texas.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Judge Larry Gist

**WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent  
Paul Brown  
Dr. Latreace Craig  
Bambi Kiser  
Amy Lopez  
Michael Mondville

**CONVENED**

Chairman Dale Wainwright convened the meeting of the 296th Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 2:01 p.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 Preston Streufert of the Governor's Office and Judge Dale Spurgin from Jones County.

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.

## RECOGNITIONS

### Texas Association of School Board (TASB) – Sponsored Media Honor Roll Certificate Presentation

Chairman Wainwright invited the TASB Media Honor Roll recipients to the podium. He introduced Evan Folan from El Paso, Johnathan Silver from Austin, and Nicole Wilcox Schupe from Navasota. Chairman Wainwright thanked them for attending the meeting.

Dr. Clint Carpenter, WSD Superintendent, said WSD was very fortunate this past school year with outstanding media relations, allowing the district to present Media Honor Roll recognitions to five news organizations. These journalists made visits to WSD schools to interview, film and photograph teachers and students during classes. Their stories showed different aspects of how Windham motivates students to obtain job skills and educational tools – and change their lives. This was positive, accurate news about WSD, appearing in newspapers, on television, and throughout social media. They gave the public a chance to see the unique world of correctional education.

Three of the honorees were in attendance, and WSD would like to recognize their efforts.

Reporter Nicole Wilcox Schupe of the Navasota Examiner visited the Luther Unit last fall for a first-hand look at Windham. She attended literacy, vocational and life skills classes to prepare an overview of WSD programs. Her back-to-school story showed educational achievements taking place each day within TDCJ facilities in Navasota, as well as across the state.

The Texas Tribune featured a well-written front page story in December about Excellence in Teaching winner Jody Addy. Reporter Johnathan Silver brought photographer Neil Cooper to the Robertson Unit in Abilene to spend a day with Ms. Addy in class. They interviewed staff and students, resulting in an impressive feature about the challenges of teaching in TDCJ.

In January, KVIA-TV 7 in El Paso shared reporter Evan Folan's feature on literacy teacher Martha Estrada, an Excellence in Teaching Award finalist. Mr. Folan and photographer Ed Lightbourn spent their morning at Sanchez State Jail, covering Ms. Estrada's class with student and teacher interviews. The report spotlighted a great teacher, revealing some of the reasons instructors choose to work for WSD.

WSD is also honoring reporter Tim Chipp & photographer Nellie Donevan of the Abilene Reporter News, as well as journalists Alecea Rush, Nick Bradshaw & George Levesque of KTXS-TV in Abilene. They also spent time in WSD classrooms & produced informative, detailed reports.

Dr. Carpenter thanked the journalists for sharing Windham's story in a balanced, informed and professional manner. Along with the Texas Association of School Boards, Windham is proud to honor them.

Chairman Wainwright thanked the recipients for the services they provide to the State of Texas.

## **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 and loyalty to the state. He, along with the rest of the board members, expressed deep gratitude for the continued service of these employees. During the 2015-2016 school year, 18 Windham employees attained 20 years of service, 2 employees attained 25 years of service, one employee attained 30 years of service and one employee attained 40 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 18, 2016, meeting, appraisers for the 2016-2017 school year, personal property donations 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**

### **WSD Develops Partnership with Concho Valley Workforce Board (CVWB)**

Dr. Carpenter said in order to develop employment opportunities for students with Windham vocational certifications, Windham has been working to develop relationships within various regions of the state.

In September, Dr. Carpenter, WSD workforce administrators Dennis Beal and Kevin Ainsworth met with Concho Valley Workforce Board representatives in San Angelo. They discussed how the two organizations might work together to build support for TDCJ released offenders to reintegrate into their community. The meeting was very supportive and productive. After over a month of planning, it was agreed that Windham will partner with CVWB to implement initiatives to:

- Increase community engagement between WSD and the local board
- Share corporate and industry contacts
- Facilitate local work ready efforts to assimilate hundreds of returning citizens to their area
- Establish programs that would assist businesses with employing returning offenders
- Explore efforts in which we can team with them on grant writing as a collaborative partner

- Support Concho Valley Workforce Board by partnering with technical skills such as:
  - ACT National Career Readiness testing and certification screening
  - Department of Labor (DOL) Skills to Pay The Bills program, a collaborative effort with WSD established courses and DOL soft skill training
  - Graduation Alliance – an onsite soft skills effort to assist ex-offenders with assimilation into their communities

Dr. Carpenter said Windham looks forward to working with the Concho Valley Workforce Board and other regional workforce boards to build better community partnerships supporting TDCJ Reentry and Windham-trained released offenders.

Chairman Wainwright stated that one of the priorities of WSD is not only rehabilitation and educational, vocational, psychological training, but also providing opportunities once offenders leave TDCJ so they can get beneficial employment and have meaningful lives. This is a joint effort between WSD and TDCJ to work seamlessly to bring these opportunities for certification and licensing to offenders. This is a great benefit for the offenders and the state.

## **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD**

### **Windham Continues to Expand Business Partnerships**

Chairman Wainwright said Windham has added three new and significant partners to the Employer Partnerships with Windham Vocational Training. Fluor, a large heavy industrial construction company, has agreed to partner with Windham for placement of released Windham-trained and certified offenders. The addition of Fluor to current partnerships with The Industrial Company (TIC), Zachry, Bechtel and others, greatly expands the opportunities for offenders to gain employment in high-paying jobs upon release. Many of these offenders have certifications they received while incarcerated. Additionally, Williams Brothers Construction and Aimtech Chemicals have recently agreed to partner with Windham to support placement of released offenders. The addition of these three companies brings the total partnerships to more than 30 employers willing to hire released offenders, with an expanding corporate data base that includes an additional 90 commercial firms WSD is in the process of contacting. Windham started this project 18 months ago, and the reception by employers and the gratitude of released offenders has been overwhelming.

Chairman Wainwright said the partnership Windham has developed with large employers is proving to be a successful model to support employment for offenders soon after release. For example, in the past month, by working with TDCJ Reentry in the San Antonio region, more than 110 applicants have been interviewed by Steve's and Sons, with many being offered employment. TDCJ Reentry partnering with Windham has expanded the opportunities for all offenders and provided employment opportunities for offenders whose nationally-recognized industrial certifications were obtained while incarcerated through Windham. These efforts not only provide a future for the offenders but they also contribute to the TDCJ having the second lowest recidivism rate in the country.

The Chairman concluded his comments by sharing that, across the state, more and more partners have begun to request applications to fill the needed skilled workforce and TDCJ/Windham are answering this call with capable, trained potential employees to help build Texas.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF WSD BOARD POLICY WBP-11.12 (REV. 8), “INVESTMENT POLICY” AND RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE INVESTMENT POLICY**

Paul Brown, WSD Chief Financial Officer, informed the board that in accordance with Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code, Public Funds Investment Act and in conjunction with the boards responsibilities as the WSD Board of Trustees, WSD Board Policy WBP-11.12, “Investment Policy” is being brought for annual review. There were no proposed changes to the policy. He asked for the board’s approval of the policy as presented along with a resolution adopting the policy.

*Leo Vasquez moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the annual review of WSD Board Policy WBP-11.12, “Investment Policy” and resolution adopting the investment policy as presented and that the chairman sign the resolution adopting the policy.*

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the 296th meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees adjourned at 2:20 p.m. on October 18, 2016.

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Chairman\*

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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.*

## Attachment A – Employee Names

### WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT Employee Service Awards 2016

<b>20 Year Awards</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Location</b>
Timothy Auld	Vocational Teacher	Cole
Tani Boyd	Counselor	Wheeler
Patricia Brandon	Evaluation Coordinator	WSD Administration
Elizabeth Kelley	Counselor	Travis
Susan Lewis	Lead Teacher/CHANGES	LeBlanc
Pamela Patterson	Academic Teacher	Telford
Kenneth Prebish	Administrative Assistant	Allred
Ben Puente	Academic Teacher	Garza West
Sharon Reynolds	Administrative Assistant	Michael
Clemente Rocha	Vocational Teacher	Dominguez
Marisa Schneider	Principal	Lychner
Brenda Seward	Academic Supervisor	North Texas Regional Office
Travis Smith	Vocational Teacher	Polunsky
Barry Taylor	Vocational Teacher	Torres
Jose Villalva	Vocational Teacher	Sanchez
Luke Ward	Vocational Supervisor	West Texas Regional Office
Shannon Wright	Academic Teacher	Crain
Charles Wynn	Vocational Teacher	Telford

<b>25 Year Awards</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Location</b>
June Beck	Administrative Assistant	Stringfellow
Gerald Nichols	Vocational Teacher	Lewis

<b>30 Year Awards</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Location</b>
Charlene Moriarty	Workforce Specialist I	Administration

<b>40 Year Awards</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Location</b>
Carlos Cortez	Academic Teacher	Beto