

Minutes of the January 13, 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., January 13, 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; Dr. Gustavo Villanueva, Associate Superintendent for Student Services; Mrs. Alison Sims, Associate Superintendent for the Development of Human Resources; Dr. Jordan Ziemer, Director of Communications; Mrs. Jennifer Hinds, Executive Director for Finance; 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. 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)
- F. The Board may 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 Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including the appeal of the discipline of a public school child. (Section 551.071)
- G. The Board may conduct a meeting to deliberate in a case involving an appeal of the discipline of a public school child. (Section 551.082)

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

The Board reconvened at 6:01 p.m.

- A. Invocation

Mrs. Angie Wiley called on Dr. Gustavo Villanueva 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. John Kuhn made the following announcements:

- Happy Board Appreciation Month
- The district will be closed on Monday, January 20, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- Taylor County Stock Show: January 16-18, 2025
- Planning for College and Career Seminar at McMurry: January 25, 2025

Mrs. Angie Wiley commended Dr. Jordan Ziemer and the AISD Communications Team for the outstanding representation of AISD in the new Abilene Community Guide.

- I. Teaching Minute

#### IV. Recognitions

##### A. School Board Appreciation Month

Each board member was individually recognized by campus principals as follows:

- Mrs. Angie Wiley – Mr. Jay Ashby, ATEMS High School
- Mr. Rodney Goodman – Mrs. Michele Josselet, Alcorta Elementary
- Mrs. Cindy Earles – Mrs. Melissa Scott, Stafford Elementary
- Mr. Bill Enriquez – Mr. Heath Wright, Dyess Elementary
- Dr. Danny Wheat – Mr. Joshua Newton, Madison Middle School
- Mr. Blair Schroeder – Mrs. Leslye Roberts, Taylor Elementary
- Dr. Taylor Tidmore – Mr. Blake Fuller, Ward Elementary

##### 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.

- Ms. Cynthia Alvidrez – Special Education

##### VI. Public Hearing on 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report

Mrs. Angie Wiley called on Mrs. Patti Blue to give a brief summary of the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report. The TAPR gathers a wide range of information on the performance of students in each school and district in Texas every year. Performance is shown by student groups, including ethnicity and socioeconomic status. The reports also provide extensive information on school and district staff, programs, and student demographics. Mrs. Blue shared performance level of “approaching” in 20 areas. In 65% of those 20 areas, AISD saw a decrease from the 2022-2023 score. In 100% of those 20 areas AISD was below State performance. STAAR Annual Growth, STAAR Participation, Attendance, Graduation, and Dropout were all highlighted along with College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR). Full report for any Texas school district can be accessed at <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/tapr/2024/index.html>.

##### A. Open Public Hearing

The Public Hearing opened at 6:29 p.m.

##### B. Receive Public Comment

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if anyone from the public wished to address the Board regarding the 2023-2024 Texas Academic Performance Report. There was none.

##### C. Close Public Hearing

The Public Hearing closed at 6:40 p.m.

##### VII. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the Consent Agenda. Dr. Danny Wheat made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as present. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rodney Goodman and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

- A. The Board will consider approval of the Budget Amendments.
- B. The Board will consider accepting the November Financials.
- C. The Board will consider approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2024, Workshop and Regular Board Meeting.
- D. The Board will consider approval of the Investment Report for Quarter Ending November 30, 2024.
- E. The Board will consider Policy DC (LOCAL).
- F. The Board will consider approval of a Resolution regarding Employee Compensation during Inclement Weather Closure.

##### VIII. Reports

##### A. Abilene Education Foundation Annual Report

Mr. Adam Samuels, Executive Director for Abilene Education Foundation, presented an update on their program support and grants awarded. The 2023-2024 total investment in AISD students and teachers was \$538,000. The AISD Class of 2024 scholarship offers total was \$16.2 million.

##### B. Student Services Department Report

Mrs. Alison Camp, Executive Director for Student Services, presented an overview of the Student Services Department which included the following key areas where assistance is provided to all campuses:

- Health Services
- Social Workers

- Attendance
- Behavior Supports
- CHAMPS Coaches

C. Goal Progress Measure – CCMR

Goals have been set regarding the percentage of AISD students that graduate meeting College Career Military Readiness. Mrs. Patti Blue presented the first CCMR update for the year as part of Lone Star Governance. As of January 2025, 359 seniors have met CCMR. There are 770 seniors districtwide, as of 1/10/2025.

IX. Business Items Requiring Board Action

A. The Board will consider approval of the District and Financial Compliance Report.

Mr. Jeromy Stephens, Partner with Eide Bailly, presented an overview of the annual audit of the District's financial records for year ending August 31, 2024. Abilene ISD was presented with a clean audit of the 2023-2024 financials.

Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to approve the District and Financial Compliance Report as present. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blair Schroeder and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

B. The Board will consider approval of the High School Cell Phone Policy Resource Request.

Dr. Gustavo Villanueva presented a funding request to support the implementation of the new cell phone policy at our high schools. This policy restricts cell phone use during the instructional day and is designed to enhance student engagement, improve focus, and create a more productive learning environment. To effectively enforce this policy, funding for the purchase of YONDR pouches was requested. This is a solution that has proven successful in managing cell phone access in educational settings.

Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to approve the High School Cell Phone Policy Resource Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

C. The Board will consider approval of the 2023-2024 Shotwell Complex Financial Report.

Mrs. Jennifer Hinds presented the 2023-2024 Shotwell Complex Financial Report which included the Revenue and Expenditures, FY24 vs FY23, and a 10-year historical look back.

Mrs. Angie Wiley made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Shotwell Complex financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Danny Wheat and passed 7-0

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

Nays: None

D. The Board will consider approval of the 2025-2026 AISD Academic School Calendar.

Mrs. Alison Sims presented for consideration 2025-2026 AISD Academic Calendar – Draft B as recommended by the District Wide Consultation Committee (DWCC) and the Calendar Committee.

Mr. Rodney Goodman made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Abilene ISD Academic School Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cindy Earles and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

E. The Board will consider approval of TEA Corrective Action Plan (Case #SRDR2024-07-02).

Dr. Gustavo Villanueva presented a notification to AISD regarding non-compliance issues identified through a compliance review of student discipline data. The violations included improper out-of-school suspensions (OSS) of students experiencing homelessness and students below Grade 3. The district is also cited for potentially failing to submit accurate, useful and timely PEIMS data. TEA has requested AISD's voluntary agreement to a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) aimed at ensuring compliance and avoiding formal investigation or sanctions.

Dr. Danny Wheat made a motion to approve TEA Corrective Action Plan (Case #SRDR2024-07-02) as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blair Schroeder and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

F. The Board will consider approval of the 2025-2026 Head Start/Early Head Start Refunding Proposal, 2025-2026 Program Goals and Objectives, and updated 2024-2025 Community Needs Assessment.

Mrs. Julie Wilson, Director of Early Childhood, presented the annual update and reviewed the Refunding Application, Community Needs and Program Goals. AISD received notice of the annual funding and enrollment levels AISD is

eligible to apply for Fiscal Year 25. The fiscal year for Head Start is May 1, 2025– April 30, 2026. This refunding application is for year four of our five-year grant cycle. The refunding proposal was approved by the Head Start Policy Council on December 17, 2024.

Mrs. Cindy Earles made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Head Start/Early Head Start Refunding Proposal, 2025-2026 Program Goals and Objectives, and updated 2024-2025 Community Needs Assessment as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Enriquez and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

G. The Board will consider a Resolution regarding the "Building Brighter Futures" Initiative.

Dr. John Kuhn shared that AISD has been involved in long-range planning processes involving staff and community members since August 2024. The process began with a series of "Strategic Footprint" meetings which involved up to 80 community and staff representatives. "Pathways to Possibility" was the next phase and it involved public conversations and idea generation and prioritization sessions at AISD's four middle schools. These conversations combined with a great deal of administration planning and brainstorming have resulted in a long-range plan for AISD's elementary schools that we are calling "Building Brighter Futures." The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that we turn AISD's vision into a concrete reality for our community and our students. The three principal components are School Choice Pilot, Specialized Academic Programming and Sunsetting Campuses.

Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the "Building Brighter Futures" Initiative as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

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

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

Dr. Danny Wheat made a motion to approve the Personnel Recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Enriquez and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

B. The Board will consider and take action on student discipline appeal matter.

Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to uphold the decision of administration and affirm the expulsion of the student. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cindy Earles and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

C. Matters pertaining to Real Property, if any

D. Matters pertaining to Safety and Security, if any

E. Matters pertaining to Litigation, if any

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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**President**

**ATTEST:**

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**Secretary**