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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Friday, March 12, 2021

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

**Board Members Not Present:** None

**Staff Present:** JoAnn Gama, Jessica Hess, Samuel Goessling, Irma Muñoz, Dolores Gonzalez, Phillip Garza, Martin Winchester, Elizabet Garza, Bethany Solis, José Ramírez, IV, Leanne Hernandez, Carlo Hershberger, Javier Campos, Alejandra Loya, Tita Terán

**Audience Present:** Joseph Hoffer of Schulman, Lopez, Hoffer & Adelstein LLP,

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Meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Lopez, at 10:22 a.m.

**Summary of Motions and Approvals**

1. The Board passed a motion to approve the submission of the Request for weather-related day waivers due to school disruption from the Polar Vortex - Winter Storm Uri  
Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
*Motion passed unanimously.*
2. The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution to excuse the days of absence of IDEA Public Schools employees for school closures caused by Winter Storm Uri and pay employees their expected compensation for those days according to their anticipated work schedules from February 11, 2021 through February 23, 2021.  
Motion by: Xenia Garza  
Second by: David Handley  
*Motion passed unanimously.*
3. The Board passed a motion to approve the compensation of IDEA Public Schools employees who physically reported to work during the school closures cause by Polar Vortex – Winter Storm Uri and the continued COVID-19 emergency.  
Motion by: David Earl



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Second by: Michael Burke  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

4. The Board passed a motion to Amended Board Resolution of Emergency Declaration COVID-19 Response March 2021.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

5. The Board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment to the bylaws update.

Motion by: Michael Burke  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

6. The Board passed a motion to approve the textbook and school FFE orders for 2021-22 school year.

Motion by: Xenia Garza  
Second by: David Earl  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

7. The Board passed a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda items in one Board action.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan (all consent agenda items as stated)  
Second by: Saam Zarrabi  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

8. The Board passed a motion to approve transition into Executive Session to discuss matters pursuant to 551.071 (consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal issues and matters) and 551.074 (personnel) and invited the legal counsel to join at 11:17 a.m..

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

Legal counsel was present for the entirety of Executive Session. All discussions were related to stated issues above, and pertinent to legal discussion and counsel. No action took place in Executive Session.



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9. The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 12:48 p.m.  
Motion by: David Handley  
Second by: Mike Burke  
*Motion passed unanimously.*
  
  10. The Board passed a motion to approve the contract and facility use agreement between Ector County ISD and IDEA Public Schools, subject to certain conditions being met as discussed in closed session and pending final review and approval by Legal Counsel, Interim CFOs, and Board Chair.  
Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: David Handley  
*Motion passed.*
  
  11. The Board passed a motion to approve the IDEA license agreements for student uniforms based on RFP for the 2021-2022 school year as discussed in closed session.  
Motion by: Ed Rivera  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
Motion passed unanimously.
  
  12. The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 p.m.  
Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Al Lopez welcomed the Board Members to the March 12, 2021 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 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.

**Public Comment**

None

**Organizational Update by JoAnn Gama**



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Mrs. Gama provided an update on the five Board-wide goals:

1. College Matriculation on track at 54%;
2. School Rating A off track due to the suspension of letter grades by the TEA;
3. Persistence Goal slightly off track at 76,728 student applications;
4. Teacher and staff retention on track at 85%;
5. Operating Income Goal on track; and

Mr. Phillip Garza presented on College Matriculation which is at 54%. Students have been accepted to Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools, a total of 12,258 applications have been submitted, and 4,371 acceptance. 1,248 of those acceptances have been to selective and highly selective colleges, and 5 Ivy League schools.

**COVID-19 Update**

Ms. Irma Muñoz provided a COVID update regarding the increase in in-person instruction to 56%. A total of 4,000 tests have been used. 14% of the staff has been immunized and efforts continue to be made to get more staff vaccinated.

**Committee Reports:**

**Governance Committee (Collin Sewell)**

Meeting conducted Tuesday, March 2, 2021

1. Pre-reviewed the following:
  - a. Non-Expansion Amendment to the Bylaws
  - b. Plan for the Annual Board Member Evaluation
  - c. Board Recruitment efforts
2. Next meeting on April 6, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

**Audit Committee (Ed Rivera)**

Reviewed the following areas:

1. Title Grants
  - a. Javier Campos gave update on the documentation requested from TEA. Information was submitted timely and are now expecting follow-up from the Agency.
  - b. Monthly senior leadership corporate card, meal and travel reports. 426 transactions reviewed with few issues; overall clean report.
2. Next meeting March 25 at 9:30 am



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**Academic Committee (Xenia Garza)**

Reviewed the following areas:

1. Possible partnership with Ector ISD County
  - a. Waivers
  - b. College Access Update
  - c. Summer School Plan
  
2. Next meeting on April 1, 2021, will be reviewing:
  - a. Closing the gaps for children in the next year

**Finance Committee (Erich Holmsten)**

Reviewed the following areas:

1. Budget Amendment for January 2021
2. Operating Income as of January 2021
3. Real Estate matters
4. Textbook Orders
5. Polar Vortex Emergency updates
6. Future grants and contributions for acceptance policy
7. Donor Stewardship
8. Next meeting on April 8, 2021.

The Board Chair preceded to thank the board members for their participation, staying engaged.

**Weather-Related Day Waiver – Polar Vortex: Winter Storm Uri**

Mrs. Irma Munoz presented on the school disruptions on February 11, 2021 through February 23, 2021 throughout the Texas Region and requested authorization to file the weather-related day waiver required by TEA.

The Board passed a motion to approve the submission of the Request for weather-related day waivers due to school disruption from the Polar Vortex - Winter Storm Uri.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Erich Homsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*



**Excusing of Staff Absences and Authorization of Staff Pay**

Mrs. Irma Munoz presented on the school disruptions throughout our region in the state and provided a recommendation to excuse the staff absences and authorize compensation due to the impact of Polar Vortex: Winter Storm Uri.

The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution to excuse the days of absence of IDEA Public Schools employees for school closures caused by Winter Storm Uri and pay employees their expected compensation for those days according to their anticipated work schedules from February 11, 2021 through February 23, 2021.

- Motion by: Xenia Garza
  - Second by: David Handley
  - All in favor: All
  - All opposed: None
- Motion passed unanimously.*

**Compensation during Closure Policy**

Withdrawn. No discussion occurred on this agenda item.

**Compensation During Closure Policy Related to Polar Vortex: Winter Storm Uri**

Mrs. Irma Munoz presented on the proposal to compensate staff who physically reported to work during the school closures caused by the Polar Vortex: Winter Storm Uri and the continued COVID-19 emergency.

The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution to authorize the compensation of IDEA Public Schools employees who physically reported to work during the school closures caused by Polar Vortex – Winter Storm Uri and the continued COVID-19 emergency.

- Motion by: David Earl
  - Second by: Michael Burke
  - All in favor: All
  - All opposed: None
- Motion passed unanimously.*

**Amended Board Resolution of Emergency Declaration COVID-19 Response March 2021**

The Board Chair indicated that the team continues to do a great deal of work mitigating risk around COVID while also ensuring that our student achievement outcomes are prioritized. TEA has allowed local policy to tighten their guidelines regarding facial coverings as the



Governor’s orders regarding masks have impacted schools. IDEA’s team feels that it is in the best interest of students, staff, and our communities to continue our preventative mitigation strategies related to COVID-19, including a stricter definition than TEA and continue require facial coverings for all staff, students, and visitors to our schools.

The Board passed a motion to approve the Amended Board Resolution of Emergency Declaration COVID-19 Response March 2021.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Ector County ISD, 1882 Partnership Contract**

Bethany Solis presented on the Ector County ISD, 1882 Partnership Contract.

The Board considered this item in closed session. *Action taken after closed session.*

**Non-Expansion Amendment and Resolution for Bylaws Update**

Mrs. Jessica Hess presented the proposed changes to the Bylaws under sections 4.02, 4.03, and 7.02.

The Board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment to the bylaws update.

Motion by: Michael Burke  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

**Consider and Approve the Textbook and School FFE Orders for 2021-22 School Year**

Ms. Leanne Hernandez presented on the consideration and approval of the textbook and school FFE orders for the 2021-22 school year.

The Board passed a motion to approve the textbook and school FFE orders for 2021-22 school year.

Motion by: Xenia Garza  
Second by: David Earl



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All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

**Consent Agenda**

The Board reviewed all consent agenda items listed and passed a motion to approve all items on the consent agenda in one Board action.

- a. Contracts
  - (1) Construction & Improvements
  - (2) Non-Construction
    - (a) Special Programs
    - (b) Transportation
    - (c) Human Assets
  - (3) Contract Ratification
- b. Region 10 Education Service Center, Child Nutrition Multi Region Purchasing Cooperative Program, INTERLOCAL BID PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT: SY 2021-2022
- c. Donor Stewardship Budget
- d. January 2021 Budget Amendment
- e. January 2021 Financial Statements
- f. February 2021 Board Minutes

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan (all consent agenda items as stated)  
Second by: Saam Zarrabi  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Executive Session**

The Board passed a motion to approve transition into Executive Session to discuss matters pursuant to 551.071 (consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal issues and matters) and 551.074 (personnel) and invited the legal counsel to join at 11:17 a.m.. The Board invited JoAnn Gama, Sam Goessling, Bethany Solis, Jessica Hess to participate the closed session.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Xenia Garza  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None





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*Motion passed unanimously.*

Legal counsel was present for the entirety of Executive Session. All discussions were related to stated issues above, and pertinent to legal discussion and counsel. No action took place in Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 12:48 p.m.

Motion by: David Handley

Second by: Mike Burke

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Ector County ISD, 1882 Partnership Contract**

The Board passed a motion to approve the contract and facility use agreement between Ector County ISD and IDEA Public Schools, subject to certain conditions being met as discussed in closed session and pending final review and approval by Legal Counsel, Interim CFOs, and Board Chair.

Motion by: David Earl

Second by: David Handley

In favor: Xenia Garza, Michael Burke, Saam Zarrabi, Erich Holmsten, Reba Cardenas McNair, Ed Rivera, Ryan Vaughan, Al Lopez

Opposed: None

Abstain: Collin Sewell

*Motion passed.*

**Student Uniform License Agreement**

The Board passed a motion to approve the IDEA license agreements for student uniforms based on RFP for the 2021-2022 school year as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera

Second by: Ryan Vaughan

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten



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Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed 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, Friday, March 12, 2021.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

4/16/2021

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Date