

MINUTES

WILLIAMSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

August 24, 2009

A. Call to Order

The Williamson County Board of Education met in special called session on Monday, August 24, 2009, in the Carolyn Campbell Conference Room at the Administrative Complex. Chairman Pat Anderson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Members Present12

D'Wayne Greer	1 st District	Susan Graham	7 th District
Janice Mills	2 nd District	Pat Anderson	8 th District
Janine Moore	3 rd District	Barry Watkins	9 th District
Tim McLaughlin	4 th District	Bill Peach	10 th District
Gary Anderson	5 th District	Mark Gregory	11 th District
Terry Leve	6 th District	James Bond	12 th District

Members Absent0

B. Unfinished Business

Director of Schools Search

Chairman Anderson welcomed those in attendance and requested that all electronic devices be turned off.

Chairman Anderson then presented options for ways the Board could proceed, including using a matrix, using a list of the stated qualities desired in the new superintendent, and/or discussion of each candidate.

There was then discussion regarding the goal of this meeting with suggestions including the selection of one candidate and making a site visit to his district, making a site visit to more than one candidate's district, or continuing discussion of the candidates.

Terry Leve shared input from Ray and Associates urging the Board to be respectful of all the candidates during this part of the selection process.

After further discussion about the best way to proceed, it was agreed that completing the matrix would serve as a straw vote and give direction for further conversation. The matrix was distributed and then compiled by Staff Attorney Jason Golden and Communications Director Carol Birdsong.

Chairman Anderson reported the matrix placed the candidates in the following order with the top two candidates ranked close together:

1. Mike Looney
2. Dennis Dearden
3. Barry Carroll

Terry Leve moved to thank Dr. Carroll for his interest in the district and to continue now with a discussion on Mr. Looney and Mr. Dearden. Susan Graham seconded the motion.

Chairman Anderson called for a voice vote on the motion.

Action: Yes, 11; No, 0; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried Unanimously. (Janice Mills had not yet arrived.)

Chairman Anderson asked the will of the Board regarding how to proceed with the two remaining candidates.

The Board agreed on the need to learn about the past experience of both candidates in larger districts. There was discussion about the sense of time commitment to Williamson County projected by Dearden and Looney and the responses by both candidates to the interview question regarding the source of their core values.

There was lengthy discussion about the perceived strengths of each candidate, as well as the difference in their leadership styles and how the style of each candidate would play out and match the needs of the district in moving forward.

Susan Graham moved to continue with Looney and Dearden as candidates of interest and make site visits to Butler and Marana counties and also conduct reference checks by phone with individuals in Montgomery and Fairfax counties. Barry Watkins seconded the motion.

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

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

Action: Yes, 6; No, 5; Abstain, 0; Motion Failed.

Chairman Anderson recessed the Board at 7:10 p.m. and called the meeting back into session at 7:30 p.m.

James Bond offered an amendment to put a time limit on the selection process.

Terry Leve reported that Ray and Associates recommended taking some action on the two remaining candidates within a week, and also reported that all of the information from reference checks done by the search firm was already included in the candidate information provided to the Board.

There was further discussion with Board members explaining why they had voted against the site visits and more conversation by other Board members discussing their wish to keep both options open and have both candidates remain under consideration.

Janice Mills arrived and Chairman Anderson recapped the meeting for her. There was discussion with Mr. Golden about how another motion could be made. Board members shared their reasons with Ms. Mills for their earlier votes.

James Bond moved to visit both sites but conclude the selection process by Wednesday, September 2, meeting again in special session on that date at 8 p.m. in the Carolyn Campbell Room. Barry Watkins seconded the motion.

Mr. Bond withdrew his earlier amendment since this motion establishes a time frame for Board action.

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	Yes	Mark Gregory	No
Terry Leve	Yes	James Bond	Yes

Action: Yes, 10; No, 2; Abstain, 0; Motion Carried.

Board members discussed who would make site visits and also who would make phone calls to the larger districts where the candidates had previously worked. There was also discussion about who the Board members would want to meet with during their visits. Those making the visits and the calls will supply a report of their findings for the Board by Monday, August 31.

C. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Patricia B. Anderson, Chairman

Dr. David Heath, Interim Director of Schools