

September 20, 2023

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in regular business session on September 20, 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 Business 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, Charles Perry, Sr., Nikita Lagway, Paulett Traylor, Chad Jones.

Members Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Diane Hivnor's topic was "What were you thinking." Ms. Hivnor shared concerns regarding the agenda item about adding additional personnel and the agenda item about Solution Tree services. Ms. Hivnor also pointed out that board policy, BBC (LEGAL) designates reasons for removal of a board member from office including intoxication on or off duty caused by drinking alcoholic beverages.

Robin Sproba spoke on behalf of Board Member Cliff Williams. Ms. Sproba shared that some community members are asking him to resign but that she is imploring Cliff to not resign. Ms. Sproba shared that during his fifteen years of services as a board member, she never once witnessed him make a decision without the kids in mind. Ms. Sproba concluded by expressing her appreciation to the service that the current board members are dedicating to Willis ISD.

Sunday Shibley's topic was regarding the reconsideration of a book that filed a complaint and the removal was denied. Ms. Shibley shared that this same book was made into a movie which is rated R; meaning that the movie is not acceptable for anyone under the age of seventeen. She attested that the book is more graphic than the movie and stressed the need to stop pornography in Willis ISD schools. Ms. Shibley asked that if our society has deemed this book / movie rated R, why is it still on WISD library shelves.

Mike Arrington's topic was Teaching "Science." Mr. Arrington shared concerns regarding the behavior of some WHS teachers and the topics they choose to teach; specifically discussions that do not pertain to the class subject.

Pete Paske spoke on Cliff Williams' behalf regarding about what is going on. Mr. Paske shared about their friendship and the good things he has witnessed in Cliff's life. Mr. Paske stressed that Cliff fights for the WISD kids and is a good guy. Mr. Paske concluded by stating that he does not condone drinking and driving but asked the community to let this thing play out and great things will come.

Robert Holden spoke on health sharing statistics regarding N95 masks and vaccinations. Mr. Holden urged Willis ISD to share with parents their options and choices available regarding vaccines.

Tommy Gaskins thanked all the board members for their service. Mr. Gaskins shared that he has known Cliff Williams for many years and throughout that time they have agreed and disagreed but always

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shake hands as friends. Mr. Gaskins shared that Cliff is a Willis graduate and a college graduate who came home and chose to serve on the Board even before he had kids of his own. Mr. Gaskins concluded that all people make mistakes, people are not perfect and that as a community we need to build and move on.

STANDING INFORMATION

Representatives, Dr. Eddie Coulson and Dr. Brad Lancaster, from N2 Learning presented information regarding services, timelines and a proposal of cost for a superintendent search. Dr. Coulson shared that their job is to bring the best candidate to the Board. Dr. Lancaster shared that Willis ISD has an outstanding reputation and is a growing school district, along with the last superintendent staying 10 years—all this makes Willis ISD an attractable school district for candidates.

Board Member, Cliff Williams, asked if N2 Learning had any searches going on at this time.

Dr. Coulson responded only one for a Human Resource position in a Texas school district.

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer, shared that he considers this a community search for a new superintendent and expressed his appreciation for N2 Learning speaking in public. He also expressed that the Board wants to find best person for our district and our teachers.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session at 6:13 p.m. for the purpose of considering matters for which closed sessions are authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code Sections (.071 - .129): 551.074

- A. Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code 551.071 and 551.129, Attorney Consultation Regarding Pending Litigation in the Case of Mathis v. Willis Independent School District et al. 551.071, 551.129
- B. 551.071, 551.129 Attorney Consultation Regarding Legal Issues Related to Changes to Public Information Act
- C. Trustees may convene in closed session to obtain legal advice regarding Entergy Texas, Inc.'s request for a Non-Exclusive Easement – Entergy Texas, Inc., on an area of 0.3728 acres, out of that certain real property owned by Willis ISD identified as that 20.178 acre remainder out of a 50.914 acre tract, said property situated in the William Weir Survey, A-42, with the 50.914 recorded as File 2010024266 in the Deed Records of Montgomery County, Texas (Texas Government Code §§551.071 and 551.129).
- D. Trustees may adjourn into closed session to obtain legal advice regarding the purchase of the following real estate interests for the District's use for future expansion to support the educational mission of the District: (1) Fee Simple: the real property, surface, mineral and all improvements thereto, which is described as approximately 60.984 acres (2,656,463 square feet) of land situated near the southeast corner of FM 830 and I-45, out of the F.K. Henderson Survey, Abstract No. 248, and Francis Cook Survey, Abstract No. 118, City of Conroe, Texas, together with all improvements, if any, thereon and all rights, title and interest of Farouk Shami, Seller, in and to adjacent roads, alleys, rights-of-way, drainage facilities, easements and utility facilities as depicted in Exhibit A to the Real Estate Sales Contract; and (2) Easement: A perpetual

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easement on two tracts, Tract 1, 0.7804 acre, out of the F.K. Henderson Survey, Abstract No. 248, City of Conroe, and Tract 2, 1.670 acre, out of the F.K. Henderson Survey, Abstract No. 248, City of Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas, to be used for vehicular and pedestrian access, as depicted and described in Exhibit A; together, the Fee Simple and the Easement are referred to as “the Property,” along with a Development Agreement for the development of certain vehicular and pedestrian infrastructure on the Easement tracts. (Texas Government Code §§551.071 and 551.129).

- E. Discuss Teacher Resignations and Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments. Tex. Gov’t Code 551.074.
- F. Discuss, Consider and Possibly Take Action Regarding the Contract Abandonment of a Teacher at Brabham Middle School
- G. Discuss, Consider and Possibly Take Action Regarding the Contract Abandonment of a Special Education Professional

OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 7:22 p.m.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board designate the following 10 days in the 2023 calendar year and five days in the 2024 calendar year and five days in the 2024 calendar year as nonbusiness days for purposes of the public information act with the intention of designating an additional 5 days for calendar year 2024 for the 2024 / 2025 school year.

1. Monday, November 20th
2. Tuesday, November 21st
3. Wednesday, November 22nd
4. Monday, December 18th
5. Tuesday, December 19th
6. Wednesday, December 20th
7. Thursday, December 21st
8. Friday, December 22nd
9. Wednesday, December 27th
10. Thursday, December 28th

Motion carried unanimously.

The item regarding a resolution and approval of the conveyance of a Non-Exclusive Easement – Entergy Texas, Inc. was tabled for a future date.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor that the Board proceed in accordance with the Resolution adopted on August 17, 2023 and further authorize the Board President to sign the Vehicular and Pedestrian Access Easement in the form included in the Real Estate Sales Contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor that the Board accept the Superintendent’s recommendation on the professional personnel listed. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor that the Board finds that good cause did not exist for Lindsay Graham to abandon her probationary employment contract. Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION – Lagway Elementary Assistant Principal, Adriana Velasco, introduced three exemplary Lagway students who led the pledges and invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Elementary Student of the Month - Assistant Principal Velasco introduced Lagway First Grade Teacher, Rachel Willson. Ms. Willson introduced the Elementary Student of the Month, First Grader Sofia Trujillo. She shared that Sofia is a model student and wonderful leader who comes to school to learn.

Secondary Student of the Month - Brabham Middle School Principal, Dr. Shukella Price, introduced Brabham Assistant Principal, Danielle Hunnicutt. Ms. Hunnicutt introduced the Secondary Student of the Month, Daniel McBride. She shared that Daniel is a very respectful young man who is active in campus activities, a hard worker, a good leader, a model athlete and is interested in serving in our military.

Director of Communications, Jamie Fails, shared a Proclamation by City of Willis City Council, adopted September 12, 2023. Director Fails introduced the City of Willis Mayor, Leonard Reed, thanking him and the City Council for honoring Willis Teachers with the Proclamation that designates October 5, 2023 to be Willis Teachers' Day.

Director Fails introduced Director of Fine Arts, Ken Labonski, who shared a video regarding National Arts in Education Week. He was proud to announce that over 7,000 WISD students participate in fine arts programs. Mr. Labonski concluded with a big thank you to the Board for their continued support.

STANDING INFORMATION AND AD HOC REPORTS & ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Garret Matej, discussed and presented the Willis ISD Preliminary First Rating (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas). This report will be presented in more detail at the October regular board meeting.

The State Testing Results, 2022-2023, were presented by Assistant Superintendent of Innovation, Teacher and Learning, Sara Goolsby.

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer, asked if there were any questions regarding the Safety Performance Report for August 2023. There were no questions.

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

There were no questions regarding the student enrollment report that showed 8,951 Willis ISD students as of September 15, 2023.

Board President Hoegemeyer asked if there were any questions regarding the Bond Summary Reports. There were no questions.

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CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Approval of 2023-2024 Categorical Purchases over \$50,000

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Garrett Matej, explained the purpose of RFP 71723 and introduced Laura Gwaltney, with Walker and Associates, who presented information related to the bids received for Request for Proposal (RFP) 71723 – Onsite Health and Wellness Clinic Services. Walker & Associates recommended that Willis ISD award the contract related to RFP 71723 to Premise Health.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Chad Jones that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to award the contract related to RFP 71723 for Onsite Health and Wellness Clinic Services to Premise Health. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Garrett Matej, discussed joining the PACE Purchasing Cooperative administered by Region 20 ESC.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation and authorizes Willis ISD to enter into an interlocal agreement with Region 20 ESC and approve the resolution to participate in the PACE Purchasing Cooperative. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent Matej discussed joining the TexBuy Purchasing Cooperative administered by Region 16 ESC.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Charles Perry that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation and authorizes Willis ISD to enter into an interlocal agreement with Region 16 ESC and approve the resolution to participate in the TexBuy Purchasing Cooperative. Motion carried unanimously.

Director of Guidance and Counseling, Kelly Locke, presented information and a power point presentation regarding Personal Body Safety / Child Abuse Curriculum; sharing that the District is tasked by the state to instruct students in certain areas.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Cliff Williams that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to approve the personal body safety/child abuse curriculum as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Principal of Hardy Elementary, Susan Fossler, discussed the importance and the reasons that the Hardy teachers are supporting and requesting products and services provided by Solution Tree in excess of \$50,000 for Hardy Elementary School.

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Mr. Crowe shared that this item was tabled in August so that the campuses could be involved; teachers and principals had a say in the proposals that were presented at this meeting.

Board Member, Nikita Lagway, asked what will be different this time from the last time Solution Tree was used and how will the data be presented for the Board to see. Ms. Lagway expressed her support of the Hardy teachers and thanked Ms. Fossler for talking to the teachers and obtaining their feedback.

Principal Fossler responded that the Hardy teachers feel that they are in need of strategies to implement Tier One instruction. This type of support was not provided in previous years.

Board Vice President, Paulett Traylor, asked if Solution Tree and teachers will be zoning in on specific subjects.

Principal Fossler responded that Solution Tree will support specifically to each teacher's need.

Board Member, Scott Carson asked if this was a one year contract with Solution Tree.

Assistant Superintendent Goolsby responded yes that this is a single year contract.

Board Vice President Traylor asked if Solution Tree would be observing and walking in the actual classrooms.

Principal Fossler responded yes they will enter classrooms and offer support as needed.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Charles Perry that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to approve the expenditures in relation to products and services provided by Solution Tree in excess of \$50,000.00. Five board members voted for this purchase: Cliff Williams, Kyle Hoegemeyer, Charles Perry, Paulett Traylor, Nikita Lagway. Two board members voted against this purchase: Chad Jones and Scott Carson. Motion passed.

Principal of Lucas Middle School, Dr. Kelley Moore, discussed the importance and the reasons that the Lucas teachers are supporting and requesting products and services provided by Solution Tree in excess of \$50,000 for Lucas Middle School.

Board Vice President Traylor asked which subjects are of concern.

Principal Moore responded that Reading is a big concern and this consultant can help the Lucas teachers with intervention.

Board Member, Charles Perry, asked if Math was also a concern.

Principal Moore responded that Math is also a concern.

Board Member Lagway shared that the biggest concern at Lucas is discipline and at the same time she commended Dr. Moore and her staff, thus for the improvement with discipline issues. Ms. Lagway asked what is the plan for rolling this new program with sassy junior high kids. Ms. Lagway concluded by stating that she is glad the Principals are owning it and saying what they want and need.

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Principal Moore shared the plan of small groups and mini lessons, structuring time to form small groups to meet every Tuesday and Thursday. The Lucas teachers need guidance in how to get all this done while still teaching their daily lesson.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones, asked if these services would be paid with budget or ESSER Funds. Mr. Jones also asked what is Lucas doing regarding tutoring. Mr. Jones shared that he just wants Willis to put our best foot forward and is frustrated that PLC is not working at the middle schools.

Assistant Superintendent Goolsby responded yes, these services will be paid through ESSER Funds.

Principal Moore responded that Lucas has built in focus time that takes the place of before or after school tutoring. She shared that Lucas is trying to embrace PLC from a different focal point by growing our teachers more.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Charles Perry that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to approve the expenditures in relation to products and services provided by Solution Tree in excess of \$50,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones requested that the Board receive reports and data on this program frequently.

Principal Moore commented that she believes the implementation of this program will also produce improvement in discipline.

Interim Superintendent Crowe shared that he has visited secondary schools several times this year and has witnessed kids in the classroom and teaching going on in those classrooms. Mr. Crowe also shared that he is very pleased with the good things going on at both middle schools.

Principal of Brabham Middle School, Dr. Shukella Price, discussed the importance and the reasons that the Brabham teachers are supporting and requesting products and services provided by Lead4ward in excess of \$50,000 for Brabham Middle School.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to approve the expenditures in relation to products and services provided by Lead4ward in excess of \$50,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Operations, Robert Whitman, discussed the reclassification of positions within the District.

- **Speech Language Pathologist Asst. position to Speech Language Pathologist position.** The change is needed for supervision of SLPAs and to better serve this population. Master's Degree = \$1,200; Stipend Increase – from \$2,000 to \$6,500 = \$4,500; Total Cost = \$5,700
- **Special Education Director work calendar back to 226 days.** In line with all directors and other administrative positions. \$6,512 extra.
- **2 Transportation Non-CDL driver positions to CDL driver positions.** No longer need non-CDL positions and can better utilize CDL for all routes. Possibly save district \$45,000 compared to last year.

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- **HS Grade Level Secretary to Associate Principal Secretary.** Reclassified an Assistant Principal position to a second Associate Principal position during the summer. This secretary position will have more duties associated with the Associate Principal and be in line with the other Associate Principal position's secretary. PG3 to PG4 and 10 more work days - \$2,187 extra.
- **District Outreach Liaison Assistant from PG1 to PG3.** With allowing the reclassification of the District Outreach Liaison position to part-time, the assistant position has had to assume more duties. \$2,983 extra.
- **Mentor Assistant to Mentor Facilitator and from PG1 to PG5.** With allowing the reclassification of the Mentor Program Coordinator position to part-time, the assistant position has had to assume more duties. In addition, the position facilitates the details of the program determined by the Coordinator, but is stationed at another campus. \$6,523 extra.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to approve the reclassification of the positions listed above excluding the District Outreach Liaison Assistant from PG1 to PG3. Motion carried unanimously

Assistant Superintendent Whitman discussed adding additional personnel:

Transportation (2) (CDL Drivers)	LES Teacher (1) (5 th Grade)	CCH Teacher w/Title I Funds (1) (Academic Interventionist -PT)
District (District Planning and Construction Manager)		

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Paulett Traylor that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to add the positions listed above. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Vice President, Paulett Traylor, asked who would the District Planning and Construction Manager report to.

Assistant Superintendent Whitman responded that they are still working on that decision.

Executive Director of Support Services and Construction, Paul Dusebout, discussed the Willis High School's Air Handler Replacement Installation Project Phase II, Bond 2020 Project. Installation is the second part of this project; the purchase of the equipment was approved by the Board in February 2023, enabling this project to progress.

Board Secretary Chad Jones expressed his feeling that a great job was accomplished in the first phase and saved close to \$100,000.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation to expend \$2,214,740.00 from 2020 Bond Issue Funds for the Phase II Installation of the air handlers at Willis High School. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer, thanked the three principals for their preparation and ensured them that the Board will give the teachers and staff the support that is needed to make instruction and students

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be great. Mr. Hoegemeyer encouraged the principals to notify the Board if and when support is needed.

FUTURE BUSINESS MEETINGS

The regular October Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. This is one week later due to Fall Break.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.