

**WICHITA FALLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WFISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – BOARD ROOM
REGULAR SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING STATEMENT:

The Board of Trustees of the Wichita Falls Independent School District met in a work session meeting on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Ms Katherine McGregor, board president.

Board members present: Ms. Katherine McGregor, Ms. Mark Lukert, Ms. Susan Grisel, Mr. Jim Johnson, Ms. Sandy Camp and Mr. John Barnard. Ms. McGregor noted that a quorum was present and the meeting had been duly called and notice of the meeting had been posted for the time and manner required by law.

Staff members present: Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Dayna Hardaway, Executive Director of Human Resources, Ms. Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Vanessa Dishman, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Ms. Keli Sims, Administrative Assistant, HR, Ms. Ashley Thomas, Communications Officer, Mr. Scot Hafley, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Debbie Dipprey, Executive Director of School Administration, Ms. Kelly Strenski, Director of Fine Arts, Ms Alefia Paris-Toulon, Executive Director of Special Programs, Mr. Jeff Hill, Director of Elementary Curriculum, Ms. Lauren Zotz, Director of Purchasing, Mr. John Strenski, Emergency Management Coordinator, Ms. Laurie Kinne, Memorial High School Principal, Ms. Misty Speer, Memorial High School Assistant Principal, Ms. Jessica Dixon, Memorial College & Career Advisor, Dr. Cody Blair, Legacy Principal, Ms. Katie Nolan, Legacy College and Career Advisor, Ms. Amanda Garcia, Southern Hills Elementary Principal, and Mr. W Scotty Coppage, Barwise Middle School teacher

Also present: Ms. Maria Minx, Academy 4 Representative, Ms. Susan Raymond, SAFB School Liaison and area media

PRESENTATION OF COLORS:

Legacy High School JROTC

INVOCATION:

Ms. Sandy Camp gave the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS:

COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL RECOGNITION

In August 2024, College Board awarded thousands of students from across the country with academic honors through the annual National Recognition Programs. The programs celebrate underrepresented students who excel academically on College Board assessments, including PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and AP® Exams. For the first time, the academic honors recognize first-generation students, in addition to rural and small town, Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic/or Latino students:

Legacy High School

Senon Cabrera: First Generation Scholar, National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Juan Gutierrez Jr.: First Generation Scholar, National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Anna Luna Perez: National Indigenous Recognized Scholar
Kenneth Nguyen: First Generation Scholar
Saul Sanchez: First Generation Scholar, National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Anh Tran: First Generation Scholar
Nayely Trejo: First Generation Scholar, National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Jared Vazquez: National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Nicholaus White: National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Jessica Zardain: National Hispanic Recognized Scholar

Memorial High School

Aniyah Bascombe: National African American Recognized Scholar
Autumn Carrion: National Hispanic Recognized Scholar, First Generation Scholar

Joanna Chen: First Generation Scholar
Gabriel Estrada: First Generation Scholar, National Hispanic Recognized Scholar, Indigenous Recognized Scholar
Anthony Le: First Generation Scholar
Elyna Orue: National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Chase Pontius: National Hispanic Recognized Scholar
Julisa Rodriguez: National Hispanic Recognized Scholar, First Generation Scholar
Florances Qiu: First Generation Scholar
Trae Steele: National African American Recognized Scholar
Kalina Wood-Jessup: National Indigenous Recognized Scholar

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

High school juniors entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. Approximately 34,000 high scorers were named National Merit Commended Students. We are proud to have three National Merit Commended students in WFISD. From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. We are proud to have two National Merit Semifinalists in WFISD.

National Merit Semifinalist

Evan Liang - Memorial High School
Jun Park - Memorial High School

National Merit Commended

Maegan Roberson - Legacy High School
Giorgio Toffoli - Legacy High School
Aarya Tanjavur - Memorial High School

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Walter “Scotty” Coppage, Barwise Middle School teacher- WFISD teacher retention; requested the board give more support to new teachers and offer more incentives

Ms. Susan Raymond, SAFB School Liaison- Introduction. Ms Raymond took Mr. Wenk’s place at SAFB because of his retirement and will be WFISD’s point of contact for all SAFB needs.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools, gave his monthly update:

- Enrollment: 12,601; ADA 94.34%
- Classroom Visits: Board members welcome
 - 7 elementary campuses
 - Hirschi
 - CEC
 - Denver
 - Memorial
- Teacher Advisory Council
 - Continues to meet about the needs of WFISD: Agenda is previous agenda from board meeting
 - 1 teacher from every campus in the district
- 89th Legislative Session
 - January 14th-June 2nd
 - Big decisions regarding education
 - Education Savings account, need additional funding in the areas of Special Education, Safety and basic allotment
- Bluebonnett Learning Curriculum
 - TEA Middle School Math Curriculum
 - Dr Lee went over the numbers of the Math middle school STAAR scores for 2022 & 2023, showing the need for a different approach with a new curriculum.

- The need is to have a comprehensive plan of learning helps with knowing where students are and why
- Rider Middle School Update
 - Memorial fed from McNeil/Barwise currently. With this plan Rider will be a direct feed to Memorial. And Hirschi to Legacy
 - Work begins January 14, 2025
 - Painting of interior hallways and classrooms
 - Remove and replace ceiling tiles as needed
 - Remove and replace lighting with LED
 - Anticipated completion of Refresh May 2025
 - Discussions and Decisions for 25/26 School Year
 - Closing McNeil and moving to Rider
 - Redrawing middle school attendance zones to line up high school feeder patterns
 - Communication with parents important
 - Transfer policy updates and notifications
 - Staffing needs and changes
 - Transportation needs and changes
- On the Horizon
 - In Spring 2025 the district will begin to discuss the conversion of McNeil into an Elementary campus during the 25/26 school year
- Seats installed in the Memorial and Legacy gyms
 - Gyms being used for state play-off games
- Auditoriums close to completion
 - Doing sound tests, etc.
- Storm damage photos at Memorial Stadium
- WFISD Brand
 - Dr. Lee said the district is always asking “How are we improving the WFISD Brand?”
 - Supporting students, example “Pink Out for Kylie”
 - Recognizing staff and students

REPORTS OR SPECIAL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ACADEMY 4 PROGRAM

Ms. Maria Minx with the Academy 4 Program gave an overview of what the program entails and how it is being received at the Fain Elementary campus.

INTRUDER DETECTION AUDIT REPORT FINDINGS

Mr. John Strenski, Emergency Management Coordinator in compliance with Texas Education Code 37.108 provided the public with notification that an Intruder Detection Audit was conducted by the Texas School Safety Center at a WFISD Campus and a corrective action was put into place due to findings as submitted by Anthony Smith, Chief of Police, and recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent. The top priority of the Wichita Falls Independent School Districts and the State of Texas is keeping students and staff safe every day. The Texas School Safety Center recently conducted an Intruder Detection Audit at one of our campuses. The audits test whether a campus is accessible to an unauthorized individual. This audit, conducted as part of Governor Abbott’s school safety directives for all school systems following the tragedy in Uvalde, seeks to help districts identify how campuses can improve safety for students, such as ensuring exterior doors are locked. The audit provides us with an opportunity to create a safer learning environment for our students and staff.

We are working closely with our district's School Safety & Security Committee to ensure that we are training all our staff and securing our doors for the protection of everyone at our campuses. The support from the state in conducting the Intruder Detection Audits is just one of the many actions we are taking to ensure our schools are safe. We know that this work does not end, and we appreciate the Board’s support.

We acknowledge that parents and community members are likely very interested in the details of the audit results; however, it is in the best interest of the students that we do not share this information to the broader public as it could lead to compromising important campus security information. Specific details of the Intruder Detection Audit will be discussed in the executive session and with the Safety and Security Committee. The Wichita Falls Independent School District is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Purchase of Food Service trucks
Purchase of Student Buses
Purchase of Architect/Engineering Services for Rider Refresh
Purchase of Roof Refresh for Burgess and Hirschi
Minutes from October Meetings

Ms. Susan Grisel, seconded by Ms. Sandy Camp, motioned that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approve the above items placed on the Consent Agenda at the November 12, 2024 meeting.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 5 – 0
(Mr. Jim Johnson stepped out)
(Stepped back in)

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

ELECTRICITY CONTRACT EXTENSION

The district is currently contracted with Reliant Energy Retail Services (parent company is NRG Energy, Inc.) through October 2031 for electricity provided to all WFISD locations at the price of \$0.03815/kWh. In April of 2020 an electricity contract extension (referred to as “Blend and Extend Pricing”) was presented and approved, lowering the rate for the period of May 2027 to November 2031 to \$0.02627/kWh. With the consideration of current increases in electricity, the district has the opportunity to approve Blend and Extend pricing extension through October 2035 at the rate of \$0.345/kWh.

Mr. John Barnard, seconded by Mr. Jim Johnson, motioned that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approves an extended electricity contract as submitted by Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools.

Carried by a vote of 5 – 1

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

CAMPUS PROGRESS PRESENTATION

Ms. Amanda Garcia, Southern Hills Elementary, updated the board on the progress and needs of the campus.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

TEACHER APPLICANT POOL

No Applicant Pool

BOARD MATTERS:

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS:

Ms. Sandra Camp, board member, nominated Mr. Mark Luckert for board president

Mr. Mark Lukert approved as board president by vote of 6-0

Ms Katherine McGregor, board member, nominated Ms. Susan Grisel for board vice president.

Ms. Susan Grisel approved as board vice-president by vote of 6-0

Mr. Jim Johnson, board member, nominated Ms Sandra Camp for board secretary.

Ms Sandra Camp approved as board secretary by a vote of 6-0

RECESS:

Ms. Katherine McGregor, board president, recessed to go into closed session at 8:07pm.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Personnel Matters Including the Appointment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, Dismissal and/or Compensation of Individual District Employees (Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074)
2. Discussions regarding the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices, or a security audit, to include districtwide intruder detection audit (Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.076)
3. Discussion of Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property (Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072)

ADJORNMENT:

With no other action to take, Ms. Katherine McGregor, board president, adjourned the meeting from Closed Session at 8:45 pm.

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees