

**WICHITA FALLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WFISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – BOARD ROOM
REGULAR SESSION MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 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 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Mark Lukert, board president.

Board members present: Mr. Mark Lukert, Ms. Katherine McGregor, Ms. Diann Scroggins, Ms. Sandy Camp, Mr. Jim Johnson 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. 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. Lauren Zotz, Director of Purchasing, Ms. Tabitha Eastman, Director of Social & Emotional Services, Ms. Jessica Dixon, Memorial College & Career Advisor, Ms. Kristy Nolan, Legacy College & Career Advisor, Mr. Curtis Shahan, Director of Technology, Mr. Grant Freeman, Director of Athletics, Mr. Marc Bindel, Memorial Athletic Director, SGM Salvador Montez, Memorial JROTC Instructor, Mr. Josh Castles, teacher and Mr. Larry Menefee, Director of Student Services.

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

PRESENTATION OF COLORS:

Memorial High School JROTC

INVOCATION:

Ms. Sandy Camp gave the invocation.

PRESENTATIONS:

MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STATE FOOTBALL

Mr. Grant Freeman, Director of Athletics introduced Mr. Marc Bindel, Memorial Athletic Coordinator, to request that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees recognize the following Memorial High School students for receiving All-State Honors for Football as submitted by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent.

THSCA Academic All-State

Jeremiah Becenti
Austin Feldman
Isaiah Flores
Adam Smith

Padilla Poll 5A-D2 All-State Team

Joe Castles - Quarterback (2nd Team)
Cross Ohmstede - Offensive Line (2nd Team)
Kenji Johnson - Running Back (Honorable Mention)
Colton Carter - Offensive Line (Honorable Mention)

Texas Sports Writers Association All-State Team

Eric Powell - Fullback (1st Team)
Colton Carter - Tackle (2nd Team)
Joe Castles - Quarterback (Honorable Mention)
Jamari Dean - Wide Receiver (Honorable Mention)
Kenji Johnson - Running Back (Honorable Mention)
Coach: Marc Bindel

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORTS OR SPECIAL DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

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

- Enrollment: 12,573; ADA 93.27%
- Classroom Visits: Board members are always welcome
 - Southern Hills
 - Crockett
 - Haynes Head Start
 - West Foundation
 - Zundy
 - Hirschi
 - Fain
 - Fowler
 - Jefferson
 - Memorial
 - Legacy
 - Scotland Park
 - McNeil
- Texas State 89th Legislative Session
 - January 14th-June 2nd
 - School Vouchers
 - Governor Abbott states that “Parents Matter” but Vouchers do not address all parent’s wishes
 - Dr. Lee discussed the schools that Abbott has visited, none being public schools
 - Posted a Facts vs Fiction page on what is being reported
 - Provided several pages of information regarding the admissions process for private school and that Gov. Abbott’s wife is on the board of one of the schools
- Rider Refresh
 - Cleaning, lighting and painting underway
- Forney ISD Opportunity Center: Feb 23-25
 - Several WFISD going to visit the Career Education Center in Forney, TX
 - 20 other districts participating; each giving a report on what they do well in the CTE program area.
- Playgrounds
 - 9 completed this year, more next year
- Legacy and Memorial playoff boys’ basketball games double header in Childress, TX on Tuesday, 2/18
- TEA School Improvement Site Visits
 - Hirschi Middle School was last week
 - Rep from TEA, Region IX and WFISD staff visited 7 classrooms
 - Plan for moving forward after some hard conversations and critical feedback
 - Booker T Washington with be March 20th

Ms Diann Scroggins asked about adding additional classroom and staff to Booker T Washington. Dr. Lee said that would be something that could be done at the beginning of the 25/26 school year if necessary.

Katherine McGregor asked what the general public can do to voice their concern regarding the vouchers and Dr Lee said for concerned citizens to reach out to their state representatives.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes from December Meetings

Ms. Katherine McGregor, seconded by Mr. John Barnard, motioned that the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees approve the above items placed on the Consent Agenda at the February 11, 2025 meeting.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

RFP 2425-21-S27 CAT1 EQUIPMENT SERVICES (E-RATES)

Mr. Jim Johnson, seconded by Ms. Diann Scroggins, motioned for the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees award RFP 2425-21-S-27 CAT1 Equipment and Services (E-rate) to Netsync for a total cost to the district of \$20,729.72, as submitted by Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools. The RFP was 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. Eleven (11) vendors viewed the bid with three (3) submitting responses. All responses were evaluated by Curtis Shahan, Director of Technology, and Melissa Varazlic, Infrastructure Manager, as well as verified by the District's e-rate consultant. This purchase is to replace/upgrade the district core routers and optics to provide for more capacity on the district WAN (Wide Area Network). The WAN is built out on a fiber optics network, and this will increase our speeds from building to building to support more devices simultaneously. The current equipment is EOL (End of Life) and this will provide premium support and future expansion. Netsync is the recommended vendor for Internet Access with an RFP score of 71.86 points.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0

RFP 2425-22-S-27 CAT2 EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE (E-RATE)

Ms. Diann Scroggins, seconded by Mr. Jim Johnson, motioned for the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees award RFP 2425-22-S-27 CAT2 Equipment and Maintenance (E-Rate) to Netsync Network Solutions, Inc., as submitted by Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools. The RFP was 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. Eleven (11) vendors viewed the bid and two (2) vendors submitted a response. All responses were evaluated by Curtis Shahan, Director of Technology and Melissa Varazlic, Infrastructure Manager, as well as verified by the District's e-rate consultant. This purchase is to replace the district's primary and backup firewalls. The firewalls are separate network security devices that provide multi-layer protection to separate the trusted internal network from an external network deemed untrustworthy, such as the internet. This protection regulates incoming and outgoing network traffic based on preset security rules. Firewalls are paramount in shielding networks from unauthorized access, harmful activities, and potential threats.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0

RFP 2425-23-S-29 CAT 1 INTERNET ACCESS (E-RATE)

Mr. Jim Johnson, seconded by Ms. Diann Scroggins, motioned for the Wichita Falls Independent School District Board of Trustees award RFP 2425-23-S-29 CAT1 Internet Access (E-Rate) to Zayo Group for a total cost to the district of \$29,707 (3-years) as submitted by Leah Horton, Chief Financial Officer, and as recommended by Dr. Donny Lee, Superintendent of Schools. The RFP was 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. Ten (10) vendors viewed the bid with three (3) submitting responses. All responses were evaluated by Curtis Shahan, Director of Technology, and Melissa Varazlic, Infrastructure Manager, as well as verified by the District's e-rate consultant. Zayo Group is the recommended vendor for the Internet Access with an RFP score of 83.25. In addition to being the recommended vendor by the final RFP scoring, Zayo is also the lowest priced.

Carried unanimously by a vote of 6 – 0

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

Ms. Tabitha Eastman, Director of Social and Emotional Service, gave a detailed presentation on the many facets of the Social and Emotional Services Department. She introduced Ms. Jessica Dixon and Ms. Katie Nolan, High School College and Career Advisors. They covered the many thing they do to help students prepare for their life after high school.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

TEACHER APPLICANT POOL

No Applicant Pool

BOARD MATTERS:

RECESS:

Mr. Mark Lukert, board president, recessed to go into closed session at 7:08 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. Discussion regarding Real Property/Construction (Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072)

ADJORNMENT:

With no other action to take, Mr. Mark Lukert, board president, adjourned the meeting from Closed Session at 8:32 pm.

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees