



## TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

### Executive Session

June 26, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

Capitol Extension, Room E1.014

Austin, Texas 78701



**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Steven D. Wolens, Chair; Chad M. Craycraft, Vice Chair; Randall H. Erben, Mary K. “Katie” Kennedy, Patrick W. Mizell, Richard S. Schmidt and Joseph O. Slovacek.

**COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT:** Chris Flood (out on business).

**STAFF PRESENT:** Seana Willing, Executive Director; Ian M. Steusloff, General Counsel.

---

### MINUTES

These minutes are a summary record of the Commission’s actions at the meeting. For a detailed record of discussions and statements made by persons speaking at the meeting, please consult the audio recordings on file at the Commission’s office.

**Agenda Item 1: Call to order; roll call.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wolens. Seana Willing, Executive Director, called the roll. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Flood, who was unable to attend due to trial.

**Agenda Item 2: Executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Government Code, Consultation with Attorneys, and Section 551.074, Government Code, Personnel Matters; Closed Meeting.**

**Agenda Item 3: Discussion of pending litigation to seek legal advice relating to the following:**

**A. Cause No. D-1-GN-17-001878: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 250<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court in Travis County, Texas; and Cause No. 03-17-00392-CV: *Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals at Austin, Texas.**

**B. Cause No. D-1-GN-14-001252: *Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. State of Texas Ethics Commission; Natalia Luna Ashley, in her capacity as Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission; Tom Ramsay, individually and in his capacity as Commissioner; et al.*; in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-17-00770-CV: *Empower Texans, Inc., and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Tom Ramsay in his individual capacity, et al.*; in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.**

- C. **Cause No. D-1-GN-15-004455: *Texas Ethics Commission v. Empower Texans, Inc. and Michael Quinn Sullivan*, in the 345<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-16-00872-CV: *Empower Texans, Inc., and Michael Quinn Sullivan v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.**
- D. **Civil Action No. 5:14-cv-00133-C: *Texas Home School Coalition Association, Inc. v. Matthew D. Powell*, in his official capacity as District Attorney of Lubbock County, et al., in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Lubbock Division.**
- E. **Cause No. D-1-GN-16-000149: *Texas Home School Coalition Association, Inc. v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the 261<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas; and related case, Cause No. 03-17-00167-CV: *Texas Home School Coalition Association, Inc. v. Texas Ethics Commission*, in the Third Court of Appeals, Austin, Texas.**

**Agenda Item 4: Discussion of personnel matters related to Executive Director, General Counsel and/or Director of Enforcement.**

**Agenda Item 5: Discussion and seeking legal advice regarding referrals and orders under Subchapter F (Enforcement), Chapter 571, Texas Government Code.**

**Agenda Item 6: Reconvene in open session.**

The Commission reconvened in open session. No action was taken.

**Commissioner Schmidt was off the dais briefly during this agenda item.**

**Agenda Item 7: Discussion on the proposed Legislative Appropriation Request to the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature for the FY 2020-2021 Biennium.**

Seana Willing, Executive Director, requested that each division director introduce the members of their staff to the Commissioners. Jessie Haug, Director of Computer Services and Director of Disclosure Filings, introduced her staff. Cristina Hernandez, CFO/Director of Administration, introduced her staff. Angela Goodwin, Director of Enforcement, introduced her staff. Ian Steusloff, General Counsel, introduced his staff. Seana Willing Executive Director, introduced her staff.

Ms. Willing then addressed the Commission on the proposed Legislative Appropriation Request. Chair Wolens, Vice Chair Craycraft, Commissioner Slovacek, Ms. Willing and Cristina Hernandez, CFO/Director of Administration, responded with questions and comments. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item 8: Adjourn.**

Motion by Chair Wolens to adjourn. **Commission meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.