

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 6:30 PM

Board Room of the Wheeler Independent School District at, #1 Mustang Drive, Wheeler, TX 79096

Misty Copeland: Present
Ike Finsterwald: Present
Machille Henson: Present
Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent
Mike Houska: Present
Tammy Moore: Present
Billy Richardson: Present

Visitors

Matt Hoover, Secondary Principal
Heather Hardcastle, Elementary Principal
Christie Davis, Community Member

I. **Call to Order**

I.A. Establish a Quorum

I.B. District Mission Statement

I.C. Pledge

I.D. Invocation

II. **Open Forum for Public Comment**

III. **Consideration and action to approve Minutes: August 12, 2026**

Action(s):

I make a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented. This motion, made by Billy Richardson and seconded by Misty Copeland, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland: Yea
Ike Finsterwald: Yea
Machille Henson: Yea
Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent
Mike Houska: Yea
Tammy Moore: Yea
Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: Approve Board Minutes from August 12, 2026 Regular Meeting.

IV. **Superintendent's Report**

Discussion:

- Non-Certified Teacher Notifications Sent August 20th
- EOP & Reunification Annex Update: Submitted September 1st: Revised and submitted September 16. WILL be approved.
- Vehicle Purchases: \$122,506.00
 - + \$500 each for 2 trucks
 - + installation of goose neck hitch
- Updated Football Sound System: Still missing 1 speaker and the mixer.

Speaker(s): Brandon Holland

- Scoreboard rental (\$1,500) for remainder of season
 - lightning claim submitted
 - Estimate for new scoreboard next week.
- Gym roof leaks
 - 9/10 water found in gym
 - 9/10 roofer came and sealed main leak area
 - 9/11 crew came for better assessment
 - 9/15 crew came and sealed remainder of cracks. More on east side of gym (catching more heat).
 - Cracks mostly caused by age and expansion/contraction due to extreme heat and drought.
 - 1 to 1.5-year life on the "Band-Aid"
 - Bid received for new roof, will seek additional estimates and work with TASB Insurance
- Student Transfer List & Process

V. **Principal's Report**

Discussion: Enrollment update and 2026 STAAR score presentation

VI. **Athletic Director's Report**

VII. **Discussion about Wheeler ISD's 2026 TEA Accountability Rating**

Discussion: Increase in all areas from last year, except "Closing the Gaps". Principals have identified growth areas and are working to increase CCMR percentages, TELPAS scores, and identified STAAR testing goal areas.

VIII. **Discussion about Wheeler ISD's Preliminary 2025-26 FIRST Rating**

Discussion: Score of 100 = A Rating (Superior Achievement) in budget, finance, and fund balance management.

IX. **Financial Reports**

IX.A. Ratification of Bills

IX.B. Financial Statement(s)

X. **Action/Discussion Items**

X.A. Discussion and possible action to amend Board Policy

FDA(LOCAL): Admissions: Interdistrict Transfers

Action(s):

I make a motion to amend Board Policy FDA(LOCAL) as presented. This motion, made by Billy Richardson and seconded by Mike Houska, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland:	Yea
Ike Finsterwald:	Yea
Machille Henson:	Yea
Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse:	Absent
Mike Houska:	Yea
Tammy Moore:	Yea

Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X.B. Discussion and possible action to remove Bryan Markham from WISD Wellington State Bank Account.

Action(s):

I make a motion to remove Bryan Markham from the Wellington State Bank account. This motion, made by Tammy Moore and seconded by Misty Copeland, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland: Yea

Ike Finsterwald: Yea

Machille Henson: Yea

Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent

Mike Houska: Yea

Tammy Moore: Yea

Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: Bryan Markham's name is still on WSB signature cards. The specificity of this deletion was left off of last month's agenda, in error.

X.C. Discussion and possible action to grant the Wheeler County 4-H Organization extracurricular status consideration pursuant to the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 76.1.

Action(s):

I make a motion to grant the Wheeler County Texas 4-H Organization with extracurricular status under the 19 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 76.1. This motion, made by Mike Houska and seconded by Machille Henson, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland: Yea

Ike Finsterwald: Yea

Machille Henson: Yea

Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent

Mike Houska: Yea

Tammy Moore: Yea

Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion:

- This allows absences for 4-H competitive activities to count as extracurricular absences for student participants.
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will request academic eligibility for participating students.
- Participation will be subject to academic eligibility.

X.D. Discussion and possible action to approve Adjunct Faculty members from the Wheeler County Extension Office.

Action(s):

I make a motion that the Board approve Wendy Hazzard and Kevin Meek, from the Wheeler County Extension Agency as adjunct faculty for Wheeler ISD for the 2026-2027 academic year. This motion, made by Machille Henson and seconded by Ike Finsterwald, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland: Yea
Ike Finsterwald: Yea
Machille Henson: Yea
Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent
Mike Houska: Yea
Tammy Moore: Yea
Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: Approval of Wendy Hazzard and Kevin Meek as Adjunct Faculty, representing the Wheeler County Extension Service. This will allow Mrs. Hazzard and Mr. Meek to travel with students as adjunct faculty of Wheeler ISD.

- X.E. Discussion and action to make nominations for Place 2 on the Wheeler Central Appraisal District Board, representing the Wheeler ISD, pursuant to Texas Property Code, 6.03, Section (g).

Action(s):

I make a motion to approve Bryan Markham as our nomination for Place 2 on the Wheeler Central Appraisal District Board, for a two-year term. This motion, made by Billy Richardson and seconded by Mike Houska, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland: Yea
Ike Finsterwald: Yea
Machille Henson: Yea
Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent
Mike Houska: Yea
Tammy Moore: Yea
Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: Ike Finsterwald's term (Place 2) on the Wheeler CAD Board will expire as of December 31, 2026. WISD may nominate as many candidates as we please. After each entity has nominated their candidates (Due Oct. 15, 2026), a ballot will be mailed to each entity involved for their votes.

Board nominated Bryan Markham. With his knowledge of city and school district operations, he is a qualified candidate.

- X.F. Discussion and possible action to designate Non-Business Days under the Texas Public Information Act, for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Action(s):

I make a motion to designate Non-Business Days under the Texas Public Information Act as follows: November 24-25, 2026; December 21-22, 2026; December 31, 2026; March 15-16, 2027; and June 30-July 2, 2027. This motion, made by Misty Copeland and seconded by Tammy Moore, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland: Yea
Ike Finsterwald: Yea
Machille Henson: Yea

Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent
Mike Houska: Yea
Tammy Moore: Yea
Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: Texas law permits a school district's Board of Trustees to designate up to 10 additional non-business days per calendar year when the district's administrative offices are closed or minimally staffed.

XI. Executive Session

Discussion: Executive Session entered at 7:47, and ended at 8:15

XI.A. If needed according to Texas Government Code §551.001, et seq

XI.B. Texas Government Code 551.072: Discussing purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.

XII. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Discussion: Resumed open session at 8:15pm. Next meeting on October 21 at 6:30 pm. October is Board Appreciation Month, and we will have a meal at 6:00pm. Region 16 will conduct an AI training that night.

XIII. Adjournment

Action(s):

I make a motion to adjourn. This motion, made by Tammy Moore and seconded by Billy Richardson, Carried.

Voting Detail:

Misty Copeland: Yea
Ike Finsterwald: Yea
Machille Henson: Yea
Dr. Lee Ann Hillhouse: Absent
Mike Houska: Yea
Tammy Moore: Yea
Billy Richardson: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Board Secretary

Board President

Date