

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

Meeting No. 302

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin, Texas.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Hon. Dale Wainwright, Chairman  
Terrell McCombs, Vice Chairman  
Tom Fordyce  
Pastor Larry Miles  
Patrick O’Daniel  
Derrelynn Perryman  
Thomas P. Wingate

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Eric Gambrell, Secretary  
Mano DeAyala

**WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent  
Martha Fields  
Michael Mondville  
Robert O’Banion

**CONVENED**

Chairman Dale Wainwright convened the meeting of the 302nd Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 9:01 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.

Chairman 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**

Dr. Carpenter introduced Robert O’Banion as the Chief Financial Officer for the Windham School District. Dr. Carpenter gave a brief overview of Mr. O’Banion’s educational background and work experience.

In June of 2012, Mr. O’Banion joined the Windham School District as Business Office Supervisor, and in 2014, he was promoted to Business Department Director. In these roles, he oversaw various components of business transactions and dealings for the Windham School District, which included purchasing and warehouse, budget preparation, accounting, payroll and purchasing. After five years with the district, he was named the new Chief Financial Officer in September.

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

Dr. Carpenter recognized reporter Kimberly Reeves of The Quorum Report with Media Honor Roll recognition from WSD and the TASB. Her article published in February examined the successful restructuring of the WSD into a career-technical educational model. Ms. Reeves described WSD as a progressive school system with increased academic opportunities, nationally-recognized credentialing, more effective employment training, and a strong influence on the reduction of recidivism.

He thanked Ms. Reeves for getting to know the school district, its mission and goals, and its accomplishments statewide. She was not able to attend the meeting, but the framed certificate of recognition will be sent to her.

### **WSD Employee Service Awards**

Chairman Wainwright stated that the Board annually recognizes WSD employees who have dedicated 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service to the State of Texas. These individuals represent 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 2016-2017 school year, 19 Windham employees attained 20 years of service, 7 employees attained 25 years of service, three employees attained 30 years of service, two attained 35 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 25, 2017, meeting, appraisers for the 2017-2018 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.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Librarianship in Corrections**

Rebecca Gillen, supervisor of the WSD Library Services Department was selected to participate in a working group meeting on Evidence-Based Librarianship in Corrections hosted by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in Aurora, Colorado, this past August. The purpose of the meeting was to examine how correctional library service is being used around the country and how it could be improved with evidence-based practices to support correctional goals.

Over the past several decades, library services for incarcerated and justice-involved individuals have increasingly been regarded as a means of increasing desirable activities from individuals under correctional supervision. Further, some research suggests that library services can play an even greater role, possibly contributing to improved job skills, study habits, and effective communication by offenders, as they transition to becoming responsible tax-paying citizens. NIC's working group examined the larger role that library services can play in corrections.

Candidates selected to participate in the working group were experienced in providing services to a population comprising a significant number of incarcerated and justice-involved individuals. The application process was competitive. Only eight library staff members were selected to participate. The states of New York, Colorado, Louisiana, Illinois (two participants), Florida, California and Texas were represented.

The National Institute of Corrections was interested in recruiting participants who were passionate about the topic and invested in achieving evidence-based outcomes. With the knowledge gained from the information gathering of the working group, the NIC plans to devise ways to track the impact of library services on incarcerated and newly-released individuals. Research has documented the reduction of recidivism, as well as improved social skills, healthier family and community ties, to the development of individuals who make better decisions in life in general. The NIC's goal is to prove that correctional library services are not merely a form of recreation, but rather a valuable resource tool to help transform a convicted individual with a criminal mindset into a social and economic asset to our communities.

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

### The First Annual Apprenticeship Texas Conference

Chairman Wainwright reported that apprenticeship programs are being emphasized across the nation as an important and viable method to address the growing need for skilled labor in the United States. On September 28 and 29, WSD Workforce Specialist Rex Rhone, Apprenticeship Supervisor Kevin Ainsworth, and Superintendent Clint Carpenter were invited by Texas Workforce Commissioner Julian Alvarez to attend the 1st Annual Apprenticeship Texas 2017 conference in San Antonio. TDCJ Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Logistics Division Director Bobby Lumpkin and members of his staff, who are partnering with Windham to expand apprenticeship opportunities, were also invited and attended this important event. This statewide conference was designed to bring businesses, workforce apprenticeship worksites, and major apprenticeship educational providers in the state together to share new ideas about how to build a robust apprenticeship program in Texas. The partnership apprentice program of WSD and TDCJ was mentioned by several speakers at the conference as an example of effective workforce training through apprenticeship.

Windham and TDCJ have been a part of the apprenticeship program in Texas for several years, but in the past two years, this partnership has been expanded and developed to address the needs of offenders returning to their home communities. The conference provided opportunities for Windham and TDCJ partners to meet with community employers and workforce boards across the state. The opportunity to not only meet with apprentice programs but to be recognized as a major participant in this important statewide initiative was an honor for Windham and its partners within the TDCJ apprenticeship program.

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

Mr. Robert O’Banion, WSD Chief Financial Officer, presented WBP-11.12, “Investment Policy”. He 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 before the Board for annual review. There were no substantive changes to the policy, only some clarification on what is not an authorized investment to be in compliance with recently passed legislation. He asked the Board to approve the policy as presented along with a resolution adopting the investment policy.

*Terrell McCombs moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the annual review of WSD BP-11.12, “Investment Policy” and the resolution adopting the investment policy as presented and that the Chairman sign the resolution adopting the policy.*

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

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS TO AUTHORIZE THE WSD TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE FOLLOWING PURCHASING PROGRAMS**

**1. The Interlocal Purchasing System Administered by the Region VI Education Service Center**

Mr. O’Banion presented the first of two inter-local agreements. The agreement is with Region VI Education Service Center, allowing Windham to be a member of its purchasing cooperative. This membership will provide greater opportunities to procure supplies and equipment which have already been through a competitive bid process.

Mr. O’Banion said purchasing cooperatives were not new to the district. These type of agreements increase opportunities to gain the best value for Windham. There is no cost to participate in this purchasing cooperative. He asked the Board to approve the authorization for WSD to participate with the interlocal purchasing system administered by the Region VI Education Service Center as presented.

Mr. McCombs commented that these interlocal agreements are essential for the district to get the best price and the best value for the dollar. He asked how many other procurement agreements the district is involved in.

Mr. O’Banion responded that WSD has interlocal agreements with Region 4, Region 19 and the Texas Association of School Boards. The district also participates in the Buy Board program.

Mr. McCombs thanked the staff for continuing to find ways to save money.

Chairman Wainwright asked Mr. O'Banion to prepare a list for the Board's benefit of the interlocal agreements the district participates in.

Patrick O'Daniel asked Mr. O'Banion for a list of other types of cooperatives the district might need to participate in to benefit WSD.

Chairman Wainwright clarified the list should include current interlocal agreements and also identify other opportunities for continued cooperation and savings.

*Ms. Perryman moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the authorization of WSD to participate with the interlocal purchasing system administered by the Region VI Education Service Center as presented.*

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

## **2. The Interlocal Purchasing System Administered by the Harris County Department of Education**

Mr. O'Banion said the second inter-local agreement was with the Harris County Department of Education. It would allow Windham to participate in the purchasing cooperative known as Choice Partners. He asked the Board to approve the Interlocal Purchasing System agreement administered by the Harris County Department of Education as presented.

*Pastor Miles moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the authorization of WSD to participate with the Interlocal Purchasing System administered by the Harris County Department of Education as presented.*

*Tom Wingate seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.*

Chairman Wainwright thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees will be Friday, December 15, 2017, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin.

### **ADJOURNED**

There being no further business for the regular session, Chairman Wainwright adjourned the 302nd meeting of the Windham School District Board of Trustees at 9:23 a.m.

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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.*