

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A VOLUNTARY PERIOD FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOLLOWING THE LAST INSTRUCTIONAL PERIOD OF THE SCHOOL DAY

WHEREAS, Texas Education Code §25.0823 authorizes the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school, by record vote, to adopt a policy providing students and employees with an opportunity to participate in a period of voluntary prayer and/or reflection during the school day; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Pineywoods Community Academy (“PCA”) seeks to exercise this authority in a manner consistent with state law, federal law, and constitutional requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Board affirms that participation in prayer or religious activity in public schools must be voluntary, non-coercive, and neutral with respect to religion;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Pineywoods Community Academy shall adopt a policy requiring every campus of PCA to provide a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text as provided by Texas Education Code Section 25.0823. The Board further resolves that:

1. Authorization and Timing:

The Board of Directors hereby authorizes a 30-minute period immediately following the last instructional period of each instructional school day to be designated as a Voluntary Prayer and Reflection Period (“Designated Period”). The Designated Period shall occur after all required instructional time has concluded and shall not be considered instructional time nor a substitute for instructional time.

2. Voluntary Nature:

Participation in the Designated Period is strictly voluntary. No student or District employee shall be required to participate, encouraged to participate, or discouraged from declining to participate in prayer, religious activity, or religious text reading.

3. Parental Consent:

Student participation in the Designated Period shall be subject to parental or guardian written consent, as required by law. Students who do not have consent, consent has been revoked, or who elect not to participate shall be provided a separate space which is not within the physical presence of those engaging in religious activities during the Designated Period, appropriate supervision by District employees, and permission or directions to engage in alternative, quiet, non-disruptive activities. The Superintendent shall develop the written consent form in accordance with the requirements of Section 25.0823, and shall disseminate the consent form in a manner deemed appropriate for each campus.

4. District Neutrality:

The District, including its employees and agents, shall not sponsor, endorse, lead, initiate, organize, or promote prayer, reading of religious texts, or other religious activity during the Designated Period, including employee-led prayer or religious readings either in class or over a school-wide public address system. The District shall remain neutral regarding religion and shall not favor or disfavor any faith, denomination, or non-religious belief.

5. Permitted Activities:

During the Designated Period, participating students and employees may engage in voluntary prayer, reflection, meditation, or the reading of religious or inspirational texts, provided such activities are student-initiated or privately undertaken and do not disrupt school operations or infringe on the rights of others. All activities undertaken by students or employees during the Designated Period shall be provided away from and outside the presence of all students or employees for whom a signed consent form has not been submitted, who have chosen not to participate, or whose consent has been revoked.

6. Non-Disruption and Order:

All activities conducted during the Designated Period shall be orderly, non-disruptive, and conducted in compliance with District policies and campus procedures.

7. Non-Retaliation:

No student or employee shall be disciplined, discriminated against, or retaliated against based on participation or non-participation in the Designated Period.

8. Notice:

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians, students, and employees receive written notice of the Designated Period, including its voluntary nature and procedures for consent and non-participation.

9. Record Vote:

This resolution constitutes the Board's record vote adopting a policy under Texas Education Code §25.0823.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026, by the Board of Trustees of Pineywoods Community Academy by a vote of ____ in favor, ____ opposed, and ____ abstentions.

Mr. Joe Douglas, III., Board President

Mr. Justin Hatton, Board Secretary