

Minutes of the April 7, 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., April 7, 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; Mr. Bill Enriquez, Assistant Secretary; Dr. Danny Wheat, Mr. Blair Schroeder and Dr. Taylor Tidmore.

Members absent: None

Administrators present for all or part of the meeting: Dr. John Kuhn, Superintendent; Dr. Joseph Waldron, Deputy Superintendent; Mrs. Patti Blue, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Alison Sims, Associate Superintendent for the Development of Human Resources; Mrs. Jennifer Hinds, Chief Financial Officer; 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 4:31 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. The Board may consult with Legal Counsel regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation and/ or Privileged Legal Advice. (Section 551.071)
- C. The Board may discuss matters of Safety and Security. (Section 551.076)
- D. The Board may discuss the Value, Exchange and/or Disposition of Real Property. (Section 551.072)
- E. The Board may discuss matters pertaining to Students necessarily involving personally identifiable information, e.g. Student Discipline. (Sections 551.082, 551.0821)

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

The Board reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

- A. Invocation

Mrs. Angie Wiley called on Dr. Joseph Waldron 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
 - I. Continuing Education Credit Hours Completed by Board Members

Mrs. Angie Wiley announced that all Board Members have met or exceeded the required continuing education hours.

- II. Teaching Minute

This episode of the Teaching Minute highlighted TEKS Readiness Standard 8.6.B taught by Ms. Jennifer Menske, 8th grade Reading Language Arts teacher at Madison Middle School.

- IV. Recognitions

- A. AHS State Swimmer and Diver

Mr. Jim Garfield, Executive Director of Athletics, recognized Lucas Lee (ATEMS and Abilene High School) for qualifying for the UIL state swim and dive meet in Austin, Texas. He is the first male diver to qualify for state in Abilene ISD history.

- B. Teacher Incentive Allotment Designees

Ms. Kimberly Brumley, Director of Federal Programs, recognized ninety-two AISD teachers for their outstanding classroom performance through the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) program. Forty are first time designees, forty-five are continuing at the same level, and seven are receiving higher level designations. These designations include Master, Exemplary, or Recognized and receive awards ranging from \$4,564 to \$20,667 annually over the five-year designation period.

C. Employee Award Recipients

Mrs. Kaitlyn Paonessa, Assistant Director of Communications, recognized the following Employee Award Recipients:

- Auxiliary – Brahima Coulibaly, Technology Computer Technician
- New Teacher – Jordan Parker, 6th Grade ELA at Craig Middle School
- Paraprofessional – Gerald Shelby, SPED Aide at DAEP
- Student Support – Brooke Taylor, Positive Behavior Support Liaison at Stafford Elementary
- Substitute Teacher – RitaJo Smith
- Teacher – Sara Garza, English as a Second Language Teacher at Abilene High School

D. Purchasing Award of Merit

Dr. Joseph Waldron recognized the Purchasing Department for receiving the Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations by the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO) for the second year in a row.

E. Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) President-Elect and State Awards

This item was moved to the May 6 Regular Board Meeting.

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 one.

- Mindy Morris – Attendance staff reduction from 5 to 2

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 Mr. Blair Schroeder and passed 7-0.

Ayes: Wheat, Schroeder, Goodman, Tidmore, Enriquez, Earles, and Wiley

Nays: None

- A. The Board will consider approval of the Budget Amendments.
- B. The Board will consider accepting the February Financials.
- C. The Board will consider approval of the Minutes of the March 6, 2025, Workshop and Regular Board Meeting.
- D. The Board will consider approval of TASB Policy Update 124.
- E. The Board will consider approval of Group Medical Insurance for 2026.
- F. The Board will consider approval of the adoption of Reading Language Arts Curriculum for Grades 6-8.
- G. The Board will consider approval of Job Order Contract for Commercial Fencing and Installation, Proposal 014, 24-25.
- H. The Board will consider approval of Job Order Contract for Concrete Services, Proposal 013, 24-25.
- I. The Board will consider approval of the Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials 2025-2026.
- J. The Board will consider approval of the Quarterly Investment Report.

VII. Reports

A. Student Nutrition Report

Mrs. Kandance Grenwelge, Director of Student Nutrition shared an update on the department which included the philosophy of Student Nutrition, the increase in school meals served, the focus on expanding the menu variety next year, staff health and safety training, and nutrition education outlook. Mrs. Grenwelge also shared that AISD will once again provide a free Summer Meal program which will include new locations at the Mall of Abilene, the Abilene Zoo, and local splash pads.

B. Curriculum and Instruction Update

Mrs. Patti Blue provided a Curriculum and Instruction update that included current projects, summer learning plans, and preparations for the 2025-2026 school year. She shared that AISD received \$1.7 million in grant funds from TEA which will be used to launch new learning models at Bowie, Purcell, and Ward Elementary. Work is still being done as Mann Middle School transitions to a STEAM-focused campus. The elementary summer school model is also being refined to better meet the needs of students.

C. Building a Collaborative Culture

Dr. Joseph Waldron reported on the work that has been done to establish a culture of collaboration around significant issues in the Abilene ISD system. He shared the process and outcomes from three collaborative conversations that included Transportation, Enrollment/Registration, and Student IDs.

VIII. Business Items Requiring Board Action

A. The Board will consider approval of a Month of the Military Child Proclamation.

Mrs. Alison Camp, Executive Director for Student Services, presented a proclamation that represents a public declaration of support for Abilene ISD's military-connected students and their families and recognizes April as the Month of the Military Child.

Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to approve the Month of the Military Child Proclamation as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cindy Earles and passed 7-0.

Ayes: Goodman, Wiley, Tidmore, Enriquez, Earles, Schroeder, and Wheat

Nays: None

B. The Board will consider the renaming of Mann Middle School.

Mr. Chad Drake, Principal of Mann Middle School, shared a presentation that included progress on Mann Middle School's redesign which includes new guiding documents, expanded Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics electives, and the intentional integration of the arts. The renaming of Mann Middle School to Mann STEAM Academy was recommended.

Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to approve renaming Mann Middle School to Mann STEAM Academy as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 7-0.

Ayes: Enriquez, Tidmore, Earles, Goodman, Wiley, Wheat, and Schroeder

Nays: None

C. The Board will consider selection of Auditor and delegation of authority to negotiate Audit Service Agreement.

Mrs. Jennifer Hinds shared an overview of the auditor selection process. The recommendation is to select Eide Bailley, LLP as the district's financial auditor and to delegate authority to the superintendent or designee to negotiate and execute a contract.

Mrs. Angie Wiley made a motion to select Eide Bailley, LLP to perform the audit of the Abilene Independent School District and delegate authority to the superintendent or designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute a contract. The motion was seconded by Dr. Danny Wheat and passed 7-0.

Ayes: Schroeder, Wheat, Wiley, Earles, Goodman, Enriquez, and Tidmore

Nays: None

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

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

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 7:43 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

ATTEST:

Secretary