

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

Meeting No. 309

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mano DeAyala

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent
Teresa Craiker
Kristina Hartman
Michael Mondville
Robert O'Banion

CONVENED

Chairman Dale Wainwright convened the meeting of the 309th Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 10:01 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.

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, 2018, meeting, appraisers for the 2018-2019 school year and noted there were no Board Members absent during the August 24th and October 18th Board meetings.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Clint Carpenter, WSD Superintendent, said on October 24, Lowe's/Food King Supermarket officials toured the Neal Unit in Amarillo to review Windham teaching practices, content and the relevant work skills that students are engaged in after training. Lowe's/Food King has over 157 grocery stores from the Amarillo area South to cities West of Houston and West over to El Paso. The following Lowe's/Food King Representatives participated in the tour: John Click, National Manager of Meat Markets, Joel Griffith National Director of Human Resources, and Ruben Villapando Regional Meat Manager. WSD and TDCJ staff provided a tour of the WSD Culinary Arts classes and the TDCJ Boxed Beef Plant. On the tour, Principal Elizabeth Snyder and teacher Dexter Spaulding were able to show the grocery store officials the training programs offered by Windham and the quality of the instructional practices. MAL was able to provide a truly impressive tour of the meat processing facility at Neil, showing the skills and further training that offenders receive working in the TDCJ plant.

After the tour of the Neil Unit, the group was given a tour of the Affiliated Foods training facility in Amarillo by Lowe's/Food King representatives. Here, member grocers send meat market employees to receive training on processing meat for display in a typical grocery store. Many similarities between Windham training and the commercial market training were identified. Mr. Click of Lowe's offered many suggestions that will enhance the employability of Windham students upon release at typical grocery store meat markets and suggested additional training modules that would support WSD student's employability. Additionally, the members of the Lowe's team shared that there is a high need in their markets for individuals with meat cutting skills and offered to provide instruction to the Windham culinary teachers so that the skills needed in their stores, as well as other typical meat markets, might be emphasized and thus make the Windham student more employable in the industry. Windham is very pleased to have such an important member of the industry not only interested in what is taught, but willing to partner with WSD training to bring the skills in demand to its students. Together with the Windham specialized training and the general meat processing skills of TDCJ, students will be quickly employed upon release in high paying/high demand jobs.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman Wainwright said that one of the priorities of the agency is rehabilitation and reentry preparation. A large part of this effort is employability and placing the students once they are released. He said Windham is doing an impressive job in this area.

On November 14, staff of WSD and TDCJ were provided a tour of the Kiewit Offshore facility in Ingleside Texas. Kiewit, one of the three largest industrial manufacturers in the world, and number 41 on Forbes list of largest American Companies, operates a subsidiary in Ingleside which manufactures offshore oil platforms. Brian Robertson, National Human Resource Recruitment for Kiewit, arranged a tour for Dr. Carpenter, along with WSD staff and representatives from TDCJ's Parole, Reentry and Integration and Manufacturing, Agricultural and Logistics divisions. They were joined by special guests: House Corrections Committee Chairman James White, Lee Rector and Raul Ortiz from the Texas Governor's Office, and Penny Rayfield of Texas Association of Business.

The group arrived at the facility and was provided an overview of the operations of the \$8.7 billion company. The Kiewit officials then asked for an overview of the training and work experience that offenders receive while incarcerated. WSD Superintendent Carpenter; Bobby Lumpkin, Director of MAL; April Zamora, Director of Reentry; and Pam Thielke, Director of the Parole Division gave a presentation of the process of preparing individuals to engage in work upon release. After the presentations, the group was given a tour of the operations yard at Kiewit and had an opportunity to view the massive Leviathan offshore gas platform. The Leviathan is an 8 story above water platform that is destined for the Mediterranean for the County of Israel. The group talked to supervisors and craftsmen on site and learned a great deal about work and opportunities for offenders after release. Windham staff discovered many opportunities to enhance training, and Mr. Lumpkin and staff were informed of cost effective machinery and processes that Kiewit has implemented that may provide opportunities to improve manufacturing processes in TDCJ's industries.

The group was overwhelmed by the vast scale of the project and professionalism of the employees of Kiewit and looks forward to building on that relationship. The Board recognizes, applauds and fully supports these efforts by Windham and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to place WSD students in gainful employment upon their release.

The vision of WSD is to empower students and transform student's lives through excellence in education. The Texas Legislature established the WSD in 1969. It was the first educational system to be established in a prison system in the nation. The mission of Windham, in partnership with its stakeholders, is to provide quality educational opportunities. Resources target reducing recidivism, reducing cost of confinement, increasing the success of former students in obtaining employment and providing students incentives to behave in positive ways during confinement.

This week WSD celebrated its Windham Workforce Development Employment Program. WSD partners with Houston businesses and aligns certified students who are returning to Houston with gainful employment and companies. Recognizing these accomplishments by Windham, the City of Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner honored Windham by proclaiming December 10, 2018, as Windham School District Day in Houston. Windham continues to strategically collaborate with numerous stakeholders to help students acquire valuable academic and technical employment skills so they become successful, contributing members of society. On behalf of the entire WSD Board of Trustees, the Mayor thanked WSD staff for their hard work, dedication and accomplishments that make Texas a better place.

The Chairman wished everyone a fantastic holiday season.

DALHART UNIT TINY HOUSE PROJECT PRESENTATION

Teresa Craiker, principal of the Dalhart Unit, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the tiny house project that is being built at Dalhart. She said the tiny house has two bedrooms that can sleep four with a capacity of eight. It has a bathroom and kitchen sink area with cabinets that could hold a coffee pot or microwave. The building is 30 feet x 14 feet. Ms. Craiker said that this project helps WSD expand vocational training and increase industry certifications. TDCJ had a need for this project because housing is very limited in Dalhart. This initiative will benefit both WSD and TDCJ. The WSD construction carpentry and plumbing classes, along with OJT students assigned to the unit carpentry maintenance crew, are working together on this project.

The students are under the direct supervision of the teacher. Ms. Craiker ended the presentation with several positive quotes from students.

Terrell McCombs said this project meets a huge need in Dalhart. It creates a place where officers can stay overnight and be on site instead of traveling back and forth. He said he is hopeful that this project is imminently successful and is a wonderful example of teamwork. He commended Dr. Carpenter for using Windham funds for the project to house TDCJ officers.

Secondly, he said, there is a related television show and if this project is successful, WSD needs to get this project on that show. It could illustrate some of the good things that Windham and TDCJ are doing. He thanked Ms. Craiker for a very inspiring report and asked her to communicate that to her staff.

Pastor Larry Miles said he goes to the Dalhart Unit once a month and he attested to the need for housing. He said there was no rental housing available in Dalhart, Texas.

Mr. McCombs asked how long it would take to determine if this tiny house pilot is successful.

Dr. Carpenter responded that WSD had some residual funds that had built up over several years at one of the area building supply companies. Those funds were used to purchase the lumber for this project. He said he would need to talk to Mr. Collier to see if this is something that will benefit TDCJ in the long-term. Dr. Carpenter said this project has benefited the students greatly and hopes it has benefitted TDCJ as well.

Chairman Wainwright said this project is meeting a need that the department has in Dalhart. It is providing job and reentry skills for students. The Board looks forward to updates on the tiny house project in Dalhart.

Chairman Wainwright thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees will be Friday, February 8, 2019, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business for the regular session, Chairman Wainwright adjourned the 309th meeting of the Windham School District Board of Trustees at 10:31 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.