

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

Meeting No. 311

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Friday, April 5, 2019, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eric Gambrell, Secretary

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent
Kristina Hartman
Jon Lilley
Michael Mondville
Erika Moore
Robert O'Banion

RECONVENED

Chairman Dale Wainwright reconvened the meeting of the 311th Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Friday, April 5, 2019, at 3:54 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.

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

There were no recognitions.

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 February 8, 2019, meeting, appraisers for the 2018-2019 school year, a personal property donation and excused absences for Tom Fordyce and Patrick O'Daniel from the February 8, 2019, meeting and Mano DeAyala from the December 13, 2018 meeting, due to personal business.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Enhanced Programming for Youthful Students at the Ellis Unit

Dr. Clint Carpenter, WSD Superintendent, said on February 25, 2019, the WSD enrolled the first group of youthful students at the Ellis Unit in the *Gateway to Occupation Attainment and Life Skills* class, hereafter referred to as GOALS, a newly-formed series of short course modules for individuals under the age of 18.

This program was developed following identification of the need to provide access to additional Windham program opportunities, focused on career and life skills, for young students with and without high school diplomas or equivalents.

The GOALS program provides life skills, career exploration and identification activities and career and technical education short courses. Program components also allow students to broaden their understanding of how productive citizens manage a stable lifestyle by caring for their finances, health and well-being and family. The program also provides information and awareness of the psychological and physiological effects of drug use.

The program development team reported that observations of the young student population revealed its needs, and its great potential. These students exhibited a motivation to learn and a desire to achieve. The team witnessed the students' ability to attain knowledge at an accelerated rate when provided with strong support and also a vehicle to satisfy their desire for creative self-expression. This is accomplished through spoken language, writing, music and art.

Taking these factors into consideration, the GOALS class was established to meet the needs of all individuals under age 18 at the Ellis Unit. The class reinforces and enhances the level of WSD's existing academic curriculum and provides opportunities for students to earn multiple certificates in disciplines offered through vocational training, business related fields, and soft skills.

Along with teaching core academic foundational and advanced skills, the curriculum includes 22 weeks of short courses, each course taking approximately two weeks to complete. These short courses include WSD's Elective Personal Enrichment Courses, a six-week Career and Technical Education block, a drug awareness component, and guest speaker seminars.

Finally, built into the weekly lesson cycle, students are provided time to engage in creative expression through journal activity and discussion, novel or nonfiction book studies, and visual and performing arts.

The class has had a successful start with teachers and students providing positive feedback. Five students earned certificates in "Family Health" during the first two weeks. WSD is goal is that this class, designed to meet the wide ranging needs of the district's youngest population, will motivate an increasing number of students to continue on a journey of learning and employment well past their time in a Windham classroom.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Professional Development and Student Supports

Chairman Wainwright explained that on March 21, 2019, the WSD executed a contract with Texas State University (TSU) to provide training and technical assistance for the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The focus is on incarcerated students under the age of 22 at three Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) units: the Travis State Jail, the Hilltop Unit, and the Ellis Unit. PBIS is recognized as a best practice by the United States Department of Education “to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of schools and other agencies.”

The application of PBIS is a collaborative effort between Windham and TDCJ with the following goals:

- equipping staff with appropriate behavioral intervention tools,
- increasing the recruitment, participation, retention and outcomes of incarcerated individuals in various programs,
- reducing program removals associated with disciplinary incidents, and
- increasing efforts to support positive institutional adjustment and community reintegration.

Dr. Brenda Scheuermann, a TSU professor and expert in PBIS, conducted initial assessment visits at the selected units in late March. The scope of work includes staff training, planning and feedback sessions with Windham and TDCJ unit staff, focus groups with incarcerated students, on-site coaching, assessment of fidelity of implementation, and a report of outcomes.

Forty Windham staff members, including counselors and regional principals recently participated in Motivational Interviewing training. Motivational Interviewing is a student-centered technique that provides the participant with the opportunity to identify goals and steps for achieving desired outcomes rather than receiving a directive regarding what others feel is in his or her best interest. Following the MI training session, participants were asked to practice the strategies by engaging with incarcerated students under the age of 22 who were not in school due to program refusals. The first report that was received was from the Moore Unit. Staff reported that by utilizing Motivational Interviewing strategies, which included knowing the students’ academic histories, needs identified on the Individualized Treatment Plans, and opportunities to respond to open-ended, goal oriented, questions, 100% of the students revoked their refusals and are now engaged in Windham programs.

The provision of professional development related to Motivational Interviewing and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports has, and will, continue to impact the ability of the Windham and TDCJ team to lead the criminal justice community in successful student outcomes.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION
REGARDING TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS – SPONSORED MEDIA
HONOR ROLL**

Dr. Carpenter said that in December, 2018, KVII Channel 7 news in Amarillo advertised the opportunity for the public to donate caps and gowns for a Windham graduation. A teacher at the Neal Unit alerted them of this opportunity and orchestrated the donation process. The caps and gowns made the graduation ceremony more special for the students and their families. Morgan Burell, a KVII reporter, attended the graduation and covered the story, sharing the special event with the whole community.

Dr. Carpenter asked the Board to approve the nomination of Morgan Burell of KVII Channel 7 News in Amarillo to the TASB – Sponsored Media Honor Roll and to also sign the attached resolution to this effect:

Tom Fordyce moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the resolution regarding the Texas Association of School Boards – Sponsored Media Honor Roll as presented.

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

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING BOARD
RESOLUTION EXTENDING DEPOSITORY CONTRACTS FOR 2020-2021 BIENNIUM**

Robert O’Banion, WSD Chief Financial Officer, said in June of 2015, the Board approved the bid for Windham’s depository contract to First Financial Bank for September 2015 through August 2017. The award allowed for two option periods and this request is for the second option period. Board approval is requested to exercise the second option period with First Financial Bank and the Windham School District for bank depository services for September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2021.

Derrelynn Perryman moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the Board resolution extending the depository contract for the 2020 – 2021 biennium as presented.

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

WSD REGIONAL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Chairman Wainwright introduced Jon Lilley, Regional Principal of the North East Texas Region and Erika Moore, Regional Principal of the Panhandle Region.

Mr. Lilley began by saying the North East Texas Region consists of the Cole, Moore, Telford, Johnston, Havins, San Saba, Hobby, Marlin, Hutchins, Briscoe and Cotulla units. He briefly highlighted a unique success story from each unit to demonstrate the hard work and dedication of staff and students.

Mr. Lilley said Windham implemented a rigorous accountability system during the 2017-18 school year. The system is a very comprehensive look at how each campus is performing. The campus is given a letter rating system much like the ratings currently given in public schools. The Cole and Moore units were the top two Windham campuses last year, and the Cole Unit is the first campus to reach “A” status during the current school year.

Ms. Moore began her presentation by saying the Panhandle Region consisted of the Allred, Clements, Dalhart, Formby, Jordan, Middleton, Neal, Roach, Robertson, Sayle, Tulia and Wheeler units. She highlighted several accomplishments by offenders and staff at the Panhandle Region units.

Ms. Moore discussed the new meat cutting partnership with Lowe’s at the Formby and Neal units. She said the latest program at the Jordan Unit is the Reading is Freedom program. The program is for students unable to read or who read below a 6.0 level. The program was initiated by Pastor Larry Miles. She highlighted the accomplishments of one of the students in the program.

Ms. Moore ended the presentation by presenting each Board member with a WSD cookie.

Chairman Wainwright commended the presenters on the inspiring success stories. He asked if there was a common thread or two that runs through these stories.

Mr. Lilley responded that most of the students have never been successful in a traditional school setting and when they arrive on the units, WSD staff assures them that WSD believes in them and in second chances. If they will work with WSD, the school district can get them where they need to be.

Ms. Moore agreed. She said her staff works very hard to bring these students in and explain to them the value of an education. The staff also goes on to explain that once they earn these educational certificates, whether it is a high school equivalence or vocational certificate, they will have something that cannot be taken away from them.

Mr. Lilley said WSD staff emphasizes that gainful employment is the key to not returning to TDCJ.

Chairman Wainwright thanked the educators for their inspirational presentation and thanked Pastor Miles for adding the Reading is Freedom program to help with this process.

Pastor Miles thanked Ms. Moore for her dedication to making these programs work in the Panhandle area.

Chairman Wainwright thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees will be Friday, June 21, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Austin.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business for the regular session, Chairman Wainwright adjourned the 311th meeting of the Windham School District Board of Trustees at 4:27 p.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.