

MINUTES

WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

February 20, 2006

A. Call to Order

The Williamson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 20, 2006, in the Williamson County Administrative Complex Auditorium.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gary Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairman Anderson, after which the Board observed a moment of silence.

Members Present .....12

D'Wayne Greer	1 <sup>st</sup> District	Sina Miller	7 <sup>th</sup> District
Janice Mills	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Pat Anderson	8 <sup>th</sup> District
Ralph Ringstaff	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Barry Watkins	9 <sup>th</sup> District
Edward Bailey	4 <sup>th</sup> District	Bill Peach	10 <sup>th</sup> District
Gary Anderson	5 <sup>th</sup> District	Mark Gregory	11 <sup>th</sup> District
Mari Weller	6 <sup>th</sup> District	James Bond	12 <sup>th</sup> District

Members Absent .....0

B. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Anderson presented the agenda, including the Consent Agenda, for Board approval.

Superintendent Sharber requested two additions to the agenda:

- a budget resolution to address an emergency need at Lipscomb Elementary;
- an addendum to the field trip fees list.

Pat Anderson moved to approve the agenda, including the Consent Agenda, as presented and revised. Janice Mills seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a voice vote on the motion.

Action: Motion Carried.

Chairman Anderson read the approved Consent Agenda to the audience.

C. Consent Agenda (as approved above)

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Minutes, January 17, 2006
  - b. Minutes, February 9, 2006
2. Approval of Board Policy Revisions, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
  - a. 5.114 – Personnel Records
  - b. 5.604 – Overtime Pay
3. Approval of Recommendations for Field Trip Fee Requests with addendum
4. Approval of Out of Zone Transportation to Page High and Woodland Middle
5. Approval of Athletic Field Construction at Grassland Elem. by Parks and Rec
6. Approval of Nolensville Elementary Building Design
7. Approval of Geo Thermal Proposal

D. Items of Particular Public Interest

1. Public Comment

Chairman Anderson called on the following individuals who had requested the opportunity to address the Board:

- Charles Kildgore, an Independence High School parent, who addressed the Board regarding his appeal of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Authority;
- Pam Vaden, Ravenwood High School principal, who addressed the Board about the advantages of late start Mondays over focus days, and asked that the Board allow a similar schedule for the 2006-07 year.

E. Communications to the Board

1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sharber introduced the principals in attendance and also reported that she would be attending and serving on a panel at the Teacher Quality Summit at MTSU on Friday.

Superintendent Sharber reported on the day's professional development activities that had taken place in the district and also noted that she and the respective grade level directors were half way through the process of meeting with every principal to finalize their goals for the year.

Superintendent Sharber reported that the revised district organization chart would be presented to the Board at the March Board Work Session for review prior to official approval at the March School Board meeting.

2. Board Chairman’s Report

Chairman Anderson reminded the Board of the Budget Work Session planned for February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Anderson introduced the SCOPE delegates in the audience, who were there to observe the Board meeting prior to attending the SCOPE Conference.

Chairman Anderson addressed the recent editorial in *The Tennessean* which erroneously reported that the Board had violated the sunshine law and the paper’s “correction” which appeared in a later newspaper but did not clarify the incorrect assertion that the Board had violated the sunshine law.

Chairman Anderson reported that this was the last meeting to be covered by Williamson AM reporter NellAnn Mettee, who was leaving the area. Chairman Anderson remarked that her fair and thoughtful reporting of education issues would be missed.

F. Unfinished Business

Chairman Anderson called on Budget and Finance Director Leslie Holman, who presented a budget amendment subtracting \$400,000 from a resolution previously approved by the Board to fund \$11,438,000 for the remaining capital outlay requests for the 2005-06 fiscal year. It was determined that \$400,000 in locker renovations was not needed and the resolution which the County Commission approved was reduced by that amount. Therefore, the Board was being asked to approve the amended resolution.

Ralph Ringstaff moved to approve the budget resolution amendment to conform with the resolution already approved by the County Commission. Ed Bailey seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D’Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

G. New Business

1. Board Policy Revisions, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

a. 5.312 – Bereavement Leave, Classified and Certified

Chairman Anderson called on Superintendent Sharber who presented the revised policy and explained the need to clarify bereavement leave.

5.312 – BEREAVEMENT LEAVE, CLASSIFIED AND CERTIFIED

Bereavement leave shall mean leave of absence because of the death of the employee's spouse, parent, grandparent, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or other family member with approval of the Director of Schools, which necessitates the absence of the employee. *Bereavement leave is granted for making funeral arrangements; attending the funeral and burial, wake and/or visitation; dealing with the deceased's possessions and will; and any other ancillary matters that employees must address when a loved one dies.*

Employees will be allowed a maximum of three days of bereavement leave with pay (without being charged to vacation or sick leave) **each** school year. These days shall be non-cumulative. This does not eliminate the use of sick (or vacation for classified employees) *or unpaid* leave for bereavement if the need exceeds three days.

When a certified employee is unable to meet classes, he/she shall notify the principal/supervisor or designee as soon as possible before school opens. Classified employees shall notify the appropriate principal/supervisor as soon as possible.

The certified employee shall notify the principal/supervisor or designee a reasonable length of time before he/she intends to return to the classroom and not later than the day before, so that a substitute may be notified.

The Director of Schools or his/her designee may require documentation to establish the cause for any bereavement leave claim.

See TCA 49-5-710

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Pat Anderson moved to approve the revised policy on first reading as presented.  
Janice Mills seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

b. 6.412 – Student Wellness

Chairman Anderson called on Superintendent Sharber who presented this new board policy and explained the Federal requirements to have a Wellness policy.

6.412 – STUDENT WELLNESS

Williamson County School District is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating habits and physical activity. It is the policy of the Williamson County School that:

The school district will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing district-wide nutrition and physical activity policies.

All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.

Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the U. S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and all Tennessee State Board of Education minimal nutritional standards.

Child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutritional needs of students; accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning when requested; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings to eat.

To the extent practical and when warranted, all schools in our district will participate in any and all available federal school meal programs.

Schools will provide nutrition education, physical education/activities and health education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity. Schools will establish linkages between health education, school meal programs, and related community services.

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Superintendent Sharber noted that Administrative Guidelines were being worked on for this unfunded federal mandate.

Pat Anderson moved to approve this new policy on first reading as presented. Mari Weller seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

2. Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Chairman Anderson called on Superintendent Sharber, who presented the appeal to the Board by Dr. Renee Petway concerning the decision of the materials review committee related to her complaint about the book, To Kill a Mockingbird.

Superintendent Sharber outlined the following options open to the Board: (1) grant a hearing to consider the appeal by the complainant, (2) overturn the decision of the review committee based upon the written documents, or (3) support the recommendations of the review committee based on the written documents.

Chairman Anderson stated that the Board needed to take action on the appeal.

Sina Miller suggested that the Board partially uphold the recommendation of the materials review committee with the following changes to their recommendation:

1. The book To Kill a Mockingbird should be left on the suggested reading list for Williamson County Schools, because it does support the curriculum of Williamson County Schools.

2. The review committee felt strongly that the board policy was satisfactory specifically as stated at the beginning of the policy:

The Board will seek to provide a wide range of instructional materials on all levels of difficulty, with diversity of appeal, and the presentation of different points of view and will provide procedures for review and reconsideration of allegedly inappropriate instructional materials.

The guidelines and the intention of the board and community regarding the use of literature and a policy for challenging objectionable material are clearly articulated in policy. ~~however, the review committee recommends that Administrative Guidelines be changed to reflect the following:~~

- ~~a. Due to the type of concerns that were raised in this hearing regarding language and adult content, teachers if they choose to use To Kill a Mockingbird must “justify the choice to parents by informing them in a letter (prior to the assignment) of the potentially objectionable material.”~~
  - ~~b. The administrative guidelines should include a specific, sample letter that teachers must distribute to parents prior to teaching the book.~~
  - ~~c. The guidelines should also recommend to teachers and principals that parents must remit a signed “permission to read” rather than a “opt out” signature in order for students to be assigned this book. The default is that students will not read unless a parent signature is provided rather than the present default that students will read if teachers do not hear anything from parents.~~
  - d. The administrative guidelines need to have clear instructions for teachers and procedures for principals to follow so that parents will not have to learn about sensitive literature after the fact.
3. ~~Due the mature themes expressed in this book, the review committee also recommends that the book not be taught until the second semester of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. This solution is offered as a compromise, because some on the committee felt that eighth grade students were certainly mature enough to handle not only the language but also the adult content if provided proper instruction. Others felt that maybe this type of content needed to be placed at the high school level.~~

~~The committee appreciates your time and preparation for raising this concern. Administrative guidelines will be clarified and procedures will be followed regarding notification of this book.~~

~~Board policy 4.403 specifies that “if the complainant or any affected school employee wishes further action after receiving the decision of the committee, an appeal may be made to the Board of Education within fifteen (15) working days of the date of committee decision.~~

Sina Miller moved to partially uphold the recommendation of the materials review committee with the above changes. Mari Weller seconded the motion.

Bill Peach commended the work of the materials review committee and the input of some teachers and students regarding the matter.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

3. Disciplinary Hearing Appeal

Chairman Anderson called on Deputy Director David Heath, who presented the request for a hearing by the Board regarding an appeal of the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Authority. Dr. Heath outlined the following options open to the Board regarding the request for an appeal: (1) make and approve a motion to grant a hearing, (2) make and approve a motion to uphold the decision of the school and the disciplinary hearing authority, or (3) make a decision to overturn the decision of the school and hearing authority by an affirmative motion and vote.

Board Attorney Chuck Cagle agreed with Dr. Heath's presentation of the matter.

Barry Watkins moved to support the decision of the Disciplinary Hearing Authority. Ralph Ringstaff seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

4. High School Athletic Facilities Plan

Chairman Anderson called on Superintendent Sharber, who presented the High School Athletic Facilities Plan being recommended by the High School Athletic Facilities Committee.

Discussion followed about the role of the Parks and Recreation Department in the plan.

Sina Miller moved to amend the motion to clarify the set of items on the Priority Statement as follows:

*The WCS Athletic Facilities Committee further believes that the following items should be adopted to further insure equalized facilities and opportunities:*

1. *A working partnership and formalized agreement with Williamson County Parks and Recreation Department where WCPR provides field maintenance for all high school and middle school out doors athletic facilities. (Move the next sentence to become item # 2, with the last two items re-numbered as 3. and 4.)*
2. *Schools would still have exclusive use of the facilities during the season, etc.....*

Mari Weller seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation on the amendment from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation on the amended main motion from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the amended main motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

5. 2005-2006 Budget Resolutions

Chairman Anderson called on Budget Director Leslie Holman, who presented the following budget resolutions:

- Appropriation of \$24,881 additional State Adult Education funds to be placed in salaries, materials and supplies and equipment.

D'Wayne Greer moved to approve the budget resolution for additional State Adult Education funds as presented. Mari Weller seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

- Ms. Holman presented the next amendment to a prior resolution filed with the County Commission, decreasing the amount by \$220,000 required for soccer field lighting, noting that it would be necessary to first rescind the previously approved motion.

Mark Gregory moved to rescind the previous action by the Board approving the resolution for a larger amount. James Bond seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for and received a recommendation for approval of the motion to rescind from Superintendent Sharber.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion to rescind.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

Mark Gregory moved to approve the new resolution decreasing the budget by \$220,000 as presented. James Bond seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

- Ms. Holman presented the resolution for \$92,000 to fund emergency repairs to Lipscomb Elementary School caused by settlement problems, and noted that the money can be taken from fund balance.

Mari Weller moved to approve the resolution for Lipscomb Elementary repairs as presented. Barry Watkins seconded the motion.

Kevin Fortney discussed the needed repair to the school, noting that plantings too close to the building were a possible cause.

Chairman Anderson asked for a recommendation from Superintendent Sharber, who recommended approval of the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Sina Miller	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Ralph Ringstaff	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Ed Bailey	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Mari Weller	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 12; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.