

December 14, 2022

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in regular business session on December 14, 2022 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, Scott Carson, Paulett Traylor, Nikita Lagway, Chad Jones.

Member Absent: Charles Perry, Sr.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Diane Hivnor spoke on optics in regards to bussing students to the election polls, buses not available for the swim team, division in community and social media postings.

Sunday Shibley spoke on the denial of the request to remove the library book, All Boys Aren't Blue.

Bob Holden spoke on education, complying with community standards, decisions regarding books for students and the Board of Trustees' authority and responsibility.

### **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 Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments. Tex. Gov't Code 551.074.
- B. Discuss, Consider and Possibly Take Action regarding the Contract Abandonment of Lauren Tribe, Teacher at Brabham Middle School

### **OPEN SESSION**

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 6:42 p.m.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the professional personnel presented in closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor, based on Texas Education Code 21.210, to find that good cause did not exist for Lauren Tribe to abandon her term employment

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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 – TURNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Turner Elementary School Principal, Dr. Michelle Hall, introduced Turner students who led the pledges to the flags and the invocation.

Principal Hall introduced the Student Ambassadors of Turner Elementary. These students are leaders and mentors to other students; welcoming them, helping in the cafeteria, building and sustaining lasting relationships. Each ambassador presented an appreciation gift to each board member.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

Principal Hall introduced and honored Elementary Student of the Month Olivia Stephenson, a fourth grader at Turner Elementary.

Director of Communications, Jamie Fails, greeted the board members and welcomed Willis High School Principal Chad Smith to the podium.

Principal Smith introduced and honored Secondary Student of the Month Joshua Baldwin, a twelfth grader at Willis High School, who was recently selected incoming JROTC Corp Commander.

Director Fails introduced Lone Star State School Counseling Association President Tiffany Rhodriquez who presented awards from this association:

- 2022 Counselor of the Year Finalist – Dyann Wilson, Brabham Middle School Counselor
- 2022 Administrator of the Year – Eric Burns, Lucas Middle School Principal
- 2022 School Counselor Supervisor of the Year – Kelly Locke, Willis ISD Director of Guidance and Counseling

This organization led by counselors for counselors was proud to recognize something special going on in Willis ISD. Ms. Rhodriquez congratulated Willis ISD and the work going on in the District and at campuses.

Executive Director of Athletics and Fine Arts, Jason Glenn, shared that Willis ISD has amazing coaches and kids being honored at this meeting.

Volleyball Awards – Director Glenn introduced Willis High School Volleyball Coach Megan Storms sharing that she is a great coach and an amazing person. Coach Storms thanked Dr. Harkrider, Administration, the Board of Trustees, Director Glenn and Principal Smith for their support. Coach Storms shared that Volleyball had an awesome season and that she is very proud of the girls standing before them today; their awesome performance on the court and their performance in the classroom as leaders.

Football Awards – Willis High School Head Football Coach Trent Miller, who Director Glenn introduced as a leader of young men and someone who has had a real impact with the kids and the community, recognized football athletes. Coach Miller thanked the Board, Dr. Harkrider and

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the community members for all their support and for trusting and believing in what the coaches do to help the young men of Willis High School grow.

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer extended Congratulations to all students who were recognized.

Willis ISD Director of Communications, Jamie Fails, shared a video highlighting Parent Involvement throughout the District.

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

Community Involvement Liaison, Michelle Bischof, and Willis ISD Education Foundation members presented a check to Willis ISD for \$74,944.30 awarded to Willis ISD teachers through the Foundation's grant program.

Superintendent Harkrider shared that he had met with Durotech, Inc. earlier in the day and they gave him a \$10,000 check to present to the Willis ISD Education Foundation. Durotech Construction Foundation matches funds that their vendors donate to be given to organizations such as the Willis ISD Education Foundation. Ms. Bischof and the Foundation Members present were excited to receive this donation.

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 audits at Roark Early Childhood Center, Lagway Elementary and Brabham Middle School were reported as one hundred percent in compliance.

Superintendent Harkrider reviewed the Safety Performance Report for November 2022; three accidents, two employees with loss time injuries and no employees on workers comp.

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

Superintendent Harkrider reported the student attendance on December 12, 2022 was 8,792 students which is up about 283 students from this time last year.

There were no questions concerning the 2022 Bond Projects Summary and information regarding the 2020 and 2015 Bond Issue funds.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve and sign the Management Safety Statement. Motion carried unanimously.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

Executive Director of Student Services, Brad Mansfield, discussed the Willis ISD 2023-2024 Course Catalog: High School, Middle School and Elementary. Mr. Mansfield requested to add the following courses to the 2023-2024 WISD Course Catalog: Animation II, Practicum in Early Learning, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Orchestra, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Intermediate Orchestra, Art Appreciation, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Technical Theatre I, Government DC, and Middle School Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology and Communications as recommended by Superintendent Harkrider.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2023-2024 Willis ISD Course Catalog including the above requested courses. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Career and Technology, Travis Utecht, discussed the out of state travel request for Advanced Culinary Arts to attend the Culinary Institute of America in New York. Superintendent Harkrider recommended this out of state trip.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the out of state travel for the Culinary Arts Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director of Support Services and Construction, Paul Dusebout, discussed the need of Willis High School's Air Handler Unit Replacement Phase I Installation. Dr. Harkrider recommended approval of this project with a total cost of \$2,242,529.00 to be paid from 2020 Bond Issue Funds and done through Kim Neal & Associates, LLC, a Texas Interlocal Purchasing System Awarded Vendor.

Motion by Paulett Traylor and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expend \$2,242,529.00, from 2020 Bond Issue Funds, for the Phase I Installation Replacement of the air handler units at Willis High School. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Paul Dusebout discussed the need of the A.R. Turner Elementary Chiller and Boiler Plant Replacement. Dr. Harkrider recommended this project with a total cost of \$2,294,671.00 to be paid from 2020 Bond Issue Funds and done through Kim Neal & Associates, LLC.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expend \$2,294,671.00 from 2020 Bond Issue Funds, for the replacement of the chiller and boiler plant at A.R. Turner Elementary, Bond 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Dusebout discussed the need of Lynn Lucas Middle School's Auditorium Air Handler Unit Replacement. Dr. Harkrider recommended this project with a total cost of \$743,104.00 to be paid from 2020 Bond Issue Funds and done through Kim Neal & Associates, LLC.

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Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expend \$743,104.00 from 2020 Bond Issue Funds, for the replacement of the air handler units at Lynn Lucas Middle School Auditorium. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Dusebout discussed the Meador Elementary Chiller Replacement Project. Dr. Harkrider recommended this project with a total cost of \$1,580,230.00 to be paid from 2020 Bond Issue Funds and done through Kim Neal & Associates, LLC, in 2023.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to expend \$1,580,230.00 from 2020 Bond Issue funds, for the installation of the mechanical/electrical equipment needed for the Meador Elementary Project, Bond 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Dusebout discussed a purchase over \$50,000 for upgraded bus camera systems. These systems will enhance security on the buses. Superintendent Harkrider recommended this purchase sharing that Willis ISD is receiving a 10% discount to purchase in 2022 and a savings of \$47,000 for the Willis ISD Maintenance Department installing the systems.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Nikita Lagway that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the purchase from Safety Vision in the amount of \$94,134.96. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Child Nutrition, Michael Northey, discussed the bid related to Request for Proposal (RFP) # 110122, the Serving Line at Lynn Lucas Middle School. Superintendent, Dr. Tim Harkrider, recommended awarding this bid to Kommercial Kitchen with a total purchase cost of \$223,259.00 from the Child Nutrition Budget.

Board Member Chad Jones asked that Superintendent Harkrider discuss this purchase and the way the Child Nutrition Budget operates. Dr. Harkrider shared that the Willis ISD Child Nutrition Department operates on their own budget and that the free lunches that were approved by the government last school year enabled the Department to acquire additional funds. Federal guidelines are to be followed when spending those funds and can only be utilized by the Child Nutrition Department. Thus, upgrades and new equipment for the kitchens and cafeterias will be possible for the Child Nutrition Department.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to award the bid related to RFP 110122 to Kommercial Kitchen and approve the purchase of \$223,259.00 from the Child Nutrition Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board Member Chad Jones expressed what a great night it had been to witness this hard working group of people and the awesome amount of grants that were given. Mr. Jones shared that he agreed with Ms. Hivnor that we all need to come together.

Board Member Scott Carson congratulated Coach Trent Miller and the football boys. Mr. Carson stressed that we do need to come together. He also shared that it was an honor to be a part of Willis ISD and all the positive morale that he saw as he helped serve lunch to the Willis High School staff earlier this week.

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Board Member Nikita Lagway shared that she was so proud to be a part of this Board of Trustees. Ms. Lagway expressed how excited she was to see progress and accomplishments made by Principal, Dr. Shukella Price, at Brabham Middle School, Principal, Eric Burns, at Lucas Middle School and Principal, Chad Smith, at Willis High School. She stressed her appreciation for all the positive things they are doing.

### **FUTURE BUSINESS MEETINGS**

The regular January Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Sharon Hill Jennette Administration Building in the Willis ISD Board Room at 612 N. Campbell Street in Willis.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.