

Minutes of the November 4, 2024,
Workshop and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Abilene Independent School District met in a Workshop and Regular Meeting at 4:30 p.m., November 4, 2024, in the Alta Vista Room and 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 4:29 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. Board Workshop Agenda

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked Dr. John Kuhn to give an overview of the items to be discussed in the Workshop portion of the meeting.

- A. Student Behavior Management Coalition

Dr. John Kuhn shared information about the Student Behavior Management Coalition that includes several school districts led by Mr. Mike Moses. Abilene ISD will be joining the coalition in working towards re-writing Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code – Discipline; Law and Order.

- B. 9-Week Grading Periods

Dr. Stevanie Jackson, Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction – Elementary, Mrs. Keri Thornburg, Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction – Secondary, and Mr. Jim Garfield, Executive Director for Athletics, presented a consideration for AISD to move from a six-weeks based grading period to a nine-weeks based grading period for the 2025 – 2026 school year. They shared positive impacts on Academics, Athletics, and Fine Arts along with the challenges and steps for implementation.

- III. 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 4:41 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 the Value, Exchange and/or Disposition of Real Property. (Section 551.072)
 - D. The Board may discuss matters of Safety and Security. (Section 551.076)
 - E. 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)
 - F. 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)
 - G. The Board may discuss matters pertaining to Students necessarily involving personally identifiable information, e.g. Student Discipline. (Sections 551.082, 551.0821)

- IV. Reconvene from Closed Session (Approximately 6:30 p.m.)

The Board reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

- A. Invocation

Mrs. Angie Wiley called on Ms. Kimberly Brumley, Director of Federal Programs 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

Ms. Kimberly Brumley introduced Girl Scouts that were in attendance and assisted in leading the pledges.

C. Board/Superintendent Announcements/Information

Dr. John Kuhn shared two positive parent feedback emails that he received regarding a Madison Middle School teacher and Taylor Elementary Student Nutrition Department.

I. Teaching Minute

The Teaching Minute video highlighted Dyess Elementary 4th grade teacher, Ms. Tyci Western, as she taught a math concept to her students.

V. Recognitions

A. Cross Country State Competitors

Mr. Jim Garfield introduced Coach Kayla Cunnings (Boys Cross Country) and Coach Rose Mary Martin (Girls Cross Country) who recognized the Cross Country State Competitors from Abilene High School.

B. Purple Star Designation Campuses

Dr. Jordan Ziemer introduced Ms. Darci Hodges (Dyess AFB School Liaison) who recognized the following Purple Star Designation Campuses:

- Long Early Learning Center
- Bassetti Elementary
- Dyess Elementary
- Taylor Elementary
- Thomas Elementary
- Ward Elementary
- Clack Middle School
- Cooper High School

C. District Wide Consultation Committee (DWCC)

Ms. Kimberly Brumley recognized members of the District Wide Consultation Committee that were in attendance which included teachers, parents and community members.

VI. Oral Communication from the Public

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if anyone wishing to address the Board had completed a public comment card. There was none.

VII. Consent Agenda

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the Consent Agenda. Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Bill Enriquez seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

A. The Board will consider approval of the Budget Amendments.

B. The Board will consider accepting the September Financials.

C. The Board will consider approval of the Minutes of the October 7, 2024, Workshop and Regular Meeting; and the October 22, 2024, Special Called Meeting.

D. The Board will consider approval of a 2024-2025 Staff Development Waiver.

VIII. Reports

A. Finance Department

Mrs. Jennifer Hinds shared a presentation that highlighted the staff of the Finance Department and the tremendous work they do behind the scenes everyday for our district.

IX. Business Items Requiring Board Action

A. The Board will consider a Resolution regarding Adequate Funding for Public Schools.

Dr. John Kuhn presented a resolution that calls on the Texas Legislature to support an increase to the Basic Allotment and to establish a mechanism for automatic, inflation-adjusted increases and address unfunded mandates placed on Texas public schools and to increase school funding for teacher compensation.

Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to approve the Resolution regarding Adequate Funding for Public Schools as presented. Mrs. Angie Wiley seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

B. The Board will consider approval of application with TEA for Partnership under Senate Bill 1882.

Dr. John Kuhn shared that Senate Bill 1882, which was passed by the Texas legislature in 2007, permits school districts to enter into partnerships with other entities (such as higher education partners, municipalities, or charter management organizations) to permit innovative approaches to educational improvement. This type of partnership avails significant new funding opportunities to school districts and meshes perfectly with existing AISD initiatives such as System of Great Schools.

Mr. Rodney Goodman made a motion to approve application with TEA for Partnership under Senate Bill 1882 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Taylor Tidmore and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

C. The Board will consider a resolution establishing a rate for the 2024-2025 Early Notice of Departure (END).

Mrs. Alison Sims presented the suggested rate for the 2024-2025 Early Notice of Departure as follows:

- Number of years of service in Abilene ISD (maximum 5 days per year) multiplied by \$100 per day of local leave PLUS a base of \$1000
- 20 years in the district - \$3,000 additional payment
- 25 years in the district - \$5,000 additional payment
- 30 years in the district - \$7,000 additional payment
- 35 years or more in the district - \$9,000 additional payment

Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to approve a resolution establishing the rate for the 2024-2025 Early Notice of Departure (END) as presented. Dr. Taylor Tidmore seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

D. The Board will consider casting votes for the Board of Directors of the Taylor County Appraisal District.

Mrs. Jennifer Hinds presented a resolution to cast votes to elect members of the Board of Directors of the Taylor County Appraisal District. Each entity is allotted votes based on the property value that entity has within the boundaries of Taylor County. Abilene ISD has 1,237 votes that may be divided among any or all of the candidates. These votes can be assigned to nominees in any distribution the board sees fit.

Mrs. Angie Wiley made a motion to approve the resolution assigning 1,237 votes to Mr. John Stearns for service on the Central Appraisal District of Taylor County for a term of office beginning January 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cindy Earles and passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

E. The Board will consider a Resolution providing guidance on the development of a Student Cell Phone Policy.

Dr. Gustavo Villanueva shared that the Districtwide Discipline and Behavior Supports Committee has recommended further restriction of student cell phone use during the instructional day. Based on discussions and the evaluation of this recommendation, a board resolution is requested to proceed with the planning and the implementation of a policy that would ban cell phone and electronic device use throughout the entire school day. This resolution would enable communication of this potential change to staff, students, and parents well in advance of any official policy decision. It would also allow timely requests and the acquiring of the necessary materials and resources for effective implementation.

Mr. Blair Schroeder made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing Abilene ISD administration to take initial steps toward implementing a ban on student cell phone use during the instructional day at high schools, beginning the 2025-2026 school year as presented. Mr. Rodney Goodman seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

F. The Board will consider selection of professional service provider for Facilities Assessment Request for Qualifications #003, 24-25 and delegation of authority to negotiate and enter into a contract.

Dr. Joseph Waldron presented the process for the Facilities Assessment Request for Qualifications #003, 24-25 and shared the administration's recommendation to select the top-ranked professional service provider based on demonstrated competence and qualifications.

Dr. Taylor Tidmore made a motion to select Huckabee, based on demonstrated competence and qualifications, as the top-ranked professional service provider pursuant to Facilities Assessment Request for Qualifications #003, 24-25 and to delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute contract for the project for a fair and reasonable price. If a contract with this firm cannot be reached, the superintendent or designee is authorized to continue negotiations with the next most qualified firm and repeat until a contract may be reached or the RFQ is not awarded. Mr. Blair Schroeder seconded the motion and it passed 7-0.

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

Nays: None

- X. The Board may take action relevant to Items Covered During Closed Session.
 - A. The Board will consider approval of Personnel Recommendations.
 - I. Professional Employment Contracts
 - B. The Board will consider and take action on student discipline appeal matter.

Mrs. Angie Wiley asked if there was a motion regarding the student discipline appeal matter. Dr. Danny Wheat 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: Earles, Wheat, Tidmore, Schroeder, Enriquez, Wiley, and Goodman

Nays: None

- C. Matters pertaining to Litigation, if any
- D. Matters pertaining to Real Property, if any
- E. Matters pertaining to Safety and Security, if any

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

ATTEST:

Secretary