

Board of Directors of Wayside Schools
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2019

John Troy called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Board members present: John Troy, Wyatt Harper, Glenda Ballard, Suzanne Kho, David Shelly, Matthew Childs

Staff present: Meghan Jones, Crystal Goolsby, Matt Abbott, Marcia Molinar, Francisco Garcia, Kierstin Howard, Fred Levilly, Deroald Hopkins

Guests present: Michelle McCurdy, AMA PTA representative; Lisa Flynn, AMA parent; Joanne Carlson, AMA parent; Jessica and John DeLeon, REAL and STMS parents; Pam and Dan Schumacher, STMS and STHS parents, and one of their scholars; Mark and Glynis Wentzel, STMS and STHS parents; Ashley Pearson, STMS parent, and her scholar; Elda Alejo, Wayside parent

Public Comments:

Mark Wentzel informed the board he likes the year-round calendar and hopes the 2019-20 calendar maintains this.

Ashley Pearson voiced her preference for Wayside's year-round schedule. She also voiced dissatisfaction with the meals served in the school lunch program. Her scholar shared with the board that many scholars throw the food away rather than eating it. Ashley Pearson also expressed dissatisfaction with Wayside's approach to bilingual education for English-speakers, and how it is unequal to that for Spanish-speaking scholars. She also referenced some specific concerns with the Spanish teacher at STMS. Her final concern was the lack of technology access at Sci-Tech. Lastly, she expressed concerns about the lack of homework given to her scholar.

Dan and Pam Schumacher's scholar voiced concerns about the new Bradshaw campus, and he felt Wayside did not follow through on some promises it made based on how information was relayed to the scholars--some pertaining to the IB Programme. He also relayed he has noticed a number of scholars throwing away school lunches instead of consuming them.

John and Jessica DeLeon presented concerns with the school lunch program, and presented examples of school meals to the board. Jessica DeLeon also expressed confusion regarding the grading system at STMS. Additionally, she expressed the desire to maintain the year-round calendar in the upcoming school year.

John Troy thanked all of the parents for their comments and informed them they would take them into consideration for possible discussion at a later board meeting, noting the school calendar is on the agenda for discussion at this board meeting.

October 27, 2018, November 15, 2018, and November 26, 2018 board meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Suzanne Kho made the motion to approve the minutes. Wyatt Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer Report

Matt Abbott presented an updated dashboard for review. The dashboard is holding tight with revenue projections. The enrollment team is working to ensure there is no attendance slump in the Spring.

Meghan Jones presented a video training presentation from fundraising consultant Mike Gemm. Mike Gemm spoke to the board about different ways they could better fundraise for Wayside Schools.

Meghan Jones then provided a fundraising update. Fifteen more requests have been submitted, though some were declined, and Meghan Jones and Annual Giving Manager Ashlei Brittany are working on several other grant leads. The gala has acquired three new sponsors, and she is waiting on responses from three more. Meghan Jones requested the board's assistance in finding additional sponsors, as well as silent auction items.

Meghan Jones then requested the board's approval to apply for a CO-OP grant with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Matthew Childs made the motion to give Meghan approval to apply for the grant. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Matt Abbott presented the options for the 2019-20 Academic Calendar. The calendar options were built based on feedback from the Wayside Community. One option starts July 30th and preserves both two-week breaks. The second option has a start date of August 2nd, and frontloads staff professional development days, leaving very few integrated into the school year. The third and most favorable option starts July 31st, with seven days of professional development before the start of school, maintains the two-week Fall and Spring breaks and the one-week Thanksgiving break, and ends after Memorial Day to accommodate for IB Testing dates. Matt Abbott is going to collect feedback from the Leadership Team on this calendar option, and it will be formally presented to the board for approval at the February board meeting.

The Superintendent's quarter two evaluation progress review and possible action was tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

Discussion and possible action on the Board Self-Evaluation was tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

Chief Academic Officer Report

Marcia Molinar presented the January Academic report. Overall, the elementary schools are making the most improvements. Progress at the Middle School and High School is slower. Marcia Molinar shared the academic plan revision that will be in place through the end of the year.

Marcia Molinar presented to the board the Texas Academic Progress Report (TAPR) in compliance with TEA requirements. The report and all notifications and posting will happen after this board meeting. Matthew Childs made the motion to approve, notify and post the TAPR report. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on Special Education services concerning specific students was tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

Chief Operations Officer

Deroald Hopkins and Wyatt Harper presented the statement of activities as of December 31, 2018. Enrollment is holding at budget projections, and attendance is slightly better than predicted. Deroald Hopkins informed the board Wayside is working to build cash reserves, which is reflected in the budget amendment approved in the fall.

Deroald Hopkins and Francisco Garcia then requested the board's approval to update Wayside's Financial Policies and Operating Procedures to include additional EDGAR policies. Matthew Childs made the motion to approve the addition of the EDGAR policies. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and updates concerning specific personnel issues were tabled for Executive Session, as allowable by law.

At 7:59 PM, Suzanne Kho moved that the board exit open session and enter into Executive Session to discuss all items allowable by law. David Shelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:55 PM, Wyatt Harper motioned that the board exit Executive Session and enter open session. Suzanne Kho seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

At 8:59 PM, Glenda Ballard moved to adjourn the meeting. Matthew Childs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.