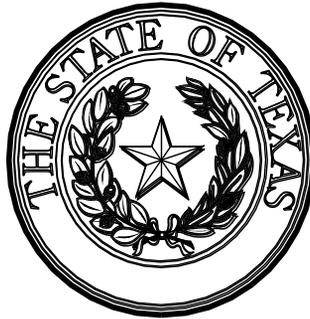


**Windham School District**  
**Board of Trustees**  
*288th Meeting*



**Minutes**

**June 10, 2015**

**Austin, Texas**

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**WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Wyndham Garden Hotel – Highland Lakes Ballroom  
3401 South IH-35  
Austin, Texas 78741**

**June 10, 2015  
11:15 – 11:45 AM**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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*Call to Order*

*Convene Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board)*

I. Regular Session

- A. Consideration of Approval of Consent Items
  - 1. Minutes of the April 17, 2015, WSD Board Meeting
  - 2. Personal Property Donations
  - 3. Excused Absences
- B. Superintendent's Report
- C. Report from the Chairman, WSD Board
- D. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Changes in the Organizational Structure of the WSD
- E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Depository Contract for 2016 - 2017 Biennium

*Adjourn WSD Board*

*The WSD Board may discuss and/or take action on any of the items posted on this meeting agenda. The WSD Board may also convene into Executive Session on any of these matters when attorney-client privilege is warranted.*



**MINUTES OF THE WINDHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Meeting No. 288

The Windham School District Board of Trustees met in session on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin, Texas.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Oliver Bell, Chairman  
Terrell McCombs, Vice Chairman  
Leopoldo (Leo) Vasquez, III, Secretary  
Eric Gambrell  
Carmen Villanueva-Hiles  
Janice Harris Lord  
Larry Miles  
Thomas P. Wingate

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Judge Larry Gist

**WINDHAM STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Clint Carpenter, Superintendent  
Paul Brown  
Dr. Latreace Craig  
Bambi Kiser  
Michael Mondville  
Mike Vickers  
Michael White

**CONVENED**

Oliver Bell, Chairman, convened the meeting of the 288th Windham School District (WSD) Board of Trustees (Board) to order on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 11:17 a.m. in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the *Open Meetings Act*. A quorum was present and the meeting was declared open. During the regular session, the Board conducted business from the agenda posted in the Texas Register.

Mr. Bell reported the WSD Board was committed to providing the opportunity for public presentations on topics posted on the meeting agenda in accordance with Board Rule 300.1, "Public Presentations and Comments to the Windham School District Board of Trustees." As no speaker registration cards were received, no public comments were heard.

**RECOGNITIONS**

Mr. Bell recognized Mario Cicconetti, Chief of Staff for Senator Joan Huffman along with Libby Elliott from the Governor's Office.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

The Chairman asked if there were any amendments, abstentions, or objections to the proposed consent items. Mr. Gambrell abstained from voting on the consent items due to his firm's representation of the University of Houston.

Chairman Bell acknowledged the abstention and, seeing no further questions, the consent items stand approved.

## **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Carpenter said the 84th Texas Legislative Session voted to give Windham School District the authority to grant Texas high school credit for certain courses offered and the authority to grant a Texas High School Diploma for those offender students who meet State requirements for graduation. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Abbott on May 19, 2015.

This law will allow Windham School District to provide course credit for those courses which meet the Texas Education Agency requirements. In Windham, vocational program courses provide instruction at or above these requirements and will allow students 26 years of age and younger to gather credits toward a high school diploma. It also allows Windham to transfer credits earned in public schools for those students near completion and support partnerships with public schools to assist students who wish to complete the diploma with needed credits for graduation.

Windham's focus continues to be centered on skills to support students gaining meaningful employment upon release. For most students, vocational certification, reading and math skills at a literate level and a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), if possible, are the goals. But for those younger offenders who were near graduation at the time of incarceration, this provides an opportunity many felt was no longer possible. Windham looks forward to taking advantage of this new law to help TDCJ offenders be successful upon release, with credits to return to public school or a Windham High School Diploma for those completing requirements prior to release.

Chairman Bell stated that in the past, WSD's primary focus was the GED as the main method of high school accreditation. He asked if WSD would be able to issue high school diplomas.

Dr. Carpenter responded that WSD will now be able to issue diplomas. He said a pilot program began a year ago with a local school district. Sometime after 1985, Windham no longer maintained the authority to grant a high school diploma or credits for the courses that students had been given. There are a number of offenders in TDCJ who have some high school credits and read at a level that makes it practical for them to get a high school diploma. Dr. Carpenter said he thinks the number is small and staff anticipates between 2,500 and 3,000 would be the maximum number of the offender population affected. The majority of WSD students read at a fifth grade level, so obtaining a high school diploma would take many years and is not fiscally practical for Windham.

WSD will still focus on the primary needs of students by offering the GED, but this gives an opportunity for those students who were near graduation when they were incarcerated to gather credits and maybe go back to a program offering high school diplomas. They can obtain a high school diploma up to age 26.

## **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, WSD BOARD**

### National Teacher Day - Teacher Appreciation Week

Chairman Bell said the month of May included recognition of National Teacher's Day and Teacher Appreciation Week. He expressed appreciation to the Windham School District and the professional employees who provide instruction and training to offenders incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. WSD teachers impact lives while educating offenders they provide opportunities and they give praise and they help build self-esteem.

Reports consistently show the offenders who received WSD vocational training while incarcerated have higher employment rates, earn higher salaries, and retain employment longer. This achievement reflects well upon the students and WSD teachers. He asked the board members to join him in acknowledging and thanking WSD teachers for the important role they play in rehabilitative efforts supporting TDCJ.

The Board members gave WSD teachers a round of applause.

### New Technology Training Certifications

Chairman Bell said that in March 2015, Windham implemented a pilot program for "high tech" vocational training at the Dominguez State Jail in San Antonio and Hutchins State Jail in Dallas.

This training program provides industry recognized certifications in copper and fiber optic cabling, telecommunications, programming of energy management systems, and audio/visual component installations. The program provides short term, intensive training in high demand industries.

This type of training provides offenders who are in shorter term facilities, with an opportunity to earn credentials that are highly employable. These certifications also open Windham program opportunities to an industry field which the WSD correctional education program has not focused on in the past.

The first cohort of students successfully completed the training, and the district is excited to announce 55 students have received their first certification in at least one of the aforementioned certification areas. The students are excited about the opportunities for employment. At each of the pilot facilities, more than 200 students have signed up on the waiting list for these classes.

Windham is working with employers, TDCJ Reentry Division, and licensing programs to develop partnerships for placement of these students upon release. Windham is excited to announce the success of this certification program. The district looks forward to expansion of the program as demand for released students increases with employer partnerships.

Chairman Bell said Ms. Lord had given each board member a list of 15 companies WSD and TDCJ are working with state-wide who are providing employment opportunities. There are also several other smaller organizations that are offering employment opportunities.

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHANGES  
IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE WSD**

Dr. Carpenter said he had discussed organizational changes in detail during the education committee meeting that was held prior to this meeting. WSD proposes to restructure into three divisions: a division of instruction, a division of instructional support and a division of operations/chief financial officer. These three divisions will bring efficiencies to the organization and with the proposed salary structure, will save the district approximately \$65,000 per year in senior administrative staff costs. The cost savings of supporting positions will be more than \$122,000 per year.

Mr. McCombs complimented Dr. Carpenter for his efforts in times of budgetary awareness to find ways to do things better and more efficiently. He congratulated the entire WSD team for having the value system in place where everyone understands what the mission is and why we are here. He said he was very proud of the positive steps that Dr. Carpenter has taken with WSD, and he also thinks the legislature is pleased. He thanked Dr. Carpenter for his dedication and leadership.

*Carmen Hiles moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the proposed changes in the organizational structure of the WSD as presented.*

*Terrell McCombs seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.*

**DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING  
DEPOSITORY CONTRACT FOR 2016-2017 BIENNIUM**

Paul Brown, WSD Chief Financial Officer, informed the Board that the summary of the bids of the September 2015 through August 2017 depository contract was provided in the Board packet. He said WSD received four bids, one “no bid” and one “no response” from the six bid solicitation packets that were sent to local banks. WSD followed the Texas Education Agency guidelines and selection process in evaluating each bank response. Based on the interest rates, fees charged and services offered, WSD selected First Financial Bank to perform the district’s depository services. This selection will require WSD to change its banking institution, and First Financial Bank offered to cover the necessary fees associated with this change. Board approval is requested to award First Financial Bank the WSD Bank Depository Services Contract for September 1, 2015, through August 31, 2017.

Chairman Bell and Mr. McCombs thanked Mr. Brown for his work on the depository contract. It will save the district a lot of money.

*Larry Miles moved that the WSD Board of Trustees approve the depository contract for the 2016-2017 biennium as presented.*

*Leo Vasquez seconded the motion, which prevailed unanimously when called to a vote.*

Chairman Bell thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated the next meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees would be Friday, August 7, 2015 at the Omni Hotel in Austin.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the 288th meeting of the WSD Board of Trustees adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary

*\*Signature on file*

*Note: Referenced attachments for draft minutes are available upon request. Following approval of the minutes, attachments will be maintained with the signed minutes in the Office of Record.*