

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in regular business session on November 8, 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 5:41 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, Paulett Traylor, Chad Jones, Cliff Williams, Scott Carson, Nikita Lagway.

Members Absent: Charles Perry, Sr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diane Hivnor spoke on three topics. First, Ms. Hivnor extended expressed a special thank you to the district administrators who shared input during a meeting regarding the Education Foundation grants. Second, Ms. Hivnor shared her support of the Willis ISD Board of Trustees to choose Thompson & Horton as the superintendent search firm regarding an item on this November agenda. Third, Ms. Hivnor stressed that Board Member, Position 5, should resign and offered samples of resignation letters that she had displayed in a box.

Sunday Shibley spoke on inappropriate books, specifically Crank by Ellen Hopkins that are in Willis ISD high school library, ordered deliberately, and available for student that are not yet adults to read. Ms. Shibley shared excerpt from the book.

Robert Holden spoke on education with the hope for the Board Members to see things from another prospective and to stop the teaching of communism and hatred through books.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session at 5:51 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, Consider and Possibly Take Action Regarding the Contract Abandonment of a Teacher at Brabham Middle School
- B. Discuss Teacher Resignations and Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments. Tex. Gov't Code 551.074.
- C. Discuss and Consider Approval of Superintendent Search Firm
- D. Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Consider and Discuss Resolution Related to Compensation of High School Coach and Related Matters

OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 6:29 p.m.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board find that good cause did not exist for Michael Calais to abandon his probationary dual employment contract and authorize our Board President to file a written complaint to the State Board for Educator Certification. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no teacher appointments submitted for approval.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Chad Jones that the Board direct the Interim Superintendent to execute an agreement with Thompson & Horton LLP to perform the Superintendent Search for Willis ISD. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the resolution to increase the salary of high school football coach Trent Miller as outlined in the resolution and authorize the superintendent to carry out such administrative duties as necessary to effectuate same. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Secretary Chad Jones shared that the Board supports One Team, One Purpose and that now Coach will receive what was promised.

Willis High School Head Football Coach Trent Miller shared a big thank you to the Board for believing in him and giving him this opportunity to take care of his family. Coach Miller shared that it takes a village to raise all these young men; from the coaching staff to the community. Coach Miller concluded with that the Millers are not going anywhere and expressed deep appreciation of everyone believing in and investing in them.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION – TURNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal of Turner Elementary, Dr. Michelle Hall, introduced Turner Elementary students to lead the pledges to the flags and the invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Principal Hall announced the Elementary Student of the Month, Kylee Keith, a fifth grader at Turner Elementary. Kylee's teachers described her as hard working, dedicated and a friend to all. Kylee gives her best effort no matter the task.

Principal of Willis High School, Eric King, stated that he was honored to recognize someone very special at Willis High School. Mr. King proudly announced Akeyah Gardin, a Willis High School Senior, as the Secondary Student of the Month. He shared that Akeyah is a strong leader who leads with positivity and respectfulness.

Interim Superintendent Tom Crowe shared that honoring students such as the Students of the Month is the best part of his job.

STANDING INFORMATION AND AD HOC REPORTS & ITEMS

The agenda item regarding the TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System) presentation was tabled at this time.

Bilingual ESL Coordinator Frida Bond 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.

There were no questions regarding the purchasing cooperatives memberships for 2023-2024..

Interim Superintendent Tom Crowe reported the student attendance for Friday, October 27, 2023, was 8,978.

There were no questions concerning the Safety Performance Report for October 2023.

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

There were no questions concerning the Bond Projects Summary.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Operations, Robert Whitman, discussed the reclassification of Leave and Substitute Clerk to Leave and Substitute Specialist; basically moving the position from a clerk to a secretary position, pay grade 6 to pay grade 7. Interim Superintendent Crowe recommended this reclassification.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the reclassification of the position listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

Interim Superintendent Tom Crowe discussed Mentor Coordinators LeighAnn Elmore and Kim Eckert attending the National Mentoring Summit in Washington D.C., January 24-27, 2024. Mr. Crowe shared that this summit is an excellent opportunity to improve the tools utilized within the District and to help strengthen community involvement strategies. Mr. Crowe recommended the

approval of this out of state trip and also complimented Ms. Elmore and Ms. Eckert for the great job they are doing with the Willis ISD Mentor Program.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Cliff Williams that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the out of state trip for the Willis ISD Mentor Program Coordinators to attend the national Mentoring Summit in Washington D.C. Motion carried unanimously

Executive Director of Support Services and Construction, Paul Dusebout, discussed flooring and painting upgrades at Turner Elementary, a 2020 Bond Project, to be done through Kim Neal & Associates, LLC, a TIPS Awarded Vendor; meeting all State and School District policies and procedures since TIPS (The Interlocal Purchasing System) is a state approved purchasing method for securing this work. Interim Superintendent Crowe recommended this project at a total cost of \$2,197,241.00.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expend \$2,197,241.00 from Bond 2020 Issue Funds, for the upgrades of the flooring and painting at A. R. Turner Elementary. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Secretary Chad Jones complimented and shared his appreciation for the great job on the graphs that were shared.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer shared that tonight as a board and a community, the right thing was done for Coach Miller and his family. President Hoegemeyer stated that as soon as the District hears from the state, that others will be given a raise. Mr. Hoegemeyer concluded with his deep appreciation to Coach Miller and all Willis ISD staff members.

FUTURE MEETINGS

There is a possibility of a Special Meeting the last week of November 2023.

The regular December Board Meeting will be held on December 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.