

**May 24, 2024**

Hey all,

Here's this week's report.

Blessings and keep the faith.

Bill

### **Williamson County School Board**

The full board met on Monday [agenda video](#). All numbers in parenthesis are times in the video.

#### **Public Comments (34:17-1:05:54)**

There were 28 public comments Title IX, the new library policy, the 24-25 budget and the discrepancy in pay for music and theater teachers compared to sports coaches.

#### **Superintendent Report (1:07:33-1:21)**

Last Thursday, at the monthly work session, superintendent Golden told the board that the [TCAP](#) (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program) would be announced on Monday. Last night he indicated that the scores still weren't out yet. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade test that students must pass in order to move on to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Last year WCS had 138 students who didn't pass and, as of today, they are down to 38 after summer school. Probably, the most disturbing thing he said in his report is that WCS will follow the new Title IX rules. In case you are wondering what this implies, you can go [here](#). To be clear, **our superintendent plans on following the new Title IX rules.**

#### **Carol Birdsong (1:21:1:27)**

Shared numerous students' successes for the year.

#### **Budget (1:28:36-2:10:40)**

For a quick review, the proposed **24-25 budget of \$555 million is \$10 million more** than the proposed revenue. The county is asking that the school board lower expenses to \$545 Million. It would appear that there is a stalemate, however, from what I have heard, there are talks going on behind the scenes to solve this dilemma.

As I see it, there are only three alternatives: 1. **Raise** our property taxes by \$.06 which is what the school board is asking. 2. **Take funds** from the county reserve fund which, I am told, is \$85 million to fund all or part of the deficit. 3 **Refuse** to fund the \$10 million and force the school board to find \$10 million in cuts.

One of the big line items that is driving the deficit is a proposed salary increase of 6% across the board which amounts to \$16 million. The superintendent has mentioned that if the county doesn't fully fund the budget, the salary raise may be severely impacted. Our teacher's salaries are a major

concern as they are lower than both Davidson and Rutherford counties so this threat carries a lot of weight.

**The vote on the budget was 10-0** with one abstention, who was **Donna Clements**. All other budget resolutions which are 6.a to 6.b.x on the agenda passed unanimously.

*Note: Normally, we have 12 board members but, at present, there are only 11. **Eliot Mitchell**, who was representing district 3 has moved and district 3 will not have a representative until the August 1<sup>st</sup> election.*

### **New library policy (2:10-2:28:52)**

This is a mess. The actual, proposed policy is **6.c on the agenda** and I suggest you read it if you want to understand what is going on. Here are the issues I have with it:

1. There is no accountability for the librarians and teachers who are tasked with evaluating 15% of their collection every year to identify books that are not age appropriate and thus, be taken out of circulation. So, how would anyone know which books they evaluated and what they found.
2. When a book is challenged, the onus for determining its appropriateness is now on the school board. Every school board member will have to read the book and then meet with the rest of the board to debate the merits or demerits of the book. The board will have 60 days to do this; if they fail to make a determination, then the challenger can appeal to the state textbook commission. This essentially takes the board completely off the hook with no other appeals to them. Also, the textbook commission meets irregularly, and it is hard to see how they can be the arbiters for age-appropriate challenges for the entire state.
3. The subsection on nudity does not take into account biology books or art books.

Several board members spoke about this policy. **Rick Wimberly** noted that we have 50 librarians in the district and each of them, in order to evaluate 15% of their collection, would have to read approx. 1,800 each year. **Eric Welch** noted that the district has been notified that 118 books are ready to be challenged (I checked with the superintendent's office and got this response: **"Williamson County Schools does not have a current book challenge. You can email Mr. Welch to see who he was talking about during the meeting."**) He also read excerpts from **Roots** that have graphic violence and suggested that it would have to be taken out of the library if challenged. I'm not at all sure about that but the policy is subjective enough, who knows. Another interesting twist is that **Roots** is now an official Tennessee State book and is listed in our Blue Book. Further, it is required to be in our school libraries. Interesting conundrum, don't you think. For your own edification, run a few of the books in the Bulso lawsuit through the decision tree and send them to your school board member. Suit is attached.

Two more comments of note: **Dan Cash** mentioned that the reason for the policy in the first place is that we currently have books in our school libraries that should never be there and we should get those out. **Drason Beasley**, who is on the policy committee, made a plea for other board members to attend the next policy meeting to help craft the policy since we only have until July 1<sup>st</sup> to implement it. **Josh Brown** noted there is only one more board meeting before July 1<sup>st</sup> and we are running out of time. Also, the policy can be modified during the school year as things become clearer.

Bobbie Patray sent an interesting article out today. I think we should all be paying attention to this [here](#).

### **Williamson County Commission**

Not much to report this week. [Here](#). The meetings that were scheduled this week.

This is what next week looks like [here](#).

This is what the month of June looks like [here](#). There are two meetings of note: June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the budget meeting and June 20<sup>th</sup> is the full commission meeting where they will approve the 24-25 budget for the county which includes the school budget.

### **Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BOMA)**

Only a couple of meetings this week. [Agenda packet](#) If you scroll down to page 135 you will see that 5G towers are up for discussion. Below is a report from Manju Koster

#### **TOWER UPDATE FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY**

**If anyone is interested in sharing your story of emf related illness, it's fine to be anonymous, or would like to help in any other way please contact me at [manjucarrow@proton.me](mailto:manjucarrow@proton.me)**

**At the Joint Conceptual Workshop in Franklin on 5/23 they decided that they would have further discussion about cell towers in Franklin.**

**They are looking for smart people, solid science, and what other towns have done that's been successful. They also would like citizen input on this issue.**

**I know you're smart and have access to solid science so please speak up and let them know what you think!**

**I think it's important for you to have the opportunity to speak up if you wish.**

Franklin currently has a setback of towers that is only 200 feet from homes. They didn't take health into account with this code. We also want them to establish at least a 1,500-foot setback from schools, although 5,000 feet is preferred.

If you are interested in writing a letter to the county and city that would be great. It's fine to use the same letter for both. The contact info. and some talking points are in the link to the petition update below.

They need to hear from citizens that they don't want cell towers, 5G small cells, or any of the 5G infrastructure in or within one mile of our homes.

Here is a letter template if it's helpful for you. Click on the link below for contact information and more talking points and info.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and the purpose of this email is to request you act to revise or draft new zoning ordinances that deny approval and restrict placement of any wireless (5G) infrastructure no closer than 5,000 ft. from our places of education, worship, parks, and not within our neighborhoods. To leverage the protections afforded by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, our zoning codes must stipulate clear parameters and thresholds which today they do not.

The issue of EMF and Radio Frequency Radiation didn't seem like a big deal to me until I learned about the compounding negative effects from layering the technology has on our health and environment.

70 years of well documented research within the US and globally about adverse effects exists and is not hard to find with just a little research. We all have a duty to become better educated with the goal that we/you can make the best decisions on behalf of our community.

Please do not sign any more telecom contracts or approve any further 5G, 6G, antennas, or small cells before our zoning codes appropriately protect our health and property.  
Sincerely,

Here is a link to contact information, talking points, and other resources.

[https://www.change.org/p/stop-neighborhood-5g-tower-roll-out-in-williamson-county-tennessee/u/32574411?cs\\_tk=AmHT4pyOOFslA8ZlQWYAAXicyyvNyQEABF8BvLps68MFnv1WqdoWgG2e5Ng%3D&utm\\_campaign=1ca06fcfef0d4eaa8516e850150833ba&utm\\_content=initial\\_v0\\_7\\_1&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=petition\\_update&utm\\_term=cs](https://www.change.org/p/stop-neighborhood-5g-tower-roll-out-in-williamson-county-tennessee/u/32574411?cs_tk=AmHT4pyOOFslA8ZlQWYAAXicyyvNyQEABF8BvLps68MFnv1WqdoWgG2e5Ng%3D&utm_campaign=1ca06fcfef0d4eaa8516e850150833ba&utm_content=initial_v0_7_1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=petition_update&utm_term=cs)

The other meeting was the Planning Commission [Agenda Packet](#). Somewhere in this nearly 500 pages is a proposal to change zoning in Mays Creek. **According my sources, the proposed changes failed.** The following was provide by Peg Reciti.

Mayes Creek Basin is in the Eastern part of Williamson County. It is comprised of approximately 10,000 acres. It contains mostly homes with lots of open space. That is in danger of changing! The Mayes Creek Basin is in the City of Franklin's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Because of this, the guidelines for developing property within the UGB are different than what the guidelines are for property out of the UGB but still within Williamson County. That being said, the City of Franklin passed a resolution requesting a change to Envision Franklin and is asking the Planning Commission to vote on the change which will take 600 acres of land that is on Highway 96 East and change its designation from Developmental Reserve to Village Green. This means that instead of areas along the fringes of the Franklin UGB, that are characterized by agricultural uses, and single-family residential uses on significant acreage, it will have Townhomes, Duplexes, Multi-Family, Single-Family and Commercial development.

Next week looks like this [here](#) The board will have a work session and meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Williamson County Election Commission**

No meetings this week and none next week. The Election Commission does not hold regular meetings like the other commissions and boards.

### **Election coming up on August 1<sup>st</sup>**

I don't want to forget the elections coming up on August first. We have six school board seats up for grabs and several state representatives. This week I want to concentrate on the school board races.

For the first time in the last four to six years, we have a chance to change the makeup of the school board. We have six candidates running who, if elected, will change the balance from more progressive to more conservative. This means that we will have a board that is concerned with inappropriate books in the libraries, the teaching of Wit and Wisdom and SEL and a general movement towards a more "woke" curriculum. I am doing what I can to get these people elected and I hope you all will find a way to get involved in their campaigns.

**The election is on August 1st. and early voting runs from July 12-27.** We need folks who are willing to do the following:

**Knock on doors for the candidates.** Face to face, person to person is very powerful. It lets people know that the election is important and why. It also allows the homeowner to ask questions and get clarification on the issues. As we get schedules from the candidates, we will be sending out **a signup genius for each candidate.**

**Put up yard signs.** First, you can put a yard sign at your home (if you live in an odd district). Secondly, we may have a need for a few of us to put out signs for some of the candidates and finally, you can encourage friends and neighbors who live in an odd district to take a sign.

**Hold signs at voting places.** During early voting and on election day, we need people to hold signs at voting locations. It may be hard to believe, but many people who come to vote don't know much about any of the candidates. At the last election, I was holding a sign for a candidate and several people stopped to ask about her and some of them were very favorable after talking with us.

**Attend and encourage others to attend any event put on by the candidate(s).** Meet and greets, campaign kickoffs, debates and forums are great places for potential voters to size up the candidates. The more we get people out to see our candidates the better.

**Talk to people at your church, service organization, Bible study, bridge club etc.** We all need to be talking about the candidates and recruiting everyone we know to get informed and get involved. This is a group effort and we all need to pitch in to ensure that our candidates become school board members and not also rans.

**Write them a check.** Campaigns aren't free. Flyers, yard signs, text messages, videos all cost money.

Here are the candidates:

District 1

Republican Tony Bostic. [website](#)

District 3

Republican Dr. Dennis Driggers [website](#)

District 5

Republican Dr. Margie Johnson. [website](#)

District 7

Republican Angela Beaton [website](#)

District 9

Republican Claire Reeves [website](#)

District 11

Republican Tonja Hibma [website](#)

**If you're not sure how you may help, please reply to me and I will get you plugged in.**

### **Prayer Vigil on Sunday**

The last prayer vigil at Harlinsdale Park at 2:00 pm. Come and join with other Christians who stand for Biblical principles and against the perversion of Scripture espoused by the pride ideology.

### **Mom's for Liberty**

Mom's for Liberty will be holding a meet and greet for some of the school board candidates on June 11<sup>th</sup>. I will have full details in the next Friday Recap.

**If not me, who?**

**If not now, when?**

***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Heb. 11:1)***