

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in regular business session on June 14, 2023 at the Sharon Hill Jennette Administration Building in the Willis ISD Boardroom, 612 N. Campbell Street, Willis, Texas.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Kyle Hoegemeyer called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announced that a quorum was present and that notice of the meeting had been posted for the time and manner required by law.

Members Present: Kyle Hoegemeyer presiding, Cliff Williams, Paulett Traylor, Scott Carson, Charles Perry, Sr., Chad Jones.

Members Absent: Nikita Lagway.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane Hivnor spoke on safety discrepancies sharing an incident that happened at Cannan Elementary Parent Event.

Robert Holden spoke on education and the importance of what is taught to our children.

Dr. Kelley Moore spoke on gratitude to the leadership of Willis ISD and expressed how grateful she was to serve with the leadership of Willis ISD.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board entered into closed session at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose of considering matters for which closed sessions are authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections (.071 - .084): 551.074

- A. Discuss Teacher Resignations and Employee Appointments. Tex. Gov't Code 551.074.
- B. Attorney Consultation Regarding Legal Issues Pertaining to Public Records Requests and Related Matters Tex. Gov't Code 551.071 and 551.129

### **OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 6:37 p.m.

There were no motions from closed session.

### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Harkrider led the pledges and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Robert Whitman led the prayer.

### **RECOGNITIONS**

No recognitions.

**STANDING INFORMATION AND AD HOC REPORTS & ITEMS**

Willis ISD Director of Special Programs, Debbie Walker, introduced Class of 2023 Willis High School Graduate, Sonia Harper, who shared information regarding her Girl Scout Project, “Loads of Care” with the Board.

All board members expressed how awesome this project is for Willis ISd and the Willis community.

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer shared how much he appreciated everyone involved in regards to giving time and money to a project that a lot of kids will benefit from this. President Hoegemeyer stressed that little things like this need to continue.

Superintendent, Dr. Tim Harkrider, reviewed the Safety Performance Report for May 2023; there were no accidents and no loss of time due to injuries.

There were no questions concerning the financial reports and bill payment report.

Superintendent Harkrider reported there are 8,825 students enrolled at Willis ISD as of the last day of school, May 23, 2023; which is increase of 201students for the year more than that time last year.

Superintendent Harkrider reviewed the Bond Summary.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Garrett Matej, presented the first budget update for the 2023-2024 Budget. Mr. Matej discussed how is WISD is funded, local revenue, txes, tax collections and how every district in the county is dealing with the same issues. Interest rate increase has helped but it is not a dependable source of resource and cannot be used for compensation packets.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones, asked how it would impact Willis ISD if the state goes from ADA to total enrollment.

Superintendent Harkrider responded if that happened, it would help the District.

Superintendent Harkrider shared that liability insurance deductibles are increasing from \$25,000 in 2022-2023 to \$1,000,000 in 2023-2024 with more changes expected to come.

Board Vice President, Paulett Traylor, asked if the District could shop around for insurance

Dr. Harkrider shared that many firms cannot handle our claims regarding facilities.

Assistant Superintendent Matej shared that funds not available to give raises to staff but that ESSER Funds are available to give retention bonuses. He also shared that there are no problems with a balanced budget for Debt and that the Child Nutrition Budget will balance. Mr. Matej announced that the next budget update will be at the July 12, 2023 regular board meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Consider Approval of Bank Depository Contract Extension for 2023-2025
- C. Approval of Engagement Letter – Financial Auditor

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to approve the Consent Agenda items A, B and C as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Operations discussed the reclassification of one High School Assistant Principal position to a High School Associate Principal position, moving the position from Pay Grade 4 to Pay Grade 5 and from a 217 work day calendar to a 226 work day calendar. Assistant Superintendent also discussed reclassifying a Special Education Aide position to a Special Education Aide – Specialized Services position, moving this position from a Pay Grade 1 to a Pay Grade 4. Dr. Harkrider recommended these reclassifications.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Charles Perry to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the reclassification of one High School Assistant Principal position to a High School Associate Principal position and a Special Education Aide to Special Education Aide – Specialized Services position. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent Whitman discussed adding of additional personnel. Dr. Harkrider recommended the additional personnel.

<b>WHS Teacher (1)</b> (American Sign Language)	<b>WHS Teacher (1)</b> (Assistant Band Director)	<b>REEC Sp.Ed. Teacher (1)</b>
<b>REEC Sp.Ed. Para (1)</b>	<b>ITL w/ESSER Funds (1)</b> (Behavioral Interventionist - PT)	<b>Sp.Ed. w/ESSER Funds (1)</b> (LSSP Interventionist -FT)
<b>Business Office</b> (Grant Program Coordinator)		

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to add the positions listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member, Scott Carson asked if the Grant Program Coordinator is different from what approved earlier.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Constuction, Robert Whitman, responded that the position presented on this agenda will be a non-exempt position and the other position is different and has been filled.

Executive Director of Support Services and Construction Paul Dusebout discussed the purchase of five buses to follow the replacement program for the school bus fleet. Dr. Harkrider recommended this purchase with a total cost of \$690,875.00.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Cliff Williams to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the purchase from Thomas Bus Gulf Coast GP, Inc. in the amount of \$690,875.00 from Function 34. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member, Scott Carson, asked if the new buses came with new camera systems and inquired if we have the new system yet.

Executive Director Dusebout responded that new buses do come with new camera systems and that the new system was purchased but not in place yet but should be ready by August.

Executive Director of Support Services and Construction Paul Dusebout discussed the purchase of playground equipment for Parmley, Hardy, Cannan, Turner and Meador Elementary Schools as part of the Bond 2022 Election. Dr. Harkrider recommended purchasing five sets of playground equipment for each elementary school with a total cost of \$505,429.38 from Cunningham Recreation.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expend \$505,429.38 from 2022 Bond Issue Funds for the playground equipment at our elementary schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member, Cliff Williams asked when expected delivery date was. Executive Director Dusebout responded that they should arrive in the next four weeks; and should be ready when school starts.

Executive Director Dusebout discussed the rental of bleachers to provide additional seating capacity for Yates Stadium. Superintendent Harkrider recommended this rental.

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Cliff Williams to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the rental of additional bleachers at Yates Stadium for the upcoming season for \$56,000 from Function 36. Motion carried unanimously.

President Hoegemeyer asked what did the District pay last year for bleacher rental?

Executive Director Dusebout responded that this rental was the same price as last year.

Executive Director of Technology, Stephen Shannon, discussed the need to purchase and install additional security cameras at Hardy Elementary, Cannan Elementary, Meador Elementary, Parmley Elementary, Turner Elementary, Brabham Middle School, Lucas Middle School, Lucas Concession Stand, and Willis High School. Superintendent Harkrider recommended the purchase of security cameras with a total cost of \$187,521.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carsonto accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the purchase of security cameras in the amount of \$187,521.00 from Function 52 in the General Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Carson asked if the cameras were stationary and if they had the capability of zoom.

Executive Director Shannon responded that the camers were stationery but not zoom.

Executive Director Shannon discussed the need to purchase SWYE360 (Sway360), a software that will give the District visibility to measure the return on academics and investment on all software used within the District, as well as help identify any learning gaps that are taking place in the classroom. This solution will provide us with critical data and feedback to make future cost effective, instructional purchasing decisions. Superintendent Harkrider recommended the purchase of this software with a total cost of \$66,690.00.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Charles Perry to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the purchase of SWYE360 software in the amount of \$66,960.00 from Function 53 in the General Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director of Student Services, Brad Mansfield, discussed the Change to Policy FNG (Local). Dr. Harkrider recommended this local policy change.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the change to Willis ISD Policy FNG (Local) as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

President Hoegemeyer wished Willis ISD Principals present a great summer and to please call him if they ever have any questions.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The regular July Board Meeting will be held on July 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.