

**WICHITA FALLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WFISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – BOARD ROOM
WORK SESSION MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

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 12:00 p.m. by Mr. Mark Lukert, board president.

Board members present: Mr. Mark Lukert, Ms. Katherine McGregor Mr. Jim Johnson, Ms. Sandy Camp, Ms. Diann Scroggins, Ms. Susan Grisel and Mr. John Barnard. Mr. Lukert 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. Ashley Thomas, Communications Officer, Mr. Scot Hafley, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ms. Debbie Dipprey, Executive Director of School Administration, Mr. Shannon Troester, Risk & Contract Manager, Mr. Jeff Hill, Director of Elementary Curriculum, Chief Anthony Smith, WFISD Police, Ms. Trish Potts, Auditor, Ms. Alefia Paris-Toulon, Executive Director of Special Programs, Ms. Marchuetta Matthews, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Grant Freeman, Director of Athletics, Mr. Chad Johnson, Media Specialist, Mr. Greg Davis, New Legacy Athletic Coordinator and Head Football Coach, Ms. Danielle McSweeney, Fain Principal, Ms. Synquis Lewis, Booker T Washington Principal, Dr. Cody Blair, Legacy Principal, Mr. Larry Menefee, Director of Student Services, Ms. Alex Martin, McNeil Principal and Ms. Amy Simmons, Cunningham Principal.

Also present: Mr. Steve Wood, Bundy, Young, Sims and Potter

INVOCATION:

Ms. Diann Scroggins gave the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024

Mr. Jim Johnson, seconded by Ms. Susan Grisel, motioned that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approve the Financial Reports as of November 30, 2024 as submitted by Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0

JANUARY 2025 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Ms. Diann Scroggins, seconded by Mr. John Barnard, motioned that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approve the budget amendments to the January 2025 budgets as submitted by Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0

TECHNOLOGY E-RATE BIDS DISCUSSION

Ms. Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, requested that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees discuss the below referenced RFPs were advertised twice in the Times Record News and issued on WFISD's electronic bidding platform as well as on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Portal, as required by law. The RFPs are in the evaluation process responses were evaluated by Curtis Shahan, Director of Technology, Melissa Varazlic, Infrastructure Manager and Josh Snow, Network Analyst.

RFP 2425-21-S-27 CAT1 Equipment and Services (E-Rate)

RFP 2425-22-S-27 CAT2 Equipment and Maintenance (E-Rate)

RFP 2425-23-M-27 CAT1 Internet Access (E-Rate)

The evaluations of these RFPs will be completed and recommendations made at the Board of Trustees' Board Meeting on Monday, February 17th. These expenditures will be purchased with Technology budgeted funds, pending E-Rate funding. Multi-year awards require Board of Trustees approval per policy, CH Local.

PURCHASE OF AMPLIFY CURRICULUM

Ms Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, requested that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees discuss the purchase of Amplify Curriculum consumables from Amplify in the amount of \$211,388.60, as submitted by Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools. Amplify Reading curriculum has been purchased and implemented at Wichita Falls ISD elementary campuses. This purchase is for workbook consumables for Burgess, Booker T Washington, Crockett, Cunningham, Fain, Fowler, Franklin, Jefferson, Milam, Scotland Park, Southern Hills, West Foundation, and Zundy elementary campuses. This purchase utilizes Buyboard RFP award 748-24 for Instructional Materials. This purchase will be made utilizing the Buyboard cooperative and will be split between donor funds provided specifically for this expenditure of \$111,000 from the McCoy Foundation and \$100,388.60 from the General Fund. Expenditures over \$100,000 require the Board of Trustees approval per policy, CH Local.

This item will be placed on the consent agenda for the regular meeting on February 17, 2025

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

TARGETED IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Ms. Debbie Dipprey, Executive Director of School Administration, requested that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees receive information regarding Targeted Improvement Plans to be submitted to the Texas Education Agency for Washington Elementary, Fain Elementary, Cunningham Elementary and Hirschi Middle School as recommended by Dr. Lee, WFISD Superintendent of Schools. TEA has identified Washington Elementary, Fain Elementary, Cunningham Elementary and Hirschi Middle School as in need of "Comprehensive Support". The campuses were identified for this level of support based on performance on the 2024 STAAR assessment. Campuses are required to develop and implement a Targeted Improvement Plan which must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

This item will be placed on the consent agenda for the regular meeting on February 17, 2025

ATHLETICS

CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL THE HIRE OF LEGACY ATHLETIC COORDINATOR/HEAD FT BALL COACH

Ms. Susan Grisel, seconded by Ms. Diann Scroggins, motioned that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approve the hire of Mr. Greg Davis as the Athletic Coordinator and Head Football Coach at Legacy High School as presented by Mr. Grant Freeman, Director of Athletics and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0

HUMAN RESOURCES:

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. Dayna Hardaway, Executive Director of Human Resources, reported to the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees a review of employee resignations/retirements that have been submitted since the last board meeting. The resignations/retirements have been accepted by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with the requirements of Policy DFE (LOCAL).

TEACHER APPLICANT POOL

Ms. Katherine McGregor, seconded by Ms. Sandy Camp, moved that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approve the proposed teacher applicant pool.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0

TEACHER WAIVER CERTIFICATION FOR 25/26 SCHOOL YEAR

Ms. Dayna Hardaway, Executive Director of Human Resources, requested that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approve the district's plan to seek certification waivers from the Texas Education Agency for the 2025-2026 school year for individuals:

- Enrolled in an ACP program or graduates of collegiate schools of education working toward certification,
- While employing these individuals as at-will employees under a Letter of Reasonable Assurance until certification is complete.

Exclusions: This waiver will not apply to Head Start teachers due to Region 9 requirements.

as submitted by Dayna Hardaway, Executive Director of Human Resources, and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools.

1. Eligibility for Waiver

- Candidates must meet one of the following criteria:
- Actively enrolled in a TEA-approved Alternative Certification Program and progressing toward certification.
- A recent graduate of a collegiate school of education working to complete required certification testing.
- Candidates must submit evidence of enrollment, graduation, and/or scheduled certification exams.

2. Exclusion of Head Start Teachers

- This proposal does not apply to Head Start teaching positions due to the certification requirements outlined by Region 9.

3. Employment Terms

- Candidates will be offered employment as at-will employees under a Letter of Reasonable Assurance for the 2025-2026 school year.
- At-will employment will continue until certification is completed. Once certified, candidates will be offered a probationary contract.

District Support

- WFISD will provide mentorship, targeted professional development, and test preparation resources to support these employees in meeting certification requirements.
- Campus administrators will closely monitor their progress and provide feedback on instructional practices.

5. Rationale

- The district continues to face teacher shortages in critical areas, making it essential to widen the hiring pool.
- This approach ensures classrooms are staffed with individuals committed to certification and professional growth.
- By supporting ACP participants and recent graduates, the district fosters a long-term solution for increasing the number of certified educators.
- Provides an opportunity to recruit high-potential candidates who may otherwise be unable to enter the profession without district support.
- Reduces turnover by establishing a clear pathway for professional growth and contract eligibility.
- Ensures continuity of instruction by filling critical vacancies with candidates committed to the teaching profession.

6. Benefits to WFISD

- Addresses immediate staffing needs while maintaining accountability for certification requirements.
- Builds a pipeline of qualified educators who can transition seamlessly into contracted teaching roles.
- Reduces classroom disruptions by offering structured support to aspiring educators.

This item will be placed on the consent agenda for the regular meeting on February 17, 2025

BOARD MATTERS:

BOARD MINUTES:

Minutes of a special session on January 7, work session on January 14, and regular meeting on January 21, 2025

These items will be placed on the consent agenda for the regular meeting on February 17, 2025

DISTRICT EVENTS:

Ms. Ashley Thomas, Communications Officer, informed the Board of Trustees on the events happening around the district; 100th day of school dress up pictures, WFISD Foundation Golf Tournament made a lot of money and thank you to the sponsors, Leadership Wichita Falls group went on a tour of Legacy as well as the Wichita Falls District Attorney was able to visit Legacy, National Signing Day for athletes, both Legacy and Memorial made the Boys and Girls Basketball Playoffs (games to be announced), Crosstown Show Down for soccer February 14th, Senon

Cabrera, Legacy student, made All State Band, Several students competed in the Solo and Ensemble Competition, first ever WFISD Sam's Staff Spotlight for non-exempt staff is Mari Ybarra, Fain Custodian, February Teacher Spotlight is Kylee Miller, Memorial Teacher, Principal for a Day is February 12, Staff Planning/Student Holiday is February 17th, CEC open house is February 17 at 5:30pm and Public School Week is February 24th-28th.

RECESS:

Mr. Mark Lukert, board president, recessed the work session to go into closed session at 12:49 pm.

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. Level III Grievance Appeal-Parent Complaint Against School District Employee (Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0821)

OPEN SESSION:

Mr. Mark Lukert, board president, called the meeting back into open session at 2:11 pm.

ACTION REGARDING LEVEL III GRIEVANCE APPEAL OF PARENT COMPLAINT AGAINST SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE

Mr. Jim Johnson, seconded by Mr. John Barnard, motioned that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees deny the Level III Grievance Appeal as presented in closed session and to deny all requested resolutions.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0

ADJOURNED:

Mr. Mark Lukert, board president, adjourned the meeting at 2:11 pm.

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees