

Minutes of the June 9, 2025,
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Abilene Independent School District met in a Regular Meeting at 4:30 p.m., June 9, 2025, in the Boardroom at One AISD Center 241 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas 79601. Mrs. Angie Wiley, President of the Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., observed that a quorum was present, and stated that notice of the meeting had been duly posted in the time and manner prescribed by law.

Trustees present for all or part of the meeting: Mrs. Angie Wiley, President; Mr. Rodney Goodman, Vice President, Mrs. Cindy Earles, Secretary; and Dr. Danny Wheat.

Members absent: Mr. Bill Enriquez, Assistant Secretary; Mr. Blair Schroeder, and Dr. Taylor Tidmore.

Administrators present for all or part of the meeting: Dr. John Kuhn, Superintendent; Dr. Joseph Waldron, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Jordan Ziemer, Executive Director of Communications; and Mrs. Robin Jones, Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Closed Session: A Closed Session may be held under the provisions of Texas Government Code, Chapter 551 including but not limited to Section 551.071, Section 551.072, Section 551.074, Section 551.076, and Section 551.082, and Section 551.0821.

Mrs. Angie Wiley announced that a Closed Session would be held under the provisions of Texas Code, Chapter 551. The Board convened in Closed Session at 4:30 p.m.

- A. The Board may deliberate matters of Personnel, i.e. appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee. (Section 551.074)
 - I. Professional Employment Contracts
- B. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, specifically regarding a recommendation to send notice of proposed termination to James Smith for good cause.
- C. Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, to consult with the District's Attorney, in person or by phone, on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the District under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, specifically regarding a recommendation to send notice of proposed termination to James Smith for good cause.
- D. The Board may consult with Legal Counsel regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation and/ or Privileged Legal Advice. (Section 551.071)
- E. The Board may discuss matters of Safety and Security. (Section 551.076)
- F. The Board may discuss matters pertaining to Students necessarily involving personally identifiable information, e.g. Student Discipline. (Sections 551.082, 551.0821)
- G. The Board may discuss the Value, Exchange and/or Disposition of Real Property. (Section 551.072)

- III. Reconvene from Closed Session (Approximately 6:00 p.m.)

The Board reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

- A. Invocation

Mrs. Angie Wiley called on Dr. Jordan Ziemer, Executive Director for Communications, to give the invocation and lead the pledges.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags of the United States of America and the State of Texas
- C. Board/Superintendent Announcements

Dr. Joseph Waldron shared the following upcoming events:

- July 29 - Administrative Retreat at Hartford Learning Annex
- August 4 – Teachers Return
- August 5 – Convocation at Beltway Park Church – Theme: “Make a Splash”
- There will be a Special Called Budget Meeting in mid-August. The exact date is to be determined.

- IV. Recognitions

- A. Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) State Competitors

Mr. Clay Johnson, Executive Director for Fine Arts recognized the high school art students that competed on the state level.

B. TAEA Youth Art Month State Exhibition

Mr. Clay Johnson recognized art work of two students that was included in the State Exhibition in Austin.

C. Speech and Debate National Qualifiers

Mr. Clay Johnson recognized Abilene High School students that competed on the state and nation level for speech and debate.

D. Athletics State Competitors

Mr. Jim Garfield, Executive Director for Athletics, along with coaches from Abilene High School, Cooper High School and ATEMS, recognized students that were state qualifiers in E-Sports, Girls Powerlifting and Boys Powerlifting.

E. CTE State Honorees

Mrs. Lucille Fullen, Director of CTE, reported that 150 students competed on the state level in various CTE categories of which 40 placed. Mr. Dustin Moore recognized his students that competed in welding.

F. Leadership Academy Participants

Dr. Joseph Waldron recognized the participants of the 2024-2025 Leadership Academy.

V. Oral Communications from the Public

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if anyone wishing to address the Board had completed a public comment card. There was none.

VI. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the Consent Agenda. Mr. Rodney Goodman made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as present. The motion was seconded by Dr. Danny Wheat and passed 4-0.

Ayes: Wheat, Goodman, Earles, and Wiley

Nays: None

Absent: Enriquez, Tidmore, and Schroeder

A. The Board will consider approval of the Budget Amendments.

B. The Board will consider accepting the April Financials.

C. The Board will consider approval of the Minutes of the May 1, 2025, Workshop; May 5, 2025, Regular Board Meeting and the May 15, 2025, Special Called Board Meeting.

D. The Board will consider approval of the 2025-2026 Public Information Act Calendar.

E. The Board will consider the approval of District Investment Policy CDA.

F. The Board will consider approval of the Business Procedures Manual.

G. The Board will consider approval of Policy ELA (LOCAL).

VII. Reports

A. Fine Arts Department

Mr. Clay Johnson, Executive Director for Fine Arts, shared a report detailing enrollment, staffing, recognitions, community partnerships, field trips, and course offerings.

B. Athletic Department

Mr. Jim Garfield, Executive Director for Athletics, presented athletic highlights of the 2024-2025 school year which included team sports, individual sports, participation numbers, sixth grade pre-athletics, academic update, and professional development.

C. Goal Progress Measure Update

Mrs. Keri Thornburg, Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction, and Dr. Stevanie Jackson, Executive Director for Special Education, shared an update on the MAPS assessments for Spring 24-25 which provide nationally normed, growth-focused data in reading and mathematics for Kindergarten through 3rd Grade. They also reported on the College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) progress over a 5-year period and what has contributed to the improvement.

VIII. Business Items Requiring Board Action

A. The Board will discuss and possibly take action to select an auditor for the purpose of conducting an efficiency audit of the district.

Dr. Joseph Waldron shared that HB 3 of the 2019 Texas Legislative Session requires an efficiency audit be performed prior to holding a Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (VATRE). The presentation included the efficiency audit timeline as well as a recommendation concerning auditor selection.

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the selection of an auditor. Mr. Rodney Goodman made a motion to approve the selection of Eide Bailly, LLP to perform the efficiency audit of Abilene ISD and to delegate authority to the Superintendent or designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute a contract. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Angie Wiley and passed 4-0.

Ayes: Goodman, Wheat, Wiley, and Earles

Nays: None

Absent: Enriquez, Tidmore, and Schroeder

IX. The Board may take action relevant to Items Covered During Closed Session.

A. The Board will consider approval of Personnel Recommendations, if any.

I. Professional Employment Contracts

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding Personnel Recommendations. Mrs. Cindy Earles made a motion to approve the Personnel Recommendations as presented in Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodney Goodman and passed 4-0.

Ayes: Earles, Wiley, Goodman, and Wheat

Nays: None

Absent: Enriquez, Tidmore, and Schroeder

II. Consideration and possible action to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, as presented, to send notice of proposed termination for good cause to James Smith.

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding sending notice of proposed termination to James Smith. Dr. Danny Wheat made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent, as presented, to send notice of proposed termination for good cause to James Smith. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cindy Earles and passed 4-0.

Ayes: Goodman, Wiley, Earles, and Wheat

Nays: None

Absent: Enriquez, Tidmore, and Schroeder

B. Matters pertaining to Real Property, if any

C. Matters pertaining to Safety and Security, if any

D. Matters pertaining to Litigation, if any

E. Matters pertaining to Students, if any

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

ATTEST:

Secretary