

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

243rd MEETING

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at the Hilton Hotel in Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christina Melton Crain, Chairman
Pierce Miller, Vice Chairman
Adrian Arriaga
Oliver Bell
Greg Coleman
Tom Mechler
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Patricia A. Day
Pastor C. L. Jackson

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Debbie Roberts, Superintendent
Don Lawrence
Michael Mondville
Linda Goerdel

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL
JUSTICE STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brad Livingston
Bryan Collier
Melinda Bozarth

CONVENED

Christina Melton Crain, Chairman, called the meeting of the Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at 11:04 a.m. in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the Open Meetings Act. A quorum was present and the 243rd meeting of the Board was declared open.

Chairman Crain reported that the Board was committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations on topics posted on the meeting agenda, as well as public comment on issues within its jurisdiction as provided in Board Rule 300.1, Public Presentations and Comments to the Windham School District Board of Trustees. Persons interested in providing presentations or comment at the meeting were required to complete a registration card and submit it at least ten (10) minutes prior to the meeting's posted start time. As no cards were received prior to the required deadline, the Board would not hear public presentations on posted agenda topics or comments on issues within the Board's jurisdiction.

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Crain read a resolution honoring David McNutt for his service to the WSD.

Debbie Roberts, Superintendent also thanked Mr. McNutt for his dedicated service to the WSD and wished him success in his new job.

Ms. Roberts introduced Linda Goerdel as the new Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Goerdel, a graduate of Sam Houston State University, began her career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 1976. She came to WSD in 1981 as an assistant purchaser. Since that time, she has promoted through the ranks as the Budget Coordinator, Budget/Accounts Payable Supervisor and most recently, Business Supervisor.

Each year, the WSD has the privilege of nominating media representatives who deserve recognition for fair and balanced reporting of public school news for the Texas Association of School Boards' Media Honor Roll. The Board approved this year's nomination of Reporter Jessica Langdon and photographer Jeffery Haderhauer of the Wichita Falls Times Record News at the May 2007 Board meeting. They published an article about WSD programs at the Allred Unit. Ms. Langdon and Mr. Haderhauer were unable to attend this meeting to receive their certificates in person, but a framed certificate of recognition from the Texas Association of School Boards was mailed to each of them and a special news release was sent to their newspaper concerning the award.

Ms. Roberts recognized all of the family, friends and co-workers of the Teacher of the Year (TOY) Finalists. She explained the rigorous process that the TOY finalists had to go through to compete for the honor of 2007 Teacher of the Year. Sixty-three applications were received and after careful review, eight (8) finalists were chosen. Ms. Roberts introduced the TOY Committee and explained the committee visited each campus and observed each of the eight (8) finalists in the classroom. They interviewed each finalist to determine their philosophy of education as well as how they felt about changing offenders' lives and reducing recidivism. From their interviews and observations, the Teacher of the Year was chosen. These finalists represent the best of WSD staff. They are all dedicated professionals and are wonderful role models for the offenders and for their co-workers.

Ms. Roberts introduced Pamela Patterson, WSD 2007 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Patterson works with offenders at the Telford Unit in New Boston, where she facilitates a behavioral change class, Cognitive Intervention. She is an enthusiastic 14-year veteran educator who has spent the last 11 years in correctional classrooms. The remaining seven (7) finalists were introduced: Milton Berry, Dominguez State Jail; Mike Hall, Kegans State Jail; Rebecca Nicholas, Estelle Unit; Jimmy Perry, Terrell Unit; Dianna Savage, Mountain View Unit; Gary Sheets, Allred Unit; and Greg Sims, Neal Unit. The WSD is very proud of these teachers and their accomplishments.

Chairman Crain presented each teacher with a framed certificate and congratulated them all for their hard work and dedication.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
CONSENT ITEMS**

Chairman Crain called the Board's attention to the Consent Items on the agenda (Attachment A), which consisted of the minutes of the September 13, 2007, meeting, multiple employment authorizations, appraisers for the 2007-2008 school year and an approval of an excused absence for Patsy Day for this meeting.

Chairman Crain asked if there were any amendments, objections or changes to the Consent Items. Noting there were none, she stated the Consent Items were approved as submitted.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
WSD BOARD POLICIES (WBP)**

1. Revisions to WBP-02.00, "Windham School District Board of Trustees Responsibilities"

Michael Mondville, WSD General Counsel, reported that in addition to minor modifications made to the policy language, an annual review of the accountability system as developed by the Superintendent was added to the Board responsibilities. Board approval is requested.

Chairman Crain asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, she asked for a motion and a second.

Adrian Arriaga moved that the Windham School District Board of Trustees approve the revisions to Board Policy 02.00 regarding the "Windham School District Board of Trustees Responsibilities," as presented.

Pierce Miller seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

2. Revisions to WBP-03.02, "Windham School District Superintendent Responsibilities and Authority"

Mr. Mondville stated the only substantive change to WBP-03.02 is the addition of an annual review of the accountability system by the Board. Board approval was requested.

Chairman Crain asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, she asked for a motion and a second.

Thomas Mechler moved that the Windham School District Board of Trustees approve the revisions to WBP-03.02 regarding "Windham School District Superintendent Responsibilities and Authority," as presented.

Greg Coleman seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

3. Annual Review of WBP-11.12, "Windham School District Investment Policy," and Approval of a Resolution Adopting the Investment Policy

Mr. Mondville informed the Board that there was one (1) substantive change to WBP-11.12. Management responsibility for the investment program was delegated to the Chief Financial Officer rather than the Superintendent. Board approval is requested.

Chairman Crain asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, she asked for a motion and a second.

Mr. Coleman moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the revisions to WBP-11.12 "Windham School District Investment Policy," and approve the resolution adopting the Investment Policy as presented and that the Chairman and Secretary sign the resolution adopting the policy.

Leo Vasquez seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

ACCOUNTABILITY RESULTS AND STANDARDS REVISION PRESENTATION

To follow-up with past discussions on the results of the school's accountability study and the WSD's plans to raise the accountability standards, Ms. Roberts introduced Don Lawrence, WSD Division Director of Operational Support, to provide a presentation on the topic.

Mr. Lawrence informed the Board that the WSD Unit and Campus Profiles for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 were recently completed and would soon be posted to the website. He added that the links would be sent to the Board in the next couple of days.

He stated that the purposes of the accountability system are to measure performance and display accurate reflection of campus activity for purposes of improvement.

A brief history of the accountability system, which was piloted in 1998-99 and implemented in 1999, was provided. In recent years, campuses have exceeded current academic, vocational and attendance performance expectations. The WSD initiated a comprehensive review of all programs and accountability components and as a result, WSD proposes to raise the standards and benchmark thresholds, expand vocational measurement criteria, add Life Skills programs to the system, remove attendance from the system, and submit annual results and proposals to the Board for review.

Mr. Arriaga asked what standards were changed in 2004-2005. Mr. Lawrence responded that the standards were raised in the state jails, as well as the substance abuse and transfer facilities because achievement scores on those types of facilities were higher than on other types of facilities. This situation warranted breaking the scores into two (2) different categories. The testing instrument used by WSD was also changed during 2004-2005.

Mr. Lawrence explained that 2007-2008 would be the first step in a three (3) year phase-in of the new accountability system. The sub-committees will continue to study the Vocational and Life Skills programs information during 2007-2008 to establish baseline performance measures for the incorporation of these programs into the accountability system.

Chairman Crain noted she thought it was a great idea for the Board to begin reviewing the accountability data on an annual basis.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Roberts reported on an innovative approach that WSD would be undertaking at the San Saba Unit. Since the WSD did not receive additional funding to have a school at San Saba, plans are underway to operate a two-year college program at the unit for transfer offenders who are 25 years old and younger. The WSD has a federal grant that will pay college tuition for this group of offenders (25 years old and younger).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Crain adjourned the 243rd meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees at 11:53 a.m.