

**WILLIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA/NOTICE OF MEETING
SHARON HILL JENNETTE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
WILLIS ISD BOARDROOM
612 N. CAMPBELL
WILLIS, TEXAS 77378
POSTED: November 8, 2024**

The Board of Trustees of the Willis Independent School District will meet in a Regular Board Meeting on November 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sharon Hill Jennette Administration Building in the Willis ISD Boardroom, 612 N. Campbell Street, Willis, Texas 77378, and the business to be conducted is listed below.

AGENDA

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the Board of Trustees should determine that a closed or executive meeting of the Board is required, then such closed or executive meeting as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Section 551.001 et. seq., will be held by the Board of Trustees at the date, hour and place indicated in this Notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this Notice as the Board of Trustees may conveniently meet in such closed or executive session concerning any and all purposes: 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, 551.083, 551.084, and 551.129.

Should any final action, decision, or vote be required in the opinion of the Board of Trustees with regard to any matter considered in such closed or executive meeting or session, then the final action, decision or vote shall be either in open meeting, or at a subsequent public meeting upon notice thereof, as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

President Kyle Hoegemeyer called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 5:30 PM 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, Paulett Traylor, Chad Jones, Cliff Williams, Scott Carson, Charles Perry, Nikita Lagway

Members Absent:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION – AR Turner Elementary

Turner Elementary Principal Dr. Hall, introduced AR Turner students. AR Turner student, Dawson Alguire led the pledges and AR Turner student, Rosie Hernandez led the prayer.

**ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED November 5, 2024 –
JUDGE WAYNE L. MACK**

Judge Wayne Mack swears in our uncontested Board of Trustees, Paulett Traylor, Chad Jones, and Charles Perry

Dr. James thanks the sworn in board members for their service to the district and community and appreciates them for stepping up to the commitment to do the very best to make Willis ISD the absolutely best district that people chose to come to and be a part of.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD OFFICERS

Board President Kyle Hoegemeyer announces that currently, Kyle Hoegemeyer is the President, Paulett Traylor is the Vice President, and Chad Jones is the Secretary. Proceeds to present the questions if anyone wanted to make changes to these positions. States that there are no changes in the Board Officers Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Chad Jones to accept the Boards President recommendation and approve no change in the Board Officers. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROCLAMATIONS/RESOLUTIONS/RECOGNITION

Turner Writing Kats Club

Dr. Hall, Principal announced that Ms. Murrell is the writing coach for this group. Fall writing shared by Sofia Rubio. The assignment was to write about a box with no instructions, just write about a box. The name of the student's writing assignment was iconically called "The Box". The box is not noble, nor evil, but a place of inspiration and innovation. Stella Alexander's assignment was about success. For what is success, for what is failure, if success is the act of not failing and failing is the act of not succeeding but what comes in between those standards. I suppose a mistake is the answer. A mistake is when you mess up. You are on the right track but there is just one little flaw that leads to a dead end.

Students of the Month

Principal Dr. Hal presents student, Sofia Rubio as elementary student of the month

Willis HS Assistant Principal Aaron Breed presents student, Paloma de Paz, as secondary student of the month.

Paws of Pride

Director Jaime Fails presents both Dawson Asher, Lagway para was nominated by Lagway Principal, Kameron Wilder. Dawson supports our visual impaired student and even took the initiative to learn braille. Mindi Maturin, Brabham Biology Teacher, was nominated by Ashley Walker, Lisa Blevins and Lori Smith for her dedication and embodiment of all pride traits. This teacher's impact goes over and beyond the classroom as she supports our students.

Kats on Patrol

Director Meghan Ballard presents Miranda Madea, Willis HS custodian with the safety award. Reported an incident that help keep the staff and students safe

ATPE

President Katrina King, Michael Robinson, Donna Ward, and Conner Reid presented the Willis ISD Board of Trustees with a membership to ATPE. States the ATPE supports the Board of Trustees. The Trustees receive a paid membership.

San Jacinto River Authority

Director Meghan Ballard presents San Jacinto River Authority with an award of recognition for providing mutual aid during the district's emergency at Lagway Elementary.

Donation

Director Jaime Fails presents an award to Willis Supermarket for their \$7k donation to Roark Pre-K Center

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diana Hivnor – I am pleased to offer my list of thankful acknowledgements during this season of thanksgiving. I am thankful for a country's space technology and exploration program which is one of our basis of educational challenges. I am thankful for America's resilience which allows us the people to have hope and prosperity. I am thankful for our American freedoms which are outlined in the bill of rights which is a part of our national pride. I am thankful for the safety and security provided by police, firemen and first responders. I am thankful for the WISD Superintendent, who provides a vision for our district as well as an educational direction for our children. I am thankful for the WISD professional and support staff, who are responsible for the implementation of goals and policies of our school district as well as the continued maintenance of our school facilities. I am thankful for the WISD school board that is elected by we the people to serve the best interest of we the people in the education of our children.

We the people are thankful for the resignations of position # 5. We appreciate his service and also appreciate his realization that it is time to move on to pursue new adventures in his life. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and remember that family is most important and the community is as great as you make it.

Bob Holden – Congratulations to all three of the board members who were re-elected. We are getting feedback concerning education from elected officials. We are getting this same message at a state and national level. This sends a message that the people are back. Potentially may receive good news from the federal level and state. The improvement in Willis ISD is being noticed. Students currently lack knowledge concerning the changing environment, history, and apparently biology. We need to teach students history concerning our environment and repeating history. History needs to be reintroduced

Scott Baker – The election is over and the voters have spoken decisively on a number of things. The bonds as well as national and state issues. I am calling on this board to do a four year moratorium on any more debt. There should be no more bonds and debts for a number of reasons. This will give us a chance to pay down the existing debt which is very large. It will also give us an opportunity to innovate and see where the growth lands. The reality is school choice is coming. It is another result of the election that has just occurred. The governor has made it a priority in state legislative for school choice that will impact our school budget and student body. We have spent more money on students this cheer with no return on our investments. We need to strip down to the basics, reading, writing, and arithmetic and get down to the fundamentals. We have an opportunity to better educate our students. Look at our current budgets to help educate our students. Dr. James was the perfect candidate for Superintendent of Willis ISD. The community believes and supports her as she work to get our students grades up.

STANDING INFORMATIONAL AND AD HOC REPORTS & ITEMS

Director Meaghan Ballard presented the Safety Report. Thanks to the staff for the evacuation and reunification of the students at Lagway Elementary. Ms. Ballard states it was almost flawless and grateful for the opportunity to practice safety. This event allowed the safety committee to tighten up on our safety policies. During Thanksgiving break, new camera door bells will be installed at the front entrances of each school. This will give our campuses an extra layer of protection from threats

Exe. Director Travis Utecht reported the student enrollment 9318 students' increase of 361

Conner Reid, Teacher at the WHS Community Outreach – Christmas in the Barn is Friday, December 13th from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. This event will be held at the CTE Building and is for the elementary age children. There will be activities, crafts, games, petting zoo, snow and Santa

Exe. Director, Susan Clardy presented the Bilingual/ESL Program Evaluation Report. The top 2 languages spoken are Spanish and English. The third language spoken is Swahili. Other languages spoken throughout the district include Bengali, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese, Yoruba, Arabic, Cambodian, and Tagalog. Willis HS has the most Emergent Bilingual Students. All students that exit the emergent program will be monitored for an additional 2 years. Total number of students in the Alternative Language Program is 316. We have 17 bilingual Exemption and 43 ESL Waiver teachers that service this program. All bilingual and ESL teachers need to become properly certified. The stipend for Bilingual Teachers has increased to \$4K

Board Vice President Paulette Traylor asked if these teachers are specific to elementary and if there is a time limit for these teachers to be certified. Robert Whitman responded that we currently do not have a time limit and Paulett Traylor stated that there once was a timeline for teachers to complete this certification

Exe. Director, Susan Clardy presented the RDA (Results Driven Accountability). This is a data driven framework. It emphasizes improving student outcomes, designated special populations, compliance monitoring, and actual educational results. RDA meets federal and State requirements. RDA is required by individuals with Disability Act (IDEA) and determine if significant disproportionality exists for special populations

Director Randi Gay presented the Special Education TEA Cyclical Monitoring Report .Willis ISD underwent a comprehensive cyclical monitoring review by TEA. The purpose is to review and ensure compliance with the individuals with disabilities covered under Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) TEA conducted this review from April to June 2024. There are 3 successes; Student involvement, parent involvement and staff knowledge and growth mindset. TEA dinged the district on our noncompliance review. The corrective action plan in place is to convene IEP meetings to address areas of noncompliance and determine if the noncompliance resulted in a denial of FAPE and if compensatory services are warranted. Review and revise local policies/procedures, including operating guidelines and practices. Provide training specific to PLAAFPs/impact statements and IEPs. Develop processes that allow for LEA monitoring of these areas. Submission of student files to show compliance. Implementation of HB 4545 we were found 100% in compliance. Dyslexia program evaluation,

Director, Sarah Ballew presented the MAP Data. MAP growth is a computer adaptive test. MAP growth uses a RIT scale to accurately measure what students know, regardless of their grade level. MAP growth provides a baseline for where students started the year at/ There are two reports that we utilize are student growth summary report and projected proficiency summary report.

Director Ballew explains the beginning of the year data and point of the growth charts. MAP district actions are professional development of the best practices and resources, strong foundation planning, observation and feedback, and content specific curriculum. The following curriculum documents are being implemented. They are pacing guides, unit assessments, and standards based report cards for kindergarten and first grade. The instructional coaching/coordinator team was restricted to provide more support in math and science.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones asked Director Ballew to speak more on strategies concerning professional developments. Director Ballew explained the different training the coaches are taking. Chad Jones asked that Director Ballew report back to the board as they implement what was learned from the training.

Board Member, Cliff Williams talks about the 8th grade math and what that diamond means. Director Ballew states that it is a fall 2023 to fall 2024 measurement. The numbers are adjusted by the performance of the students being tested. Superintendent, Dr. James stated it is important to understand the norm reference is nationally. The diamond is indicative of every single student across the board that should be reaching this percentage.

Board Member, Scott Carson asked about the restructure of the instructional coaches. Coordinator of Science, Mr. Jason Marik was asked to focus on secondary campuses. This freed up his time to attend collaborative on tested areas, being on campuses in the classrooms, and students CT's every day. Technology Instructional coaches are now focusing on elementary science due to the phenomenal coaches with science backgrounds. Scott Carson asked if the principals were happy with this change. Ms. Ballew stated we would have to ask the principals, then turned towards the audience to acknowledge our principals nodding their heads, smiling and giving the thumbs up.

Board Vice President Paulette Traylor asked if IT Coaches share campuses. Ms. Ballew answered that a couple of I-Coaches have a home campus but most have multiple campuses that they share their time between.

Board Member, Scott Carson asked if this reconstruction is working. The principals present gave thumbs up.

Board Member, Scott Carson stated that Dr. James has been known to bring F campuses to passing campuses.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones asked Ms. Ballew to speak more on 2nd grade reading diamonds. Sarah Ballew explained the report card system and how 2nd grade is being graded.

Board Vice President, Paulett Traylor added the we are assessing a unified system of teaching and testing across the district

Chief Financial Officer, Garrett Matej introduces Leslie Schkade that discussed the Delinquent Tax Collections Report. Ms. Schkade breaks down the account chart. The action pending is the largest area @ 38%. The taxpayer is being reached out to settle their debt. The dollar range chart tells how to work the accounts. The tax year chart tells which year has the highest percentage delinquencies. Willis had a tax sale in November on properties. Gave a website for tax sales.

Chief Financial Officer, Garrett Matej discussed a summary of WISD's Business Office financial reports and bill payments for October 1 – 30, 2024. The largest expenditures 18 checks over \$50k, 5 general fund checks, 3 bond funds, District Wide \$14.7m Revenues. This is primarily state aid, \$15.7m Expenditures

Chief of Construction and Operations, Robert Eaton discussed the construction updates currently taking place. We are currently under budget. We are 8 days behind schedule for middle school #3, June 1st but have 30 bad weather days that should encompass that delay time. Board Secretary, Chad Jones asked if the LLMS chiller project is 100% done. Elementary # 7 is being built on the property that we already owned. Chad Jones verified that information. This is being funded out of the 2022 Bond. The new transportation center is being funded from the 2024 Bond. The WHS parking lot expansion is being funded by the May 20224 Bond. Board Member, Scott Carson asked when the parking lot project will begin. Robert Eaton answered that we are looking to break ground in spring of 2025. Chad Jones asked if the survey had been completed concerning student traffic from CTE building to HS. Bob Eaton answered no. Chad Jones then asked that upon completion of this report to present the findings to the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Premise Health Final Agreement
- C. CDA (local) Pertaining to Investments and Approval of Brokers
- D. RFQ for Geotech, Survey, Environment, and TAB
- E. WISD Construction Software

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

CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered closed session at 7:25 pm for the purpose of considering matters for closed sessions are authorized by Title 5, Chapter 551.001, and Texas Government Code Sections (.071-.084)

- A. Discuss Teacher Resignations and Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments. Tex. Gov't Code 551.074.
- B. Real Estate: Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code §551.072
- C. Security Texas Gov't Code §551.076 & §551.089
- D. Consultation with Attorney by Phone: Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code §551.071
- E. Personally Identifiable Student Information Texas Gov't §551.0821

OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 10:01 pm

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendents recommendations on the professional personnel listed. Motion carried unanimously

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Exe. Director, Travis Utecht discuss the approval of the Willis HS Culinary Competition out of state trip to Florida

Motion by Scott Carson and second by Nikita Lagway to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the WHS Culinary competition in Florida. Motion carried unanimously

Chief Officer of Human Resources, Robert Whitman discuss the approval to change verbiage to DC Policy (Local)

Motion by Paulett Traylor and second by Charles Perry to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the verbiage to DC Policy (Local). Motion carried unanimously

Director, Sarah Ballew discuss the approval of Instructional Framework

Motion by Paulett Traylor and second by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the Instructional Framework as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Director, Meaghan Ballard-Arthur discuss the approval to process the following Grant Applications:

1. SSI Community Partnership Grant Cohort 4
2. Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities Cycle 3

Motion by Scott Carson and second by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the processing of the grant applications. Motion carried unanimously

Chief Financial Officer, Garrett Matej discuss the approval of General Fund Budget Amendments for 2024-2025 Budget Year

Motion by Chad Jones and second by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the general fund budget amendments for 2024-2025 budget year. Motion carried unanimously

Chief Financial Officer, Garrett Matej discuss the approval of Resolution Establishing a One – Time Retention Incentive Payment for District Personnel – December 2024

Motion by Cliff Williams and second by Charles Perry to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the resolution establishing a one-time retention incentive payment for district personnel. Motion carried 6 pass and 1 abstain (Paulett Traylor)

Chief Financial Officer, Garrett Matej discuss the approval of Construction Contracts exceeding \$25k but below \$50k as required by Board Policy CV Local

Motion by Chad Jones and second by Cliff Williams to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the construction contracts exceeding \$25k but below \$50k as required by Board Policy CV (Local). Motion carried unanimously

Coordinator, Kelly Hughes-Shropshire discuss the approval of the selection of Huckabee as the Architect of the Ninth Grade Center

Motion by Chad Jones and second by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the selection of Huckabee as the Architect of the Ninth Grade Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Coordinator, Kelly Hughes-Shropshire discuss the approval of the selection of VLK as the Architect of the Transportation Center

Motion by Scott Carson and second by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the selection of VLK as the Architect of the Transportation Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief of Construction and Operations, Robert Eaton discuss the approval of the Willis Track Extension Vendor Selection

Board Secretary, Chad Jones asked where the previous 2 projects came in at. Robert Eaton answered we came in on budget. Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer stated this project is being funded from the 2015 Bond. Motion by Scott Carson and second by Paulett Traylor to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the selection of the Willis track extension vendor. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief of Construction and Operations, Robert Eaton discuss the approval of the Proposed Easement from Entergy for Willis Middle School #3

Motion by Cliff Williams and second by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed easement from Entergy for Willis Middle School #3. Motion carried unanimously.

This topic was tabled concerning the approval of EMA Engineering Contracts from Original Budget to Final Cost of Work.

Facility Naming Committee Chair, Thomas Crowe presented the top three names in ranking order for Middle School #3 per CW (Local) policy. Tom Crowe discussed the process of how the Facility Naming committee reached the final 3 names by ranking order. Explained how the name Caffey White Oak came into play as the 6th name from the first list.

1. Calfee White Oak
2. Edgar Stradder
3. Jimmy Reese

Board Member, Scott Carson stated the Board decided that they would not accept the hyphenated name. Motion by Scott Carson and second by Nikita Lagway to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the one name from the top three by ranking order for Middle School #3. The name selected is Homer C. Calfee. Motion carried 6 pass and 1 abstain (Paulett Traylor)

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer congratulates Lagway Elementary team for a job well during the Evacuation and reunification process. Upon his arrival to Lagway, he was able to observe our staff in action. Moving proficiently with our students to get them to safety and reunified with their family.

Also added that he didn't think that the November 2024 bond failed instead that

The community spoke and over 24K people showed up to vote and voice their opinion. He then gave an example that was illustrated by his son. He asked the audience to raise their hands, then repeated, now raise your hand high. Take notice that when you were first asked to raise your hand, you only raised it half way. This is how we as a district are currently operating with educating our students. We are being asked to give 110%, raising our hands high.

Board Secretary, Chad Jones congratulates the football team on their success with a 10-0 record.

The students are buying into this winning attitude. I Hope to see everybody at the playoff game.

FUTURE BUSINESS/MEETINGS

There will be a Special Board Meeting on November 19, 2024 at 7:30am to Canvas November 5, 2024 Bond Election votes. The regular December Board Meeting will be held on December 11, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the Willis ISD Performing Arts Center, 10005 Highway 75 North, Willis, TX 77378.

November 13, 2024

8

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:38pm