



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Superintendent to retire; Pinewood Park property sold

Longview ISD Superintendent Dr. James E. Wilcox on Monday tendered his notice of retirement to the district's board of trustees. It will take effect on December 31.

Wilcox came to Longview from Waxahachie ISD in April, 2007. Though many new academic and career and technology programs were established under his watch, the highlight of Wilcox's tenure was a \$267 million bond election that brought seven new elementary campuses, three new middle school campuses and extensive improvements at Longview High School. Wilcox also oversaw the district rezoning – reducing the previous 28 attendance zones to six – which paved the way for a federal court to relax a 40-year-old desegregation order.

"I'm pleased to have been a part of the best school district east of I-45," Wilcox said. "This is bittersweet, as I have loved every day in Longview ISD."

Wilcox said he hasn't made immediate full-time work plans, but intends to remain active in educational circles and Longview-area organizations.

Pinewood Park sold

The site of the former Pinewood Park Elementary School will be sold to St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Board members unanimously approved the sale of the 3 ½ acre lot for \$55,137.01. Under terms set by the board for this transaction, proceeds from the property sale will be earmarked to pay bond debt.

Officials shuttered Pinewood Park and sent students to other area campuses in 2008, as the district underwent rezoning for new campuses under the 2008 bond construction project. The site of the former school did not fit with the district's long term plans, according to Assistant Superintendent Lynn Marshall.

Two other local groups, Habitat for Humanity and the Deason Financial Group, also placed bids for the property - \$50,025 and \$37,500, respectively.