

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

Meeting No. 313

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Friday, June 21, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Terrell McCombs, Vice Chairman

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent
Dr. Richard Bishop
Kristina Hartman
Michael Mondville
Robert O'Banion

RECONVENED

Chairman Dale Wainwright reconvened the meeting of the 313th Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Friday, June 21, 2019, at 12:26 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 April 5, 2019, and May 24, 2019, meetings.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Outcomes of the 86th Legislative Session for WSD

Dr. Carpenter said that he, Kristina Hartman and Robert O'Banion were pleased to report that Monday, May 27 was the last day of the 86th Legislative Session. The past 140 days were very busy for WSD as the legislature developed and approved the State of Texas budget. WSD staff worked diligently with legislators to provide information on Windham to ensure they realized the different funding mechanisms for Windham so that funds for education included Windham in legislative appropriations that would not have otherwise applied. Numerous meetings were held with the committee chairs of House Appropriations, Education, Corrections and Senate Finance, Public Education, and Criminal Justice. These key members of the Legislature were very complimentary of the extensive changes which have occurred in Windham over the past few years, with Senator Whitmire specifically citing the improvements in services to incarcerated students and the opportunities for employment gained through Windham programming. Senator Whitmire, Senator Nelson, Representative White, Representative Huberty, Representative Ashby and Representative Neave all commented during hearings about the great work of Windham staff and teachers.

Through the commitment of these key committee members and many other members of both chambers, WSD is happy to report that the district ended in a very positive position. The legislature increased Windham's budget by \$9.8 million over the next two years, the largest increase in Windham funding in more than 20 years. This funding seeks to support the retention and recruitment of the people who have made the Windham programs outstanding. More than half of this amount is allocated to staff pay raises. The legislature specifically allocated a \$3,000 annual base salary increase for teachers, counselors, diagnosticians, lead teachers and WSD's 10 full-time librarians. In addition, all other employees will receive a 4% annual base salary increase. We are very excited that the legislature recognizes and has rewarded WSD's hard work!

In addition to salary increases, the legislature provided more than \$4.5 M over the next two years for program expansion. These funds will allow WSD to expand in the areas of vocational programming for women, education during the times Windham teachers are not on contract so that students have available education opportunities year round, apprenticeship training, and additional funding for industry certifications which will allow Windham to leverage vocational skills training expansion in a cost effective way. This programming will allow WSD to reach more students in positive ways.

This dramatic increase in funding not only supports the work of the past few years but also offers a bright future to provide even more support to TDCJ in its effort to lower recidivism. We look forward to this task as we move into a new phase of Windham educational excellence.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Library Services Grant

Chairman Wainwright said the Windham School District Library Services Department was awarded a special projects grant in the amount of \$75,000 from the Texas State Library and

Archives Commission, with funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant will allow WSD to study the feasibility of introducing more technology into the prison libraries and provide up to date digital/printed information to assist in the female offenders' rehabilitation and career readiness through the WSD libraries. This will directly impact their lives and indirectly impact the lives of others.

This project will impact ten female prison facilities which contain 14 libraries located across the state of Texas: Crain, Halbert, Henley, Hilltop, Hobby, Mt. View, Murray, Plane, San Saba, and Woodman. The Crain Unit is unique in that it is made up of five independent satellite units: Hackberry, Riverside, Sycamore, Terrace, and Valley. There are a total of 11,028 female offenders. The female facility libraries circulated 288,512 books and served 163,235 patrons during the 2017-2018 school year. The circulation and patron numbers demonstrate that the 14 WSD libraries are widely used by the female offender population. In public libraries, patrons have access to a host of free digital and printed information on a wide variety of subjects in addition to various types of technology. In contrast, prison libraries have limited resources. This grant will allow WSD to explore adding more technology, e-resources, and/or printed materials, digital catalog of resources, and access to more current materials.

The district assists offenders in becoming career ready by providing them with access to library resources. The resources provided within the library consist of research, career readiness, and study materials. Each library has a collection developed specifically to meet each patron's needs. The access will enable offenders to prepare themselves so they can be successful in society after their release.

This grant will provide incarcerated women with access to more resources to assist in their rehabilitation and career readiness through the WSD libraries. Access to these resources, which are available in most free-world libraries, will contribute to enriching the lives of the female offenders during their incarceration. This is another step that will aid students, preparing to re-enter society once they are released from prison.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
RATIFICATION OF THE WSD SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE'S
DETERMINATION OF FINALISTS FOR THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF
THE WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Chairman Wainwright asked the Board for a motion.

Derrelynn Perryman moved that the WSD Board of Trustees ratify the WSD Superintendent Search Committee's actions and proceedings as part of the selection process for the next superintendent of the Windham School District.

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

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
SELECTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WSD**

Chairman Wainwright said, in February, the Board posted the position of Superintendent of the WSD and acknowledged that the current Superintendent, Dr. Clint Carpenter, plans to retire at the end of August.

Chairman Wainwright said, in April, he had named a search committee to conduct interviews of applicants. The search committee met with the full board in executive session in May to discuss their findings and recommendations for the position of superintendent. The search committee recommended and named four finalists for the superintendent's position. Dr. Latreace Craig, Kristina Hartman, Shelley McKinley and Anthony Sorola were the names of the finalists. The finalists were posted more than the 21 days required under state law for the position of superintendent.

Chairman Wainwright said the Board was prepared to vote on the position of superintendent. He asked if there were any comments or questions from the Board. He asked for a motion from the Board.

Mano DeAyala moved that the WSD Board of Trustees select Kristina Hartman as the Acting Superintendent of the Windham School District, effective August 1, 2019, reporting to the current Superintendent and, effective September 1, 2019. Kristina Hartman shall assume the duties of superintendent for a two year term, subject to the contract and Board policies.

Ms. Perryman seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

Chairman Wainwright said there were many applications for the superintendent's position. The search committee spent a lot of time deciding on the finalists. The finalists are outstanding individuals and this was not an easy decision.

Chairman Wainwright congratulated Ms. Hartman.

Ms. Hartman said she was very excited to lead the Windham School District. Windham has a team of quality educators and staff that have innovative and robust ideas for the future. She thanked Dr. Carpenter for his leadership and said she hoped to meet with the Board in the future to see if they have any suggestions for improvement within the WSD.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING
APPROVAL OF THE WSD SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT**

Chairman Wainwright asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Tom Wingate moved that the Windham School District Board of Trustees approve a contract for the superintendent of WSD effective August 1, 2019, and ending August 31, 2021, to include an annual salary of \$147,500.

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

WSD REGIONAL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Chairman Wainwright introduced Dr. Richard Bishop, Regional Principal of the North Texas Region.

Dr. Bishop began by introducing himself as the principal of the Beto Unit and the Regional Principal for the North Texas Region. The region consists of the Beto, Boyd, Coffield, Gurney, Hodge, Lopez, Michael, Powledge and Segovia units. He briefly highlighted several graduations and student accomplishments in the North Texas Region.

Dr. Bishop said a new Urban Farming/Hydroponics class will begin at the Michael Unit this summer. One of the new components of the class will be the field of aquaponics.

He said that employers from Patriot Erectors visited the Beto and Powledge units to speak with students about employment as welders when they were released. The students were motivated by the speakers and excited about the potential to make a good living in the welding field upon release.

Dr. Bishop shared a life changing event in his life and concluded his presentation by quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, who said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he lies in times of comfort and convenience, but where he lies at times of challenge and controversy." Dr. Bishop said, "The men and women that WSD works with on a daily basis are away from their families and loved ones and what they do while they are inside the walls makes a huge difference and they set an example for those are on the outside waiting for them to come home."

Chairman Wainwright said the Board is proud of what Windham does and what the agency does system-wide. The Chairman thanked Dr. Bishop for his presentation and thanked him for his inspirational story and commented that they would like to see him again in the future.

Dr. Carpenter commented that the graduates will now have caps and gowns at each graduation ceremony. This was made possible because TDCJ Executive Director Bryan Collier saw an article about how the community had donated caps and gowns for a graduation ceremony at the Neal Unit. Mr. Collier called Dr. Carpenter and said that was a great thing and he would like to see more of this.

Dr. Carpenter said WSD was able to purchase enough of the regalia to be able to move the caps and gowns around so every student will be able to wear a cap and gown during graduation ceremonies. This was made possible with TDCJ contributing over half of the cost of the regalia.

Ms. Perryman thanked Dr. Bishop for his presentation and what he is doing for the students in the WSD.

Chairman Wainwright thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, August 21, 2019, at the Omni Hotel at Southpark in Austin.

ADJOURNED

There being no further business for the regular session, Chairman Wainwright adjourned the 313th meeting of the Windham School District Board of Trustees at 1:47 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

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.