

**IDEA Public Schools**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**June 12, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Al Lopez, Reba Cardenas McNair, Xenia Garza, David Earl, David Handley, Bill Martinez, Victoria Rico, Ryan Vaughan, Erich Holmsten, Michael Burke, Dr. Saam Zarrabi, Collin Sewell

**IDEA Staff Present:** JoAnn Gama, Irma Munoz, Phillip Garza, Carlo Hershberger, Jose Ramirez, Dolores Gonzalez, Cody Grindle, Wyatt Truscheit, Leanne Hernandez, Jessica Hess, Leonel Garza, Jennifer Meer, Martin Winchester, Samuel Goessling, Elizabet Garza

**Audience Present:** Legal counsel

Meeting is called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Summary of Motions and Approvals**

1. The Board passed a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget as presented.

Motion by: Mike Burke

Second by: Ryan Vaughan

All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

2. The Board passed a motion to approve transition into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel, Chief of School roles, committee assignments and legal counsel update on policies and pending legal matters. The Board invited JoAnn Gama, Jessica Hess, Jennifer Meer, and attending legal counsel to join.

Motion by: Reba Cardenas McNair

Second by: Xenia Garza

All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

3. The Board passed a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 4:51 p.m.

Motion by: David Earl

Second by: Bill Martin

All in favor: Motion is approved

4. The Board passed a motion to approve the compensation for the Chief School Officer as discussed in Executive Session and with the above findings.

Motion by: Mike Burke

Second by: Xenia Garza

All in favor: Motion is approved

5. The Board passed a motion to approve the revisions and clarifications to the Governance and Fiscal Policies as discussed in Executive Session (with the exception of the corporate credit card policy which has been tabled while they wait on the Finance Committee to conduct further deliberation).

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: Motion is approved

6. The Board passed a motion to approve Board committee assignments as presented (with the addition of Mike Burke to the Governance Committee and moving Victoria Rico from the Academic Committee to the Governance Committee as well).

Motion by: Xenia Garza  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: Motion is approved

7. A Board passed a motion to approve the updated COVID-19 Resolution.

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: Motion is approved

8. The Board passed a motion to approve the four polices including: (i) bullying/cyber bullying, (ii) child abuse, (iii) child neglect, and (iv) sexual abuse or sex trafficking as presented.

Motion by: Mike Burke  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: Motion is approved

9. The Board passed a motion to approve the Emergency/Disaster, General Premium/Hazard Pay Policy as presented.

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: Motion is approved

10. The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolutions for real estate transactions.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Eric Holmsten  
All in favor: Motion is approved

11. The Board passed a motion to ratify the COVID Waivers submitted to the TEA.

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: Motion is approved

12. The Board passed a motion to approve the grant application packet for the Magnet School Assistance Program Desegregation Plan.

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: David Handley  
All in favor: Motion is approved

13. The Board passed a motion to authorize the MOU between IDEA Public Schools and East Baton Rouge parish school board subject to legal review (regarding the MSAP Desegregation Plan).

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: Motion is approved

14. The Board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as stated.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: Motion is approved

15. The board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

### **Welcome and Call to Order**

Al Lopez welcomed the Board Members to the June 12, 2020 Board of Directors meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team that were present as well. Mr. Lopez went on to state that given the Governor's suspension of parts of the Open Meetings Act they are conducting today's meeting via video conference and have a phone line for members of the public to join in the meeting should they wish to do so. Mr. Lopez noted that the Governor has extended the exceptions so the July meeting will also be video-conferenced, but he is hopeful that by the September retreat they will be able to have a face to face meeting. Mr. Lopez explained they have a variety of updates to receive today and critical business items to take care of as he called the meeting to order. Mr. Lopez asked for public comment to which there was none.

### **2019-20 Review and 2020-21 School Year Operations and Instructional Planning Update**

JoAnn Gama introduced Lisa Garza explaining she would be joining their executive team as Chief School Officer. Ms. Gama and the management team presented to the Board on final outcomes for the 2019-2020 school year. Finally, Ms. Gama shared with the Board the current state of contingency and operational planning for the 2020-2021 school year during the COVID-pandemic.

**1:1 Technology Initiative Presentation**

Dolores Gonzalez and Cody Grindle presented to the board on the 1-1 technology proposal, also embedded into the budget, and the academic benefits that would be provided should this initiative be approved. The Board asked questions to which Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Grindle replied.

**2020-2021 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget**

Leanne Hernandez presented the 2020-2021 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget to the Board explaining the Budget in detail. The Board asked questions to which Ms. Hernandez replied.

1. The Board passed a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget as presented.

Motion by: Mike Burke  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

**Executive Session**

2. The Board passed a motion to approve transition into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel, Chief of School roles, committee assignments and legal counsel update on policies and pending legal matters. The Board invited JoAnn Gama, Jessica Hess, Jennifer Meer, and attending legal counsel to join.

Motion by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

The Board entered into Executive Session at 3:08 p.m.

3. The Board passed a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 4:51 p.m.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Bill Martin  
All in favor: Motion is approved

**Compensation for the Chief School Officer**

Mr. Lopez noted no actions were taken during Executive Session. The Board reviewed comparability data for the compensation level for this position prior to making a decision and no person with any conflict of interest has participated in the Board's deliberation. Further, with support of this compensation study this offer is fair and reasonable and not excessive in accordance with TEA rules. The compensation is appropriate considering the individual's job experience, salary history, duties, responsibilities and other factors that were considered by the compensation team. This role was also found to be necessary to serve our students given the restructure of the senior leadership team at IDEA Public Schools.

4. The Board passed a motion to approve the compensation for the Chief School Officer as discussed in Executive Session and with the above findings.

Motion by: Mike Burke  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: Motion is approved

#### **Governance and Fiscal Policies**

5. The Board passed a motion to approve the revisions and clarifications to the Governance and Fiscal Policies as discussed in Executive Session (with the exception of the corporate credit card policy which has been tabled while they wait on the Finance Committee to conduct further deliberation).

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: Motion is approved

#### **Board Committee Assignments**

6. The Board passed a motion to approve Board committee assignments as presented (with the addition of Mike Burke to the Governance Committee and moving Victoria Rico from the Academic Committee to the Governance Committee as well).

Motion by: Xenia Garza  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: Motion is approved

#### **COVID-19 Resolution (emergency procurement, hazard/premium pay, neglect and student safety policies)**

Mr. Lopez explained to the Board that they had previously approved two resolutions related to the COVID-19 pandemic and today there is another resolution before the Board. This Resolution can be found in the Board's binders and allows management to move swiftly on TEA actions including for actions like distance learning or other waivers. It also allows for JoAnn Gama to amend the calendars for 2020-2021 and should there be any necessary reason for emergency procurement or for other issues like supply chain, or for the team to procure or follow any other necessary procurement or law. This Resolution gives JoAnn Gama and the management team more flexibility to be very responsive during the COVID-19 crisis.

7. A Board passed a motion to approve the updated COVID-19 Resolution.

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: Motion is approved

**Bullying/Cyber Bullying, Child Abuse, Child Neglect, and Sexual Abuse/Sex Trafficking Policies**

Martin Winchester explained to the Board that there are four policies in the Board's binders for consideration: (i) bullying/cyber bullying, (ii) child abuse, (iii) child neglect, and (iv) sexual abuse or sex trafficking. These policies include how they train their staff to actively monitor, identify, report and support victims of these conditions. These policies have been in the Employee Handbook for some time and they want to make sure they have Board policies in alignment with what is in their handbook.

8. The Board passed a motion to approve the four policies including: (i) bullying/cyber bullying, (ii) child abuse, (iii) child neglect, and (iv) sexual abuse or sex trafficking as presented.

Motion by: Mike Burke

Second by: David Earl

All in favor: Motion is approved

**Emergency/Disaster, General Premium/Hazard Pay Policy**

Martin Winchester explained they wanted to have a policy on hand to give them the authority to pay a stipend or hourly premium in the event of an emergency, as well as to allow them to access any additional state or federal funds that may become available such as FEMA, or any future government assistance. This policy allows them to get that reimbursement as soon as possible and having this standing policy will allow them to use it if, and when they need to.

9. The Board passed a motion to approve the Emergency/Disaster, General Premium/Hazard Pay Policy as presented.

Motion by: Bill Martin

Second by: Xenia Garza

All in favor: Motion is approved

**Real Estate**

Mr. Lopez explained that per the Board's discussion in Executive Session and per the Board's review the following Resolutions were before the Board for approval:

- a) A Resolution Approving the Purchase of Two Properties in Houston, Texas
- b) A Resolution Approving the Purchase of Property in El Paso County, Texas
- c) A Resolution Approving the Receipt of Property in Midland County, Texas

10. The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolutions for real estate transactions.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Eric Holmsten

All in favor: Motion is approved

**Ratify COVID Waivers, Approved by TEA**

Mr. Lopez explained that over the course of the past few weeks he and JoAnn Gama have presented several waivers to the TEA. The waivers submitted were as follows:

- a) CPR Instruction requirement due to circumstances arising from COVID-19
- b) Instructional materials inventory requirement due to COVID-19
- c) COVID Attendance Waiver
- d) ASVAB Waiver
- e) 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Waiver

11. The Board passed a motion to ratify the COVID Waivers submitted to the TEA.

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: Motion is approved

**Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP) Desegregation Plan Resolution and Approval of Plan and Related Matters**

Samuel Goessling presented information to the Board regarding their planned submission of a grant application packet (which was provided in their Board binders) to the Department of Education at the end of the month of June. This Desegregation Plan requires Board approval. While they are not technically a magnet school because they have a lottery, they applied for and won (so there is some precedence there) this grant in 2017, for the Austin region which was for a health professions campus with a heterogeneous body. They are interested in replicating this type of school in the Louisiana region (the Baton Rouge area) in partnership with the East Baton Rouge school district on this grant opportunity. The Board asked questions to which Mr. Goessling replied.

12. The Board passed a motion to approve the grant application packet for the Magnet School Assistance Program Desegregation Plan.

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: David Handley  
All in favor: Motion is approved

Mr. Hoffer added that the Board needed to authorize the MOU between IDEA Public Schools and East Baton Rouge parish school Board with regard to the MSAP Desegregation Plan Resolution.

13. The Board passed a motion to authorize the MOU between IDEA Public Schools and East Baton Rouge parish school board subject to legal review (regarding the MSAP Desegregation Plan).

Motion by: Bill Martin  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: Motion is approved

**Consent Agenda**

- a) 2020-21 Academic Calendars (Mr. Lopez removed this item as it was approved above)
- b) March 13, 2020 Board Business Meeting Minutes
- c) April 1, 2020 Board Business Meeting Minutes
- d) April 17, 2020 Board Business Meeting Minutes
- e) May 1, 2020 Board Business Meeting Minutes
- f) February, March and April Financial Statements
- g) February, March and April Budget Amendments
- h) Public Funds Investment Act – Quarter 3 Report
- i) Instructional Materials Allotment and TEKS Certification, 2020-21
- j) 2020-21 ADA Manual
- k) Revised PEIMS Waiver
- l) Job Order Contract List and Rankings and Authorization
- m) Gift Acceptances
- n) Approval of Wellness Policy
- o) Approval of purchases/contracts
  - I. Transportation/Bus fleet, White fleet, Warehouse (warehouse and campus)
  - II. IT acquisitions
  - III. Assessment, Parent Communications
  - IV. Academic Programming
  - V. Copier Services
- p) Board Calendar

14. The Board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as stated.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: Motion is approved

**Adjourn**

15. The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
All in favor: Vote passes unanimously

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of IDEA Public Schools held on June 12, 2020.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary