

February 12, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Willis I.S.D. met in a Public Meeting Concerning the Texas Academic Performance Report and the Public Comments regarding same on February 12, 2025 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 Texas Academic Performance Report Public Meeting to order at 4:30 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, Chad Jones, and Paulett Traylor (via zoom)

Member Absent: None

### **PUBLIC MEETING TEXAS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Tracy Jackson, Assessment Coordinator presented the annual (TAPR) report, noting some data reflected previous years. Key highlights included:

- **Mission & Goals:** The district's mission, core commitments, and goals (focused on STAR performance, industry-based certifications, and individualized education programs) were reviewed.
- **Federal Accountability:** The district received a "Needs Assistance" status for special education in 3-8 science and social studies. Strategic plans are in place to address this.
- **Accreditation:** The district remains accredited, based on accountability ratings, financial accountability, data integrity, and RDA (special education).
- **Student Demographics:** Enrollment has increased significantly. The Hispanic student population is approaching 40%, while the white population is approximately 50%, and the African American population is around 8%. Economically disadvantaged students comprise almost 63% of the student body, and at-risk students are at 36%.
- **Staffing:** Teacher experience is concentrated in the 1-5 year and 11-20 year ranges. There are ongoing needs for bilingual and special education teachers.
- **Enrollment:** Continued growth is projected, with anticipated enrollment exceeding 10,000 students within five years. Enrollment by ethnicity and special population across campuses was detailed.
- **Attendance:** Attendance rates have improved compared to the previous year and are better than the state average. Chronic absenteeism is also down. Student mobility is slightly higher than the state average.
- **STAR Performance:** The district is generally performing close to state averages in STAR testing. Detailed breakdowns by subject and grade level were presented, showing some areas of improvement and some declines. Focus areas for improvement include 6th-8th grade math and science.
- **Domain 2 (Growth):** The district prioritizes student growth. Further details on growth measures will be provided later in the presentation.
- **Pre-K and Kindergarten Goals:** Progress on pre-K and kindergarten goals was reviewed, including assessment methods and growth targets.
- **Third Grade Performance:** Third-grade growth in RLA was positive, while math performance aligned with state and regional trends.

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- **Commissioner's Address:** Dr. James noted the Commissioner's recent address highlighting statewide challenges in math performance.

### **Discussion and Questions:**

Board members discussed concerns about consistent struggles in student improvement, particularly in 5th grade and beyond. Dr. James and Dr. Velasco addressed these concerns, emphasizing the importance of early literacy, rigorous instruction, and appropriate resources. The board also discussed the need for oversight and monitoring of instructional materials and teacher support. The Roark Pre-K Early Scholars Academy was highlighted as a positive initiative.

### **Action Items:**

- Continue curriculum audit with Region 6 Service Center.
- Proceed with high-quality instructional materials adoption for reading and math.
- Complete staffing audit.
- Develop a strategic plan, with a summit scheduled for February 24th.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments on the Texas Academic Performance Report.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Motion by Cliff Williams and seconded by Chad Jones to adjourn the Public Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.