

**Windham School District
Board of Trustees
*291st Meeting***



Minutes

December 10, 2015

Austin, Texas

WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Courtyard & Residence Inn Marriott
300 East 4th Street
Austin, Texas 78701**

**December 10, 2015
11:00 – 11:45 AM**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Convene Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board)

I. Regular Session

- A. Recognitions
- B. Consideration of Approval of Consent Items
 - 1. Minutes of the October 15, 2015, WSD Board Meeting
 - 2. Appraisers for the 2015-2016 School Year
 - 3. Personal Property Donations
 - 4. Excused Absences
- C. Superintendent's Report
- D. Report from the Chairman, WSD Board
- E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Revisions to Windham Board Policy WBP-05.00, "The ECHO"
- F. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding New Windham Board Policy WBP-07.53, "Administrative Leave"
- G. Presentation by Library Staff on Book Studies to Promote Reading

Adjourn WSD Board

The WSD Board may discuss and/or take action on any of the items posted on this meeting agenda. The WSD Board may also convene into Executive Session on any of these matters when attorney-client privilege is warranted.

**MINUTES OF THE WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Meeting No. 291

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at the Courtyard & Residence Inn Marriott, Austin, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judge Dale Wainwright, Chairman
Terrell McCombs, Vice Chairman
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III, Secretary
Thomas Fordyce
Eric Gambrell
Larry Miles
Derrelynn Perryman
Thomas P. Wingate

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Judge Larry Gist

WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Brown, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Latreace Craig
Martha Fields
Amy Lopez
Michael Mondville
Mike Vickers
Susan Wilson
Michael White

CONVENED

Judge Dale Wainwright, Chairman, convened the meeting of the 291st Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the *Open Meetings Act*. A quorum was present and the meeting was declared open. During the regular session, the Board conducted business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register.

Judge Wainwright reported the WSD Board was committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations on posted agenda topics as well as for public comments on issues within its jurisdiction as provided in Board Rule 300.1. As no speaker registration cards were received by the board staff, no public presentations or comments would be heard.

RECOGNITIONS

Chairman Wainwright announced Dr. Clint Carpenter was unable to attend the meeting, so Paul Brown, Windham School District Chief Financial Officer, would make the WSD introductions.

Mr. Brown asked Amy Lopez, WSD Division Director of Instruction and Martha Fields, WSD South Texas Regional Administrator, to join him at the podium. He introduced Ms. Lopez and explained that she has an extensive background in education that began in 1986 as a teacher in the New Home Independent School District. She promoted to an assistant principal position in 2002 for the Canyon ISD in Canyon, Texas and in 2005 she promoted to a principal position

with the same district. She also held a principal position at the Al Price facility in Beaumont for the Texas Youth Commission before promoting to the Senior Director of Education/Superintendent for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in 2010. She joined Windham as the Division Director of Instruction on August 13, 2015.

Martha Fields began her career in education as a Teacher in August of 2000. In August 2004, she joined the Alief Independent School District where she served in several positions including the 21st Century After-School Director, Summer School Special Education Campus Coordinator, Summer School Principal Intern and District Administrator Intern. She returned to the classroom for a short time for Fort Bend ISD before joining Windham as an Academic Teacher in April 2012. Ms. Fields quickly promoted to Lead Teacher in October 2012. In April 2013, she promoted to Principal IV of the Darrington and Jester units. Her most recent promotion to Regional Administrator for the South Texas Region was effective September 1, 2015.

The Board welcomed Ms. Lopez and Ms. Fields to the Windham School District.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

The Chairman called the Board's attention to the Consent Items on the agenda, which consisted of the minutes of the October 14, 2015, meeting, appraisers for the 2015-2016 school year, personal property donations and an excused absence for Carmen Villaneuva-Hiles from the August 7, 2015, meeting, due to personal business.

There being no other comments, objections or amendments to the Consent Items, the Consent Items were approved as submitted.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Chairman stated the Superintendent's report would be passed due to the absence of Dr. Carpenter.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD

The Windham vocational training programs are certified by the nationally recognized National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Industrial Certification Verification program. This program is widely recognized in industry as a leading certification endorsement for the construction and manufacturing trades. The NCCER, organization held their National Career Pathways Conference in New Orleans the week of November 16th, with representatives from the largest industrial construction firms in the United States in attendance. In the opening ceremony, Mr. Steve Greene, the Vice President of NCCER addressed the audience and stated that working with incarcerated individuals was an untapped resource and that Windham School

District of Texas was leading the way by partnering with major industrial contractors to bring a change of life path to offenders being released. Mr. Greene applauded the efforts of Windham schools and their partners in the TDCJ for developing these opportunities to build a well-trained workforce for industrial and heavy construction industries.

The next speaker at the opening ceremony was Mr. Derek Sams, head of training for The Industrial Company, (TIC) which is partnering with Windham. He also praised the work of Windham and the partnership TIC is establishing with those NCCER-trained released offenders. As a result of these two important industry leaders announcing Windham's efforts to reach out to the skilled labor force, multiple companies have contacted Windham offering assistance and additional potential partnerships for employment. One in particular, Pride Industries, represents a staffing agency that helps physically and mentally disabled workers secure jobs and continued training. Mr. Lonny Wright has contacted Windham to start the process of partnering with Pride Industries to develop a pathway to find meaningful careers for some Windham students.

Windham is honored to be recognized as an innovator in the training for industrial skilled trades by this national organization and hopes to continue to build relationships with companies in the highly employable heavy industry construction trades.

Chairman's Fitness Challenge

Chairman Wainwright said he substantially achieved his goal. As for the rest of Windham, the first quarter of the fitness challenge ended November 15th. In the workplace, particularly in the criminal justice division, sound physical health is essential. Windham is divided into four regions. The West Texas region earned first place with 743,403 points, the North Texas region earned second place with 626,084 points and the WSD South Texas region came in third with 504,162 points.

The chairman thanked the staff for their participation in the challenge. He encouraged everyone to continue to stay fit and stay healthy. The second quarter challenge "One Step at a Time – Stay Focused" will begin January 18th and end on February 28th with a goal of 225 points per week throughout the quarter.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REVISIONS TO WINDHAM BOARD POLICY WBP-05.00 (REV. 3), "THE ECHO"

Michael Mondville, WSD General Counsel, said this policy is being brought to the board as part of a five-year review. The only substantial change is the board chairman's signature was revised. He asked for Board approval of the policy as presented.

Derrelynn Perryman moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the revisions to the WSD Board Policy WBP-05.00, "The ECHO" as presented.

Terrell McCombs seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING NEW
WINDHAM BOARD POLICY WBP-07.53 (REV. 1), “ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE”**

Mr. Mondville stated this policy was approved in April 2015 but, because of recent Supreme Court rulings, a change had to be made in the definition of informal marriage. Informal marriage is in the policy because it serves as a basis of bereavement leave which is granted by the Superintendent. He asked for board approval of the policy as presented.

Pastor Larry Miles moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the revisions to WSD Board Policy WBP-07.53, “Administrative Leave” as presented.

Judge Tom Wingate seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.

**PRESENTATION BY LIBRARY STAFF ON BOOK STUDIES TO
PROMOTE READING**

Susan Wilson, WSD Supervisor of Library Services, gave an overview of library services and discussed different incentives that are being used to promote reading in the libraries.

Vice-chairman Terrell McCombs inquired about the library automation and the length of time books can be checked out.

Ms. Wilson replied books are checked out for seven days. The library automation involves a computer program that maintains the list of library books that are available on the units and has a process for allowing offenders to check books in and out. There is no internet access on the computers.

Chairman Wainwright asked Ms. Wilson if she felt reading has an impact on the offender population.

Ms. Wilson replied that she received several letters from offenders stating the book “Miracle on Luckie Street” has changed their lives and their way of thinking. She feels the new incentives being used in the libraries have definitely improved circulation and more offenders are reading.

Board member Larry Miles asked how many books the offenders were allowed to check out each week; Ms. Wilson responded that it depends of the type of unit. Most units allow offenders to check out one book per week. Some of the women’s facilities can check out two to three books per week.

Mr. McCombs asked what the consequences were for not returning a book and Ms. Wilson responded the offender’s library privileges are suspended for 30 days.

Chairman Wainwright thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated the next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees would be Friday, February 19, 2016, at the Omni Hotel in downtown Austin.

(Attachment: WSD Library Services PowerPoint)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the 291st meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary

Note: Referenced attachments for draft minutes are available upon request. Following approval of the minutes, attachments will be maintained with the signed minutes in the Office of Record.

** Signature on file*