

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEST RUSK COUNTY CONSOLIDATED
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUGUST 19, 2024

The West Rusk County Consolidated Independent School District Board of Trustees met in the West Rusk CCISD boardroom at 6:00 p.m. The agenda with time and place posted in the required manner.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Smith, President; Will Sudweeks, Vice President; Iris Hammontree, Secretary; Robert Anderson, Matt Eastwood, Curtis Hughes, and Lorenzo Tavarez.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

SCHOOL PERSONAL PRESENT: Lawrence Coleman, Superintendent; Leah Bobbitt, Assistant Superintendent; Gwen Gilliam, Director of Student Services; Mindee Mata, Director of Business Operations; Kevin Roy, Chief of Police; Jake Jackson, High School Principal; Burt Langley, Intermediate Principal; Summer Johnston, High School Secretary; and Jo Ann Cooper, Secretary to the Superintendent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The board members and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

VISITORS: None.

REPORTS: BACKPACK: Gwen Gilliam, Director of Student Services, provided a detailed sheet showing the growth and needs of the West Rusk Backpack Program beginning in 2016-2017 through the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Gilliam discussed the report with the board and answered all questions concerning this volunteer program that combats hunger for children in the West Rusk District. A copy of the report is included in the minutes.

FIRST RATING: Mindee Mata, Director of Business Operations, and Lawrence Coleman, Superintendent, discussed the district First Rating with the board. West Rusk received a 98% rating with 2 points taken off for fund balance slightly below what the state uses as a standard. The fund balance was due to increased costs and less funding from the state. Mr. Coleman stated that Mrs. Mata is on top of all finance needs and careful with school monies.

DYSLEXIA: Gwen Gilliam, Director of Student Services, provided the board with a Dyslexia Program Annual Report for 2023-2024. She answered all questions from the board. A copy of the report is included in the minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

23-66 **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR BOARD MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 2024, AND BILLS, PAYROLL AND INVESTEMENT REPORT:** Robert Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2024, regular board meeting and approve bills, payroll and investment report, seconded by Curtis Hughes and unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION AGENDA:

23-67 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF AN ORDER CALLING A BOND ELECTION TO BE HELD BY THE WEST RUSK COUNTY CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024: Lawrence Coleman told the board that the district held two town hall meetings and discussed the needs of a new elementary building with those in attendance. We mailed postcards to all West Rusk County Consolidated Independent School District taxpayers prior to the town hall meetings.

After discussion, Robert Anderson moved that the Board adopt an order calling a bond election to be held on November 5, 2024, seconded by Will Sudweeks and unanimously passed.

23-68 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DISTRICT SCORECARD: Drew Howard, representative from Region 7, discussed the changes made by the state and implementation of new procedures concerning evaluations and board expectations.

After discussion, Will Sudweeks made a motion to approve the district scorecard as presented, seconded by Iris Hammontree and unanimously passed.

23-69 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD SELF-CONSTRAINTS DOCUMENT: After discussion, Will Sudweeks made a motion to approve the board self-constraints document as presented, seconded by Matt Eastwood and unanimously passed.

23-70 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD SELF-EVALUATION DOCUMENT: Robert Anderson made a motion to approve the board self-evaluation document as presented by Drew Howard, seconded by Iris Hammontree and unanimously passed.

23-71 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL AIR CONDITIONER BID: Lawrence Coleman, Superintendent told the Board that the district received bids from Crocket Air Conditioning in the amount of _____, Shawnee Air Conditioning in the amount of _____ and Simmons Air Conditioning in the amount of _____. The Board discussed the bids.

Matt Eastwood made a motion to accept the bid from Crocket Air Conditioning for \$42,700, seconded by Iris Hammontree and unanimously passed.

23-72 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF TASB LOCALIZED POLICY MANUAL UPDATE 123: LOCAL POLICIES BBD, BBFA, CKC, CKE, CQC, DCE, DGBA, EEH, EF, EFA, EFB, FNG, GF: Will Sudweeks made a motion to adopt TASB update 123 localized policies as listed above, seconded by Robert Anderson and unanimously passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ACTION RESULTING FROM SESSION:
The Board went into executive session and no action resulted.

ADJOURNMENT: Sandra Smith, President, said there is no further business and adjourned the meeting.

Sandra Smith, President

Iris Hammontree, Secretary

West Rusk Backpack Program

Report to West Rusk Board of Trustees

2023 - 2024

Order Date	Gross Weight(lb)	Total Price
August 17, 2023	382	\$549.55
September 14, 2023	520	\$769.00
November 02, 2023	520	\$816.00
November 30, 2023	500	\$806.00
January 25, 2024	520	\$846.50
February 29, 2024	520	\$849.50
April 14, 2024	520	\$849.50
May 02, 2024	520	\$849.50
TOTAL	2,964	\$6,335.55

2016 – 2017 total gross weight (lb.): 1,634,	spent: \$1,428.51,	total bags: 452
2017 – 2018 total gross weight (lb.): 2,950,	spent: \$2,933.13,	total bags: 808
2018 - 2019 total gross weight (lb.): 2,574,	spent: \$2,518.94,	total bags: 710
2019 - 2020 total gross weight (lb.): 5,115, (COVID - 19)	spent: \$4,888.05,	total bags: 1,344
2020 - 2021 total gross weight (lb.): 3,736,	spent: \$3,657.41	total bags: 1,022
2021 - 2022 total gross weight (lb.): 3,030	spent \$3,669.15	total bags: 920
2022 - 2023 total gross weight (lb.): 2,964	spent \$4,263.32	total bags: 928
2023 - 2024 total gross weight (lb.): 4,002	spent \$6,335.55	total bags: 1344
		additional items also purchased

Total (8 years) 26,005 lbs \$29,694.06 7,528 bags of food

Started August 2017 with balance of:	\$12,791.07
Ended June 2018 with balance of:	\$13,262.89
Ended June 2019 with balance of:	\$12,691.99
Ended May 2020 with balance of:	\$ 9,892.03
Ended May 2021 with balance of:	\$11,044.60
Ending May 2022 with balance of:	\$8,823.46
Ending May 2023 with balance of:	\$8,910.09
Ending May 2024 with balance of:	\$6,299.49

ALSO: West Rusk Backpack Activity Fund: Ending 2024 = \$3,168.08

Thanks to our many volunteers and contributors:

April Alford- Elementary, Amanda Kirkendoll - Intermediate, Wendy Jackson - Junior High
Dennis Gilliam - transportation from East Texas Food Bank

**WEST RUSK CCISD
DYSLEXIA PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT
2023 – 2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

The following report reflects services provided to dyslexic students by West Rusk Independent School District during the 2023-2024 school year.

District Support for the Dyslexia Program

Our district continues to participate in the Professional Development Cooperative at Region VII Education Service Center to stay informed about dyslexia services. This enables our dyslexia teacher to stay abreast of current curriculum, as well as developmental and instructional strategies needed to remain in compliance with state guidelines for dyslexia services. Our dyslexia teacher received extensive training at the Luke Waites Center for Dyslexia at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas. In order to stay current with TEA dyslexia program requirements, Mrs. Elliott received training and certification in the Reading by Design program through Region IV in March 2024. She began implementing the new program in April 2024. She is trained to use several diagnostic instruments for the identification of dyslexic tendencies in school age children. This aids in the identification of students who display characteristics of dyslexia and fit the dyslexic profile. In turn, this enables our district to better identify and serve dyslexic students through our dyslexia program. Since fall 2021 all referrals are made through Special Education for a FIE (Full and Individual Evaluation). This is in response to new updates regarding the identification of dyslexia in school age children. This year our special education diagnostician performed all testing and conferenced with Mrs. Elliott about the results. Both our Special Education department and our Dyslexia department work closely together. This has proven to be an excellent teaming of professionals.

Parental-Guardian Notification

We provide on-going information to parents and guardians of students who receive services through our district’s dyslexia program. Informational packets about dyslexia are available for all parents during Meet-The-Teacher-Night in August. This year our students receiving direct instruction in the dyslexia classroom received progress reports at the end of each six weeks grading period. Parents were encouraged to conference with our dyslexia teacher during the course of the year. We maintain an updated dyslexia page on the West Rusk website to provide additional information for our students and parents. This broadens everyone’s understanding of dyslexia as well as provide information about programs that are available to Texas students with reading difficulties.

Curriculum and Instruction

During the 2023-2024 school year, Mrs. Elliott directly served students in grades 2-5 through the Scottish Rite Reading Program, the Rite Flight Curriculum, and Anita Archer’s Phonics for Reading program until March 2024. At that time, she began transitioning students to the Reading by Design program. Moving forward, Reading by Design will be our district’s dyslexia program. Mrs. Elliott monitored students in grades 6 through 12 (Junior High and High School) each six weeks, and as needed, those students received priority instruction in reading and/or English. Accommodations/modifications were provided as indicated on students’ 504 service plans or students’ IEPs. Many students in our dyslexia program also received services through our Special Education Dept. At the end of the next school year, all students who continue to receive direct instruction in the dyslexia classroom will have an IEP (Individual Education Plan). All other dyslexia students will continue to receive accommodations/modifications as indicated on their individual 504 service plans or IEPs.

Student/Program Demographic Overview

During the 2023/2024 school year, there were fifty-two dyslexia students enrolled in our district. We had eighteen new referrals for testing on our Elementary and Intermediate campuses. Four of the students tested qualified for dyslexia services. One of those four students also qualified for Special Education services as well. Five students qualified for Special Education services only. Four students are in process for testing. One student moved out of our district, and two students’ parents/guardians changed their request. Two students did not qualify for dyslexia or special education services..

Dyslexic Students by Grade Level 2023-2024

1st Grade - 0 students	5th Grade – 7 students	9th Grade – 6 students
2nd Grade - 3 students	6th Grade – 3 students	10th Grade – 7 students
3rd Grade - 5 students	7th Grade – 4 students	11th Grade – 7 students
4th Grade – 5 students	8th Grade – 2 students	12th Grade – 3 students

2024 Reading STAAR/English I EOC/English II EOC: by Grade Level

3rd Grade Reading STAAR: 2/5 Passed 40%	4th Grade Reading STAAR: 1/5 Passed 20%
5th Grade Reading STAAR: 0/7 Passed 0%	6th Grade Reading STAAR: 3/3 Passed 100%
7th Grade Reading STAAR: 3/4 Passed 75%	8th Grade Reading STAAR: 2/2 Passed 100%
9th Grade English I End of Course: 2/6 Passed 33%	
10th Grade English II End of Course: 3/7 Passed 43%	
11th Grade: 6/7 Students Previously Passed English I and English II End of Course Tests 86%	
12th Grade: 3/3 All Students Previously Passed English I and English II End of Course Tests 100%	