

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in regular business session on November 9, 2022 at the Sharon Hill Jennette Administration Building in the Willis ISD Boardroom, 612 N. Campbell Street, Willis, Texas.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Cliff Williams 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: Cliff Williams, presiding, Christen Arnold, Chad Jones, Kyle Hoegemeyer, Robin Sproba, Paulett Traylor, Charles Perry, Sr.*

Members Absent: None.

*Charles Perry, Sr. arrived during closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Holden spoke on education and concerns for the books in Willis ISD libraries. Mr. Holden also shared the need to improve the Willis ISD security system in regards to the safety of students and the time frame in which a situation is approached.

Diane Hivnor spoke on the power of the Willis ISD Board of Trustees and shared that information is being shared and published before the Board votes on the issue.

John Jinkerson spoke on elementary school library books and the importance of removing books from the elementary school libraries that are not appropriate for elementary age children.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session at 5:38 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 Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments. Tex. Gov't Code 551.074.
- B. Discuss, Consider and Possibly Take Action Regarding the Contract Abandonment of Teacher at Lynn Lucas Middle School

OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 6:32 p.m.

Motion by Christen Arnold and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the professional personnel as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Christen Arnold and seconded by Kyle Hoegemeyer that based on Texas Education code 21.105, the Board finds that good cause did not exist for Shandilynne Holley to abandon her probationary employment contract and authorize our Board President to file a written complaint to the State Board for Educator Certification. Motion carried unanimously.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MEADOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal of Meador Elementary, Tamara Good, introduced Meador fourth graders to lead the pledges to the flags and the invocation.

Principal Good introduced the Meador Honor Choir and the Meador Music Teacher, Larisa Kholodnaya. Ms. Kholodnaya commended the Meador Honor Choir for how hard they work. The choir sang a special song to say thank you to the Willis ISD School Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Principal Good introduced the Elementary Student of the Month, Najah Isede, a first grader at Meador Elementary who is a friend to every student in first grade.

Director of Communication Jamie Fails introduced the Principal of Lucas Middle School, Eric Burns.

Principal Burns introduced Lucas Middle School Counselor Amanda Cheatham. Ms. Cheatham introduced the Secondary Student of the Month, Avery Johnson, an eighth grader at Lucas Middle School who works as an office aide in the Grade Level Office and who is always willing to offer a helping hand to other students.

Director Fails shared with the Board of Trustees and the audience that the meeting was being filmed and would be posted within 48 hours on the website. School districts with an enrollment of 10,000 students or more are required to film board meetings. Willis ISD has not reached that requirement yet, but will be posting all future meetings. * Due to technical issues with the system, the November video is not available to post.

Director of Fine Arts, Ken Labonski, announced that two Willis ISD Administrators have been recognized by the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA). Mr. Labonski presented Superintendent, Dr. Tim Harkrider, and Executive Director of Athletics and Fine Arts, Jason Glenn, each with a TMEA Distinguished Administrator Award.

STANDING INFORMATION AND AD HOC REPORTS & ITEMS

Lieutenant Leslee Zemlicka, Director of Willis ISD Security, presented an update on safety and security measures at all campuses and throughout the District, regarding audits at each campus. State audit at Lucas Middle School found one door that was not shut properly. The issue being an older door and hardware. The Maintenance Department replaced the parts of the door to prevent any more malfunction.

Director of Learner Pathways, Dr. Ivan Velasco, presented a Bilingual / ESL Program Evaluation Report, as required by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The report reflected the academic progress of Emergent Bilinguals, their proficiency in English, number who have exited the program, bilingual exceptions, ESL waivers and professional development plan.

The Board took a short recess at 7:00 p.m. and resumed meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Superintendent Harkrider reported the student attendance for Monday, November 7, 2022 was 8,798.

There were no questions concerning the Safety Performance Report for October 2022.

Superintendent Harkrider reviewed information regarding the purchasing cooperatives memberships for 2022-2023. There were no questions concerning this report.

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

There were no questions concerning the 2020 Bond Projects Summary and information regarding the 2015 Bond Issue Funds.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Robin Sproba and seconded by Christen Arnold to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Director of Child Nutrition, Michael Northey, discussed the need to upgrade one Hobart Dish machine at Willis High School. Request for Proposal (RFP) 09262022 was issued on September 26, 2022 and bids were due on October 31, 2022. The District received four bids. The Superintendent recommended awarding the bid to Ace Mart Restaurant Supply with a project total cost of \$61,448.94.

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Kyle Hoegemeyer to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to award the bid related to RFP 09262022 to Ace Mart Restaurant Supply and approve the purchase of \$61,448.94 from the Child Nutrition Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Northey discussed the need to purchase a three compartment style dish machine at Lynn Lucas Middle School. Request for Proposal (RFP) 081533 was issued on August 15, 2022 with bids due on November 3, 2022. The district received two bids. Superintendent, Dr. Tim Harkrider, recommended awarding the bid to Ace Mart Restaurant Supply, with a total cost of \$64,675.30

Motion by Robin Sproba and seconded by Chad Jones to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to award the bid related to RFP 081522 to Ace Mart Restaurant Supply and approve the purchase of \$64,675.30 from the Child Nutrition Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Special Programs, Debbie Walker, discussed the TEA requirement that each school district is to administer, at the beginning of the seventh grade, a reading instrument and that districts may request a waiver in order to best meet student needs. Superintendent Harkrider recommended that the Board approve the Grade 7 Reading Diagnostic Waiver and allow the use of the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to assess our students at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by Christen Arnold and seconded by Charles Perry that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the Grade 7 Reading Diagnostic Waiver. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Operations, Robert Whitman, discussed a resolution establishing a one-time retention incentive payment for district personnel – December 2022. The payments will be:

- \$1,500 to each Teacher/Professional/Exempt employee and Security Resource Officer hired prior to 9/01/2022
- \$1,000 to each Non/Exempt/Hourly employee hired prior to 9/01/2022
- \$500 to each employee hired between 9/01/2022 and 11/01/2022

Superintendent Harkrider recommended that the Board approve the proposed resolution establishing a one-time payment from ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding for the one time retention incentive payments. There will be no impact to the general fund operating budget.

Motion by Kyle Hoegemeyer and seconded by Chad Jones that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed resolution establishing a one-time payment from ESSER funds for district personnel who meet the established guidelines noted in the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent Whitman discussed a resolution establishing a one-time retention incentive payment for district personnel – August 2023. The payments will be:

- \$2,500 to each Teacher/Professional/Exempt employee employed with the district as of 5/01/2023
- \$1,500 to each Non/Exempt/Hourly/Part time employee employed with the district as of 5/01/2023
- \$500 to each Non/Exempt/Hourly/Part time employee hired between 5/01/2023 and 7/01/2023

Superintendent Harkrider recommended that the Board approve the proposed resolution establishing a one-time payment from ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funding for the one time retention incentive payments. There will be no impact to the general fund operating budget.

Motion by Robin Sproba and seconded by Chad Jones that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed resolution establishing a one-time payment from ESSER funds for district personnel who meet the established guidelines noted in the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent Robert Whitman, discussed a resolution authorizing the payment of a \$500 sign-on bonus for qualified individuals to become employees of the District, within specified timeframes / guidelines, through the 2022-2023 school year. Superintendent Harkrider recommended this resolution.

Motion by Christen Arnold and seconded by Kyle Hoegemeyer that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed resolution establishing a \$500 Sign-On Bonus for new hires that meet the established guidelines noted in the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Robin Sproba shared that this is the time for her to say her goodbyes and that she would be stepping down after twelve years of service. Ms. Sproba expressed her appreciation for the other board members and the pride she takes from the work they have accomplished together. Ms. Sproba shared a special thank you to Dr. Harkrider complimenting his leadership. Ms. Sproba congratulated Nikki Lagway and Scott Carson for running positive campaigns. She shared Representative Kevin Brady's thoughts that when leaving public service you always want to be followed by someone you admire and respect and she feels Scott Carson will fill this seat well.

Board Member Christen Arnold shared a thank you to everyone and expressed that Scott Carson and Nikki Lagway are going to be excellent board members. Ms. Arnold stressed the need for the community to come together as a district. Ms. Arnold gave a special thank you to the other board members and wished Dr. Harkrider continued success.

Board member, Chad Jones, thanked Ms. Sproba and Ms. Arnold, both, for being selfless and giving so much time and dedication to a sometimes thankless job.

Board Vice President, Kyle Hoegemeyer shared that he had been on the Board for five years and that the two people who are leaving exemplified the Board.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Robin Sproba and seconded by Christen Arnold to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.