



WINNSBORO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Susan Morton
Superintendent

207 East Pine Street • Winnsboro, Texas 75494
903-342-3737 • Fax 903-342-3380

Torri Miller
Assistant Superintendent

Open Letter from WISD Superintendent Susan Morton

To the WISD family and our Winnsboro Community,

As the beginning of the 2018-19 school year draws closer, a sense of excitement and nervous anticipation fills conversations in WISD. My favorite time of year is when the students return to school. As I drive the campuses and watch everything under construction, I wonder how in the world we will ever achieve a sense of completion prior to the students' return. It doesn't look as though there will be a moment to catch our breath between projects and getting school started. Therefore, I want to take a moment to highlight some of the changes that you see happening in WISD.

Planning for roof repairs was ongoing during the last school year. Due to hail damage on the WHS and WES buildings, we had insurance money coming to facilitate these repairs. In an effort not to duplicate work, the District asked the insurance company if we could put off the repairs until after the bond election. They agreed, and then the timeline was set that repairs needed to be completed by September 30, 2018. Thus, the decision was made to go ahead with that project this summer. In the process, the Board of Trustees elected not to simply repair the existing roofs, but improve the underlayment to ensure that the roofs are viable for another 30 years. As I drive by daily, the stockpile of supplies is dwindling, LMK roofers are working diligently despite the heat and setbacks due to weather, and we are hopeful that the bulk of work will be completed by the end of September. We are hopeful that we will be working on finishing touches after September, and we will gladly deal with the minor inconveniences to know that the roofs will be sound for years to come.

The new high school project is moving along as well. Casey Beddingfield, our Construction Manager with RLM Construction, provided the Board of Trustees with an update at the July Board meeting. He will continue to give updates throughout the construction project which is anticipated to be complete around October, 2019. As I visit the site of our future high school campus, I see that the dirt is being moved around, but the amount of work being completed that we CAN'T see is truly amazing. The pad for the building is progressing nicely, the utilities on-site are in place, and the next phase of work will begin shortly. We have worked through minor inconveniences on this project as well: power outage while they relocated the main power station, water lines that were broken and needed repair, data and phone cabling that needed to be relocated, reconfiguration and updating HVAC systems – and everything will be up and running again when it is time for school to begin.

In addition to those major projects, several smaller projects have been undertaken as well. The floors in all buildings were professionally stripped and received six new coats of wax this summer. They look great!

All in all, we will be in "construction mode" for the next year, and patience will be a must – for everyone! But, in thinking of the positive changes that will result for our children, it is well worth it! This community has invested in the children, and as we work around the construction, we will continue to expect our kids to excel in their efforts, both academically, and in their extra-curricular activities. As I have opportunity to visit with superintendents from other districts, I come back to the one thing that I know to be true – there is no place like Winnsboro! And I am excited and pleased to be part of this community and outstanding school district!

Let's work together to have a great school year!