

**February 9, 2024**

Hey all,

Here's this week's report.

Blessings and keep the faith.

Bill

### **Williamson County School Board**

There were three meetings this week: all taking place on Thursday:

**First** was the Policy Committee where they made a few policy changes [agenda](#). You can scroll down to see each item on the agenda. All changes are in blue. There is no audio/video this month.

**Second** was an unannounced meeting with the school board attorney behind closed doors. I don't know what it was about, but I'm pretty sure it was an update on the ongoing lawsuit against the school district for its failure to create a policy in accordance with the age-appropriate **bill** passed in the last legislative session. The suit was filed by Gino Bulso back in August.

The school district filed a motion to dismiss in August and there was a hearing on November 13 during which Mr. Bulso successfully defended the suit. The judge denied the appeal for dismissal in a 20-page opinion that she published on January 24th. So, it's going to trial sometime in the next 90 days. I am attaching her opinion.

**Third** was the monthly board work session. [Agenda video](#). This was a two-hour meeting that started with an update on the preliminary 24-25 budget and starts at the 3:00 mark and ends at 57:00. I really encourage you to watch it; understanding the financial position of both the school district and the county is important.

Here is a brief synopsis for **preliminary projected budget for school year 24-25**.

There are three funding sources:

1. [TISA](#) \$184,408,992
2. Property tax \$178,097,018
3. Sales Tax \$114,000,000
4. Total revenue \$487,597,164

Expenses are projected to be:

1. Budgeted expense last year \$517,589,466
2. Operational increases \$14,807,140

3. Experience Roll \$2,500,000 (salary baes on years of experience)
4. 6% raise \$17,500,000 (for all staff)
5. New Personnel Requests/adjustments \$30,000,000
6. Total expenses **\$582,396,606**

Deficit for the 24-25 looks like this:

1. Projected fund balance (Funds on hand at the moment) \$61,838,529
2. Projected Revenue \$487,597,164
3. Projected Expenses \$582,396,606
4. Required 3% balance (this is 3% of the \$582,396,606 budget that, by law, the school district must keep on hand) \$17,471,898
5. Total deficit is projected to be **\$50,432,811**

To be clear, these are all projections and there will be a number of adjustments, particularly with the expenses, before the final version of the budget which will be presented at the March board meeting.

Next was the Superintendent's report:

1. The pilot program for school bus routes is going well. 58:36
2. They are studying the possibility of having two or three start times district wide to help alleviate the bus situation. The study is expected to take 2+ years. 1:12:17
3. Concern about vouchers and what that would do to the district. 1:36:53

The meeting finished with the agenda items 6 and 7.

The next full **board meeting is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm 1320 W. Main St.** We will continue to push for a flag policy and getting LGBT indoctrination out of the classroom. Please take the time to watch the documentary [The Art Club](#); it is very revealing.

The monthly board meeting is February 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Williamson County Commission**

Next week the full **commission is meeting on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at 1320 W. Main** [agenda](#). This is a very important meeting, and we need to fill the gallery. There are two big issues:

1. Vote on Resolution to Amend the Zoning Ordinance Text, as it relates to telecommunications towers as recommended by the Planning Commission.
2. Vote on Resolution appropriating and amending the 2023-24 Election Commission budget by \$100,000 for consulting fees for a feasibility study on hand marked paper ballots. Revenues to come from unappropriated county general funds.

Read this [op-ed piece](#) about the consulting company. **It would be good to get a big crowd there as this is going to be an important meeting.**

The **planning commission** met on Thursday. [Agenda backup materials video](#) During the meeting, they passed an amendment to remove **residential** from the 1,500 ft. setback from telecommunication towers resolution. This means that schools, where children attend, are the only structures that must be 1,500 ft from a tower. This amended version now goes onto the County Commission on Monday. The county commission can 1. Approve with the new amendment 2. Approve the original resolution, or 3. Amend the resolution themselves. If they amend it in any way, then it goes back to planning. The discussion starts at 5:00 and goes to 47:00 in the video.

The county attorney, Kristi Ransom, explained that there are federal and state regulations that could prevent the county from adopting the 1,500 ft set-back for residential if there is no place available that is at least 1,500 ft from a home in a given community.

### **Williamson County Election Commission**

They met Thursday for 35 minutes.

- They appointed the members of the absentee counting board for the March 5, 2024 presidential preference primary and county primary.
- They approved their budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
  - In opposition to past statements from Jonathan Duda that the commission would make more information covered at WCEC meetings available to citizens, neither of these were available. An open records request has been submitted for these records.

### **Board of Mayor and Aldermen**

Budget and finance met on Thursday and various departments gave yearly reports [Agenda video](#). Sustainability Commission met on Friday [agenda](#) no video/audio.

Next week there are seven meetings including a **BOMA** meeting on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. All meeting information [here](#).

**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)***