

MINUTES

WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

December 15, 2008

A. Call to Order

The Williamson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 15, 2008, in the Williamson County Administrative Complex Auditorium.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Members Present .....12

D'Wayne Greer	1 <sup>st</sup> District	Susan Graham	7 <sup>th</sup> District
Janice Mills	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Pat Anderson	8 <sup>th</sup> District
Janine Moore	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Barry Watkins	9 <sup>th</sup> District
Tim McLaughlin	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
Terry Leve	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.

James Bond moved to approve the agenda, including the Consent Agenda, as presented. Barry Watkins 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 – November 17, 2008
2. Approval of Recommendation for Field Trip Fee Requests

D. Items of Particular Public Interest

1. Public Comment

Chairman Anderson read the guidelines regarding Public Comment and called on the following individuals who had requested the opportunity to address the Board:

- Lucie Logan, who voiced opposition to the proposed buy out of the superintendent's contract and the funds being used for that purpose
- Cindy Kugler, who voiced opposition to the proposed buy out of the superintendent's contract, noting the support for Dr. Sharber by teachers, administrators and the community
- Clancy McCrillis, who called attention to the inequity that exists at the ALC regarding the amount of time served by students there for zero tolerance offenses and those who are sent to the ALC for a specific number of days
- Tip Evans, who asked that the Board consider zoning changes to equalize the size of the high schools, which would not only minimize the need for portables, but also enhance the academic offerings and other opportunities of the smaller high schools

E. Communications to the Board

1. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sharber announced that Independence High senior Kathy Kroeger had recently been awarded the High School Heisman Trophy, and noted that she would be honored with a *Student Spotlight* recognition at the January Board meeting.

Superintendent Sharber reported that DVDs explaining the new high school graduation requirements were being distributed to parents of all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the district, as well as FSSD students, and commended the Communications Department for coordinating and preparing the DVDs.

Superintendent Sharber explained the weather contingency plan in place for exams.

Dr. Sharber recognized and thanked the administrators in attendance.

2. Board Chairman's Report

Chairman Anderson announced the following dates for Board participation in the preparation of the district budget for 2009-10:

February 20 – delivery of the budget to board members

February 28 – first budget work session

March 14 – second budget work session

March 23 – special called board meeting to approve the budget

F. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business on the agenda.

G. New Business

1. Proposal to Unilaterally Terminate Superintendent’s Contract

Chairman Anderson called on Tim McLaughlin to present his proposal to unilaterally terminate the contract of Superintendent Sharber.

Mr. McLaughlin discussed why he was presenting his proposal after voting against a similar motion in November, explaining that, at that time, he felt there was insufficient information about available funds and the selection of an interim. He also stated his concern regarding the possibility that Superintendent Sharber could accept another position and leave during the budget process.

Tim McLaughlin made the following motion: Dr. Sharber receives the Board’s formal thanks for her years of service in Williamson County Schools and with deep appreciation for that service be released from all duties and responsibilities to the school district with the district paying her per all the compensation terms of Paragraph 18 (e) of her employment contract, with an effective date of on or before January 31, 2009. Barry Watkins seconded the motion.

There was discussion by Board members James Bond, D’Wayne Greer, Janine Moore and Bill Peach opposing the use of funds to buy out Dr. Sharber’s contract.

Terry Leve asked for clarification of the motion regarding “on or before January 31”. Mr. McLaughlin stated that January 31 was suggested if funds were not available to terminate the contract sooner. In response to their inquiry, Budget Director Leslie Holman indicated that additional intra-category funds could be found.

Terry Leve moved to amend the motion to be effective on January 1, 2009, if intra-category funds are available. Mark Gregory seconded the motion.

Gary Anderson questioned the use of even more money for the buy out.

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

D’Wayne Greer	No	Susan Graham	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Janine Moore	No	Barry Watkins	Yes
Tim McLaughlin	Yes	Bill Peach	No
Gary Anderson	No	Mark Gregory	Yes
Terry Leve	Yes	James Bond	No

Action: Yes, 7; No, 5; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

Gary Anderson thanked Dr. Sharber for her service to the district as superintendent in several different capacities over many years. Mr. Anderson also expressed confidence in the County Commission's willingness to fairly consider the school board budget no matter who presented it for approval.

James Bond questioned the ability to find money so quickly for this action, especially during the current financial climate.

Janine Moore asked for clarification of the amount needed to terminate Dr. Sharber's contract and move Dr. Heath to the position of Interim Superintendent on the earlier date of January 1 rather than January 31. Leslie Holman responded that the amount would be an additional \$4,473 for the interim position and an additional month's pay for a total of \$78,000 plus benefits required to terminate Dr. Sharber's contract on January 1, 2009.

Chairman Anderson called for a vote on the amended main motion, with the termination date of January 1, 2009.

D'Wayne Greer	No	Susan Graham	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Janine Moore	No	Barry Watkins	Yes
Tim McLaughlin	Yes	Bill Peach	No
Gary Anderson	No	Mark Gregory	Yes
Terry Leve	Yes	James Bond	No

Action: Yes, 7; No, 5; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

2. Designation of Interim Superintendent

Chairman Anderson presented the next agenda item to designate an interim director, and reported that, per instructions from the Superintendent Search Committee, she had secured the agreement of Deputy Director David Heath to serve in this capacity, subject to the approval of the board.

Pat Anderson made the motion to offer a contract to Dr. David Heath as Director of Schools on a temporary basis pursuant to all the terms of Board Policy 5.1162, Temporary Promotions, effective January 1, 2009, until a new Director of Schools begins employment with the Board or twelve months from the effective date, whichever occurs first, at the same salary as Dr. Sharber's current salary, with all leave and other benefits to continue to accrue at his current rate, and that he be returned to his regular duties as Deputy Director of Schools at the end of this temporary time period. Barry Watkins seconded the motion.

Gary Anderson asked about the continuation of Dr. Heath serving as Chief Negotiator for the Board. Chairman Anderson stated that this matter would be dealt with at the January board meeting. Board Attorney Chuck Cagle discussed the legal guidelines pertaining to a superintendent or interim superintendent serving on the negotiation team, noting that no supplemental pay would be

allowed, but the Board could consider whether or not Dr. Heath should continue to serve on the team.

Chairman Anderson called for a roll call vote on the motion to appoint David Heath as Interim Director.

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Susan Graham	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Janine Moore	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Tim McLaughlin	Yes	Bill Peach	Yes
Gary Anderson	Yes	Mark Gregory	Yes
Terry Leve	Yes	James Bond	Yes

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

3. 2008-2009 Budget Resolution

Chairman Anderson called on Budget Director Leslie Holman, who presented revised figures for the budget amendment included in the board packet to fund the salary difference for the interim director of schools. Ms. Holman reported that the new amount based on the new date of January 1, 2009, and achieved entirely through an intra category transfer would be \$26,838.

Terry Leve moved to approve the revised budget resolution as presented. Janice Mills seconded the motion.

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

D'Wayne Greer	Yes	Susan Graham	Yes
Janice Mills	Yes	Pat Anderson	Yes
Janine Moore	Yes	Barry Watkins	Yes
Tim McLaughlin	Yes	Bill Peach	No
Gary Anderson	No	Mark Gregory	Yes
Terry Leve	Yes	James Bond	No

Action: Yes, 9; No, 3; 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.

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Pat Anderson, Chairman

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David Heath, Interim Director of Schools