

February 12, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Willis ISD met in Regular Business Session on February 12, 2025 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.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Kyle Hoegemeyer called the Regular Business Meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. and announce that a quorum was present and that notice of the meeting had been posted for the time and manner required by law. **In accordance with Texas Government Code 551.127, one or more members of the Board of Trustees will be participating via video conference call. However, a quorum of the Board and the presiding officer will be physically present at the administration building.**

Board Secretary, Chad Jones called the roll.

Members Present: Cliff Williams, Scott Carson, Charles Perry, Kyle Hoegemeyer, Paulett Traylor (via zoom), Nikita Lagway, and Chad Jones

Member Absent:

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer turned the meeting over to Superintendent, Dr. Kimberley James. Dr. James announces that Meador Elementary is the school of the month leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION - Meador Elementary School ANNOUNCEMENTS / PROCLAMATION / RESOLUTIONS / RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Good introduced three students from the National Elementary Honor Society who would be leading the school board meeting in pledges and a prayer:

Jaime Fails, Director of Communication announced the Cougars as the winning mascot for Calfee MS and presented the logo.

Principal Tamara Good, with the help of Ms. Cinnamon Woody, presented the Elementary Student of the Month Award to Eleni Greckel from Meador Elementary. A third-grade "star student," this individual is eager to learn and serves as a role model for respect, responsibility, and safety. Dedicated to giving her best effort in both academics and extracurricular. She actively participates in art and dance. Notably, she excels in reading, writing, and artistic endeavors, demonstrating a positive attitude and passion for learning. The student is recognized for her unwavering commitment to excellence.

Dr. Kelly Moore, principal of Lynn Lucas Middle School, introduced Coach Elkins, who then presented Heath Sims as the Secondary Student of the Month. Heath is a student consistently demonstrates kindness, patience, and respect towards all. Focused and diligent in class, the individual displays impeccable manners to teachers, staff, and peers. Serving as a positive role model, he embodies the school's core values. As a team player, the student excels in football and collaborative projects. This dependable leader exhibits a strong work ethic and admirable character, and is a talented athlete and a true role model both on and off the field.

Paws of Pride Awards are presented by Jaime Fails, Director of Communication. The district recognized three outstanding employees with certificates:

- **Sunny Smart (Lagway Elementary):** A teacher praised for creating a supportive and engaging classroom environment where students thrive academically and emotionally.
- **Melissa Williamson (Roark Early Education Center):** A diagnostician recognized for her passion, empathy, and dedication to achieving positive outcomes for students.
- **Maddie Bumgardner (Parley Elementary):** A first-grade teacher commended for her dedication, compassion, and excellent communication with parents.

Ashley Soose from Lynn Lucas Middle School received the Kats on Patrol Award for her exceptional dedication to campus safety. She was nominated by her principal, SRO, and Lieutenant Hook. The campus safety administrator goes beyond daily expectations to create a safer environment. This individual proactively identifies risks and offers actionable solutions, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. A mindset of always seeking to improve safety for students and staff is clearly embodied.

Ken Labonski, Director of Fine Arts presented Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Competition awards to nine Willis ISD students whose artwork was selected for the Hayloft Gallery. Key points:

- Nine students received awards (Gold Medalist or Best in Show).
- Students from elementary, middle, and high school were recognized.
- The artwork will be displayed at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- Christy Strahan was thanked for her continued support of the program.

Sarah Ballew presented the Willis ISD Elementary Spelling Bee winners, highlighting the revival of the competition and its connection to the 100th year of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Key points:

- The spelling bee returned to Willis ISD after a few years.
- Cheryl Kelly, RLA coordinator, was credited for organizing the event, along with campus principals and instructional coaches.
- "The voice of the Wildcat," Mr. Newton, was thanked for serving as the word caller.
- First and second place winners were recognized from each elementary school.

Lieutenant James Hook introduced the Willis ISD School Resource Officer (SRO) team, consisting of 12 deputies and one sergeant, and thanked them for their dedication. Key points:

- Sheriff Wesley Doolittle was also present.
- The team is assigned to various schools across the district.
- Lieutenant Hook expressed gratitude for their hard work and commitment to the safety of the district.

Kelly Locke, Director of Guidance and Counseling, introduced her team of school counselors and social-emotional interventionists, highlighting their crucial role and the challenges they face. Key points:

- She emphasized the counselors and interventionists as "unsung heroes."
- School counselors from A.R. Turner, Brabham Middle School, Lynn Lucas Middle School, Stubblefield, and Willis High School were introduced.
- Social-emotional interventionists, licensed professional counselors, were also recognized.
- The team expressed their gratitude to Kelly Locke for her leadership and support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

□ Diane Hivnor public comments focused primarily on the middle school zoning issue, while briefly mentioning other concerns. Key points:

- **Zoning Issue:**
 - She emphasized data-driven decision-making, urging the board to avoid emotional and transportation-based considerations.
 - She compared Option A and Option B, highlighting the difference in when schools would reach 100% utilization.
 - She argued that Option B provides a two-year advantage for planning a new middle school and is more fiscally responsible.
 - She questioned the need to build a new middle school under Option A when Kelly, Lynn Lucas MS would not reach capacity until much later.
 - She urged the board to review public comments and presentations thoroughly.
- **Other Concerns:**
 - She briefly mentioned issues such as accountability, vendor profits from change orders, fraud, corruption, and the recent trustee resignation.
 - She suggested that PASA rename zoning options to X and Y in the future to eliminate psychological bias.

□ Abby Yarborough's public comments centered on allegations of collusion and misuse of public resources by school board trustees, particularly Trustee 5. Key points:

- **Allegations of Collusion:**
 - She claimed that trustees were discussing inside information on construction contracts, bids, and vendor pricing, potentially violating district policy and the law.
 - She asserted that Trustee 5 provided incomplete or altered records during a public information request.
 - She referenced a December board meeting incident involving a CFI employee and alleged trustee involvement.
- **Lack of Transparency and Accountability:**
 - She criticized the lack of transparency surrounding these issues.
 - She demanded accountability from the board and called for trustees involved in wrongdoing to resign.

- She expressed concern about the district's use of public funds for attorney fees to protect individual trustees.
- She suggested that the district seek new legal counsel.
- **Call for Action:**
 - She urged taxpayers to request public information to investigate the allegations.
 - She questioned the board's plan to protect the community from what she described as a crisis.
 - She criticized the tone of trustee 5 toward the new Superintendent.
 - She stated that the president of the board was aware that trustee 5 initiated the public comment in the December meeting.
- **Demand for Resignations:**
 - She repeatedly called for the resignations of trustees involved in the alleged misconduct.

□ Tom Crow's public comments focused on the district's survey regarding school rezoning and the use of PASA. Key points:

- **Survey Effectiveness:**
 - He stated that surveys are valuable tools, but only if the questions yield new and useful information.
 - He criticized the rezoning survey, claiming that four out of the five questions had obvious answers.
 - He found the question about demographic balance to be the only one that could provide valuable insight.
 - He advised the board to ensure future surveys contain questions that will give them useful information

□ Lori Harris' public comments focused on her preference for middle school rezoning Option A, citing convenience and proximity. Key points:

- She lives on Chase Run and has children at Lagway Elementary and Brabham Middle School.
- She prefers Option A because it would send her child to Calfee, which is closer to her home than Brabham.
- She noted the recent construction of new apartments near Calfee, suggesting increased student population in that area.
- She emphasized the significant travel time difference between Brabham and Calfee from her home.

STANDING INFORMATIONAL AND AD HOC REPORTS & ITEMS

Meghan Ballard, Director of Grants/Safety presented a safety report highlighting updates and a proposed new emergency management system, RAPTOR. Key points:

- **Coalition Participation:**

- She joined the Houston-Galveston Region School Emergency Managers Coalition.
- **Standard Response Protocol:**
 - The district-wide standard response protocol is implemented, with reminder stickers for staff badges.
- **TEA Safety Audit:**
 - The district is undergoing a TEA safety audit, with a focus on silent panic alert technology.
 - The current system (Rave) is no longer compliant with TEA guidelines.
- **RAPTOR Emergency Management System:**
 - A district committee selected RAPTOR as the new system.
 - RAPTOR integrates with existing visitor check-in systems and offers enhanced features:
 - **Drill Manager:** Organizes and tracks emergency drills.
 - **Raptor Alert:** Real-time notifications to 911, staff, students, and parents.
 - **Activate Your Emergency Response:** App-based alerts and wearable panic buttons.
 - **Raptor Team Assist:** Facilitates communication and resource management during emergencies.
 - **Raptor Connect:** Interconnected system across devices.
 - **Raptor Accountability:** Tracks the location and safety of individuals on campus.
 - **Raptor Reunification:** Streamlines student reunification with families.
 - Lynn Lucas Middle School will be the first campus to implement the system.
 - Raptor reunification has been shown to decrease student reunification times by 75% in other districts.

Travis Utecht, Exe. Director of Student Services and CTE reports the district's enrollment as of February 10, 2025, is 9,346 students, a 334-student increase from the previous year, with both elementary and secondary levels showing growth. Attendance for January 2025 improved compared to January 2024, but decreased from December 2024. Stubblefield Alternative School received the Momentum Maker Attendance Award for the highest monthly attendance percentage gain.

Chief Financial Officer, Garrett Matej, presented the financial report which covered revenue, budget outlook, and the 2025-2026 budget calendar:

- **Revenue:**
 - Local revenues are nearing 60% of the budget, expected to exceed 80% by next month.
 - State revenues are at 53%, which is standard.
 - Positive state property value reports indicate potential additional state aid.
- **Budget Outlook:**
 - An optimistic budget outlook for the current year.
 - A budget amendment will be presented next month.
- **2025-2026 Budget Calendar:**

- Budget process begins with campus and department reviews.
- Allocations will be distributed by March 1st.
- Focus on the operational costs of opening Calfee Middle School.
- Three budget workshops are scheduled:
 - March 19th: Foundation setting and new middle school costs.
 - June 11th: Review updated revenue projections and budget scenarios.
 - July 9th: finalization of general funds and debt service budget.
- Federal applications and budgets are due late June/early July.
- Application for TEA new instructional facility allotment will be in July.
- Certified values due July 25th.
- Budget and tax rate adoption targeted for August 13th.

Director of Teaching & Learning, Professional Development, Sarah Ballew states the district is conducting a comprehensive review of instructional materials to ensure they meet high academic standards. Key points:

- **Data-Driven Review:**
 - The district conducted academic reviews, teacher surveys, and analyzed existing curriculum to assess current materials.
 - Data revealed alignment with standards but a lack of rigor and quality in existing resources.
- **TEA Approved Materials:**
 - The district is focusing on the TEA's AMRA 2024 list of State Board of Education approved materials, which underwent rigorous vetting.
 - Approved materials are available for K-12 mathematics and K-5 English and Spanish language arts.
 - TEA provides funding incentives for adopting materials from this list.
- **Funding and Grants:**
 - The district can receive \$40 per student for adopting approved materials, with additional funding for TEA-specific products.
 - Adopting these materials qualifies the district for grants that support professional development.
- **Timeline and Community Engagement:**
 - Informational meetings are being held for staff and community members to review the materials.
 - Publisher showcases will be held within the district.
 - Rubrics are being used to gather feedback from staff on the materials.
 - Final recommendations will be presented to the board in March.
 - Grant funding is contingent on a quick turnaround for material adoptions.
- **Future Material Adoptions:**
 - TEA will release approved materials for other subjects in subsequent years.
- **Community Input:**
 - Community members and teachers have been attending the meetings.
 - The district is actively seeking feedback.
- **State Incentives:**
 - The state is providing funding to incentivize the use of the approved materials

Director of Communications, Jaime Fails states the district has joined the Fast Growth School Coalition, a group of rapidly growing Texas school districts. Key points:

- **Purpose:**
 - The coalition supports districts facing growth-related challenges.
 - It provides resources, legislative advocacy, and helps districts manage growth.¹
- **Membership Criteria:**
 - Districts must have at least 2,500 students.
 - They must have experienced at least 10% enrollment growth or a net increase of 3,500 students in the past five years.
- **District Involvement:**
 - The district meets the criteria and is now a member.
 - The district already receives funds from the fast growth allotment fund.
 - The membership dues are \$1,600.

Kris Pool and Susan Cates from PASA presented an update to their demographic study for Willis ISD, focusing on the district's rapid growth. Key points:

- **Study Update:**
 - A study update was conducted, rather than a full study, to refresh existing data.
 - The study included geocoding current student populations, reviewing projections, updating housing developments, and recalibrating growth scenarios.
- **District Growth:**
 - Willis ISD is experiencing significant growth, with a notable increase in student enrollment.
 - Kindergarten enrollment trends and birth rate data were analyzed.
 - Student-per-home ratios were discussed, emphasizing variations across different types of housing developments.
- **Housing Development:**
 - The presenters discussed the impact of economic factors on development, including interest rates.
 - Several new housing developments were highlighted
 - They noted increased occupancy rates in several existing developments.
 - They also noted the growing trend of build to rent developments.
- **Enrollment Projections:**
 - The study provided enrollment projections for different planning units within the district.
 - The presenters discussed the need for additional elementary schools and the projected overcapacity of middle schools and Willis High School.
 - They presented maps and tables comparing middle school rezoning options (A and B).
 - They also presented the current percentage of economically disadvantaged students that reside in the different attendance zones.
- **Attendance Zones:**
 - The report discussed the differences between number of residents and number of enrolled students.

- They showed the different options for re-zoning the middle schools.

Assessment Coordinator, Tracy Jackson presented MAP data scores, highlighting improvements and strategies. Key points:

- **MAP Administration Changes:**
 - Changes were made to MAP testing procedures, including shortened testing times and a focus on bilingual student needs.
 - The mid-year MAP testing was moved to December.
- **MAP Data Overview:**
 - MAP measures student growth and achievement. ¹
 - The presentation focused on RIT scores, growth, and projected growth in math, RLA, and science.
 - Growth in lower grades is naturally higher than in upper grades.
- **Math Results:**
 - Significant growth was observed in first and second grade math.
 - Middle school math scores showed positive growth, despite appearing minimal.
 - Projected STAR math scores showed improvements, particularly in seventh grade.
- **RLA Results:**
 - Growth was seen in RLA across grade levels.
 - Middle school RLA scores showed positive growth.
 - Spanish RLA scores showed significant improvement, with projected masters-level achievement.
- **Science Results:**
 - Science scores showed gains, particularly in eighth grade.
 - Emphasis was placed on the improvement in the "did not meet" category.
- **STAR Projections:**
 - MAP data was used to project STAR performance, indicating potential improvements in various subjects and grade levels.
- **Campus and District Strategies:**
 - Content coordinators and coaches are reviewing data and adjusting instruction.
 - Campuses are utilizing various data points, focusing on bilingual students, adjusting teaching assignments and schedules, and implementing collaborative planning.
 - Campuses are focusing on utilizing classroom programs with fidelity.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of January Minutes
- B. Staff Development Minutes Waiver for 2025-2026 School Year
- C. Delivery Method of JOC for Re-Key of each door with Willis ISD

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

CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session at 7:40 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. Real Estate: Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.072
- B. Discuss Teacher Resignations and Consider Approval of Teacher Appointments Texas Gov't Code 551.074
- C. Consultation with Attorney by Phone: Pursuant to Texas Gov't Code §551.071

OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:23 p.m.

Board President, Kyle Hoegemeyer asked if there are any motions from closed session.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the professional personnel listed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Chad Jones that the board executed a resolution authorizing conveyance of .6138 acres 26733 ft. parcel of land out of a called 60.984 acres track of land district owned property located at State Highway 75 and League Line Road to FM 830 acting through the Transportation Commission for transportation used by the state of Texas and authorize the board president to execute any and all. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

Discuss and Consider Approval of a Bilingual Sign on Bonus

Chief Officer of Human Resource, Robert Whitman requested approval for a minimum \$1,000 sign-on bonus for fully certified bilingual teachers hired for the 2025-2026 school year, due to a statewide shortage. Key points:

- **Financial Availability:** Funds are currently available for the bonus, with potential for an increase pending further budget review.
- **Payment and Requirements:** The bonus will be paid in September 2025, contingent on completing the full school year.
- **Board Questions concerning Competitive Landscape and Recruitment Efforts**
- **Competitive Landscape:** The district's current compensation is generally in range with other districts, but some offer higher stipends.
- **Recruitment Efforts:** The district is expanding recruitment efforts, including participation in job fairs, particularly in the valley region.
- **Future Presentation:** A future board meeting will include a presentation by the Bilingual Coordinator with staffing numbers.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Charles Perry to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the proposed resolution establishing at least a \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus for fully certified EC—5 bilingual classroom teachers that meet the established guidelines noted in the resolution and authorize the Superintendent to take all actions necessary and appropriate for implementations. Motion carries unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Approval of Technology Purchases over 50K

Exe. Director of Technology, Stephen Shannon is proposing to enhance campus security by upgrading its Raptor visitor management system and implementing a new Raptor Emergency Management system. Key points:

- **Raptor Visitor Upgrade:**
 - The current stand-alone system will be upgraded to a mobile solution using iPads and wireless printers.
 - A parent/visitor pre-check-in app will be developed.
- **Raptor Emergency Management System:**
 - This system will replace the current silent panic alert solution.
 - Features include:
 - Raptor Alert: Real-time notifications across network-connected devices and to 911.
 - Team Assist: Silent alerts to local teams.
 - Wearable panic buttons: Wi-Fi-connected devices for all staff.
 - Raptor Accountability: ability to account for all staff and students.
 - The system complies with House Bill 3 and Alyssa's Law.
- **Costs:**
 - One-time upfront cost: \$334,950 (includes hardware, training, and fees).
 - Yearly recurring cost: \$13,400 (Raptor Visitor) + \$35,790 (Raptor Emergency Management).
 - Costs can be covered by the Safe Cycle One Grant through 2026-2027.
- **Board Questions concerning Functionality and Implementation**
- **Functionality:**
 - The panic buttons will alert SROs and pinpoint the location of the alert.
 - The software will allow for checking the location of staff and students.
 - The accountability feature works even if staff do not have their device.
- **Implementation:**
 - Lynn Lucas Middle School will be the first campus to implement the system.
 - Several surrounding school districts are currently using this system.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Charles Perry to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the Technology purchase over \$50K for safety enhancements and facility enhancement grant cycle one. Motion carried unanimously

Discuss and Consider Approval of 2025 – 2026 Academic Calendar

Exe. Director of Student Services & CTE, Travis Utecht gave a summary of the academic calendar development process. The 2025-2026 academic calendar was developed through extensive community input, aligning with Conroe ISD's calendar for UIL consistency. Three drafts were created, narrowed to two based on survey feedback. Draft A, mirroring the current calendar and including a fall break and pre-Memorial Day end date, received 77% of over 2,500 votes. The process emphasized community needs, continuity, and a balanced schedule.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Cliff Williams to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the 2025 – 2026 Willis ISD Academic Calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Board Comments: The board member emphasized the urgent need to publish the approved 2025-2026 academic calendar on Facebook, the district website, and the app as quickly as possible, citing numerous inquiries from concerned community members over the past two weeks.

Response: The speaker explained that the 2025-2026 academic calendar was not presented in January because Conroe ISD, whose calendar they aim to align with, was reconsidering their spring break dates after the district's January meeting. They waited for Conroe ISD to finalize their calendar (which ultimately kept spring break as originally planned) before bringing the Willis ISD calendar forward.

Discuss and Consider Approval of CC Hardy 2024 – 25 Targeted Improvement Plan

Principal Susan Fossler CC Hardy Elementary states that during the 2022 – 2023 school year CC Hardy was identified with a federal designation of Comprehensive Targeted Support. The designated for Comprehensive Support and Improvement due to performance gaps, has shown significant progress and is on track to exit this designation by the 2024-2025 school year. Their improvement plan, developed using data from the Effective Schools Framework and stakeholder input, focuses on:

- **Improving instruction:** Implementing a robust observation process, adopting high-quality instructional materials (HQM), and emphasizing foundational literacy and balanced math instruction.
- **Strengthening leadership:** Establishing a growth-oriented observation and feedback system with tiered teacher support.
- **Resource allocation:** Utilizing Title I funds and an ESF FSG grant for additional staffing, HQM implementation, and training.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Gathering feedback through committees, public meetings, and material showcases.

The plan, requiring board approval and submission to TEA by February 28, 2025, aims to ensure sustainable school improvement.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Cliff Williams to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve CC Hardy Elementary 2024 -2025 Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP). Motion carried unanimously

Board Comments/Question: "Ma'am, that's a great plan. My question is, at the public meeting on January 29th, were there a significant number of community parents in attendance?" The board member acknowledged the difficulty of getting parent participation and then asked for clarification on the school's relationship with Region 6. Specifically, they wanted to know if the school had already been actively working with their Region 6 representative, or if the presentation was simply outlining a plan for future engagement. The board member emphasized the importance of teacher

buy-in for the presented improvement plan. They wanted to confirm that teachers, particularly teacher leaders, were involved in the plan's development and were supportive of its implementation. While expressing confidence in the plan's approval, they sought to understand any potential "disconnects" or areas where the board could provide additional support to ensure the school's success.

Response: The speaker acknowledged that parent attendance at the January 29th meeting was low, despite efforts to publicize it through the school website, sent-home notices, the school newsletter, and reminders. The speaker clarified that the improvement plan was developed collaboratively in April of the previous year, involving parents, district personnel, and teachers, using current data. They emphasized that teacher buy-in was a priority.

Regarding parental involvement, they highlighted strong participation in school events, both evening and daytime, where students showcase their learning. They also noted significant community engagement, with local businesses donating resources and community members providing support and connecting with parents.

Discuss and approve of the District of Innovation Amendment

Chief Financial Officer, Garrett Matej presented that the district is seeking to amend its District of Innovation (DOI) plan to bypass the state requirement of bidding out its depository contract every two years. Currently, the district uses Wood Forest National Bank, and its contract expires August 31, 2025. This is their third allowable extension. Instead of a potentially burdensome bid process, the district proposes a DOI exemption, arguing that local options are limited and a bid would likely not yield significant benefits. A committee reviewed factors like bank location, financial capacity, government code compliance (especially security with FDIC insurance), and system capabilities (fraud prevention, check management). The committee concluded that the current contract is sufficient and recommended the DOI amendment. If approved, the district will notify the commissioner, update its website, and send the amended plan to TEA within 15 days.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson that the Board accepts the Superintendent's recommendation and approve amending the district of innovation plan to include an exemption to Texas Education Code 45.205 through 45.209. Motion carried unanimously

Discuss and Consider Approval of FF&E Expenditures in Excess of \$50K

Purchasing Coordinator, Kelly Hughes-Shropshire presented that the district is seeking approval to purchase fixtures, furniture, and equipment (FFE) for Calfee Middle School using vendors from the Fort Bend ISD Furniture RFP list through the Central Texas Purchasing Alliance. Due to long lead times, they are focusing on securing vendors for items not permanently attached to the building, including classroom furniture, manipulatives, nursing supplies, concession stands, uniforms, safety equipment, and fine arts instruments. They have identified specific vendors for different categories, all guaranteeing delivery by July 1st, with not-to-exceed price limits.

Motion by Scott Carson and seconded by Nikita Lagway to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve expenditures in excess of \$50K for Calfee Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Approval of Pool of Geo-technical and Material Testing Professionals
Chief of Construction and Operations, Robert Eaton states In November, the district sought and received approval to create a pool of geotechnical and material testing vendors to expedite construction testing. Five vendors submitted documentation, and the district now requests approval to award contracts to the four highest-ranked vendors. Moving forward, project-specific scopes will be sent to these pre-approved vendors for pricing. The top three bidders will then submit best and final offers, and all final contracts will be brought before the board for approval.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the Geotechnical and Material Testing Pool of Vendors

Discuss and Consider Approval of the Additional Topographic Surveying for WHS Parking Lot Expansion

Chief of Construction and Operations, Bob Eaton states that the district requests board approval for \$2,500 to conduct additional topographic surveying by West Belt Survey at Willis High School and around AR Turner. This is needed to accommodate the expansion of the high school parking lot and to ensure proper water runoff, due to a slight relocation of the Ninth Grade Center. The surveying will cover a specific area, as indicated in the board book.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve West Belt Surveying, Inc. for the additional Topographic Surveying for the WHS Parking Lot Expansion Bond Project for \$2,500 which will be paid from the 2024 Bond Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Approval the Partial Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Elementary #7
Chief of Construction and Operations, Bob Eaton states that Stewart Builders has been chosen as the Construction Manager for Elementary School number seven. This request is for the first of two Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) packages. This initial package, for \$1,930,406, will cover early work such as land clearing and ordering long-lead-time equipment, specifically chillers (estimated 20-22 weeks) and a generator/switch gear (estimated nearly one year). This early GMP is crucial to avoid construction delays due to the extended delivery times of these critical components.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Nikita Lagway to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve Package #1 – Partial GMP for Elementary #7 base bid as presented by Stewart Builders, LLC for a total 1,930,406. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the Change Order for Elementary #7 Regarding Civil Engineering Design Revisions

Chief of Construction and Operations, Bob Eaton states that the district is working with Stantec (architect) and Howard Hughes Corporation to modify the design of Elementary School number seven. The primary goal is to utilize Howard Hughes' existing northern entrance to the property, as the city denied a proposed easement for a left-turn lane. Howard Hughes has agreed to provide off-site detention, eliminating the need for an on-site detention pond. This will lead to cost savings by allowing for a lower building slab elevation and smaller underground piping. To facilitate this, the district will adjust the property line to create a squared-off shape and allow for a new bus route. Stantec requires a \$12,925 change order to redesign the civil engineering plans to reflect these changes. The district anticipates significant overall cost savings from these modifications.

Board Member Statement: This is a significant savings right by doing it this way.

Response: The proposed design change, including off-site detention, is projected to save the district \$500,000 to \$700,000 or more. Critically, it will also significantly improve the school's aesthetic appeal. By eliminating a planned 25-foot tall detention pond wall at the rear of the property, the campus will become more visible from a nearby street within The Woodlands Hills development. This change will lower the visible elevation by approximately 15 feet, enhancing the overall appearance and integration of the school within the community.

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Scott Carson to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the Change Order for Elementary #7 regarding Civil Engineering Revisions at the cost of \$12,925 which will be paid from the 2022 Bond Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Approval of Attendance Boundaries for Brabham, Calfee, and Lynn Lucas MS

Superintendent, Dr. Kimberley James presented the recommendation for new middle school attendance boundaries, favoring Option A. This decision was based on extensive community feedback, including surveys and meetings, where 55% of respondents (787 votes) preferred Option A over Option B (45%, 642 votes).

Key points:

- **Community Input:** Option A aligns with existing feeder patterns, minimizes disruption, reduces travel time, and maintains student peer groups.
- **Committee Alignment:** The boundary setting committee echoed these sentiments, emphasizing minimal disruption, reduced transportation challenges, peer group continuity, and equal learning opportunities.

- **Addressing Concerns:** The district acknowledged concerns about long-term growth, equitable resource allocation, traffic congestion, and the need for transparent communication.
- **Future Planning:** The district is using PASA demographics for long-range planning, upgrading furniture at existing middle schools, and launching a strategic academic plan with a community summit on February 24th.
- **Recommendation:** Based on strong community support and logistical advantages, the district recommends Option A to ensure a smooth transition and adapt to future growth.

Motion by Scot Carson and seconded by Cliff Williams to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve (Option A) Attendance Boundaries for Brabham, Calfee, and Lynn Lucas Middle Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Comments: The board member highlighted that the recommended attendance boundary plan (Option A) avoids splitting any neighborhoods, which was a significant concern expressed by parents. They emphasized that this factor is a major positive aspect of the plan.

Superintendent Comments: Emphasized the collaborative effort behind the boundary plan, highlighting the crucial role of the transportation department.

¹ They noted that transportation personnel physically assessed the roads and that transportation considerations were a key factor in the decision-making process, aiming to minimize concerns about double bus runs and transportation issues.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the Out of State Trip – JROTC Batesville, MS

Exe. Director of Secondary Education, Noah Hollander requested approval for an out-of-state trip for three Air Force JROTC aerial drone teams to compete in the 2025 National JROTC All-Service Aerial Drone Championship in Batesville, Mississippi. The teams qualified through local competitions. The event will be held on April 4th and 5th, 2025, with the team departing on April 3rd and returning on April 6th. Ten students and two chaperones will attend. The board is asked to approve the out-of-state travel request.

Motion by Chad Jones and seconded by Nikita Lagway to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and approve the out of state trip request for WHS AFJROTC Aerial Drone Team. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: The board member acknowledged that zoning is a highly debated issue with strong opinions. They mentioned meeting with community members on Saturday and explained that some current campus locations are logistically optimal, making it impractical to transport students elsewhere. They emphasized that the district made decisions based on what made the most sense. They also noted the high volume of calls received regarding zoning, indicating passionate community involvement. Finally, they pointed out that future growth is expected to shift eastward, potentially leading to future concerns from the west side about resource allocation.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. James reminded everyone about the upcoming strategic planning community summit on February 24th, encouraging strong community participation to shape the district's future vision. She also expressed anticipation for the Lone Star Governance training at the end of February, expecting it to strengthen the board as a team. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 19th. Finally, they thanked everyone for their time and acknowledged the efficient handling of the day's business...

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Nikita Lagway to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.