



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 16, 2021

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

Board Members Not Present: Dr. Saam Zarrabi, David Handley (present in closed session)

Others Present: William "Bill" Martin, Dr. Virginia Richter

Staff Present: JoAnn Gama, Irma Muñoz, Martin Winchester, Elizabet Garza, Samuel Goessling, Phillip Garza, Dolores Gonzalez, Carlo Hershberger, Jessica Hess, Jazmine Leon-Wing, Javier Campos, Andrew Clarence, Christopher Gonzalez, Melba Garcia, Alejandra Loya, Tita Terán

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

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Lopez, at 10:56 a.m.

Summary of Motions and Approvals

1. The Board passed a motion to approve the revised core values of IDEA Public Schools, as presented by the management team, subject to further refinement and finalization.
Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Ryan Vaughan
Motion passed unanimously.
2. The Board passed a motion to give authority to Martin to issue teacher contracts, and when signing contacts, to sign on behalf of IDEA, in his capacity as Chief Human Assets Officer.
Motion by: Michael Burke
Second by: Xenia Garza
Motion passed unanimously.
3. The Board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment and resolution for delegation by board policy.
Motion by: Erich Holmsten
Second by: Ryan Vaughan



Motion passed unanimously.

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

Motion by: Erich Holmsten (all consent agenda items as stated)

Second by: Ed Rivera

Motion passed unanimously.

5. The Board passed a motion to approve the 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 12:33 p.m. The Board invited the management team to participate in the beginning portion of the closed session.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Ed Rivera

Motion passed unanimously.

6. The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 1:43 p.m.

Motion by: David Earl

Second by: David Handley

Motion passed unanimously.

7. The Board passed a motion to approve the Superintendent recommendation related to hiring or promotion of a Chief Information Officer.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Ryan Vaughan

Motion passed unanimously.

8. The Board passed a motion to approve Indemnification Agreement between AGS and IDEA Public School and its nonprofit affiliate IPS Enterprises, Inc.

Motion by: David Earl

Second by: Ryan Vaughan

Motion passed unanimously.

9. The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Motion by: Ed Rivera

Second by: Ryan Vaughan

Motion passed unanimously.



Welcome and Call to Order

Al Lopez, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the April 16, 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

Mrs. JoAnn Gama provided an overview on the Board-wide goals:

1. College Matriculation on track at 100%;
2. School Rating A off track due to the suspension of letter grades by the TEA;
3. Persistence Goal on track at 24% of the 76,728 goals of student applications;
4. Teacher and staff retention on track at 85%;
5. Operating Income Goal on track; and
6. Fundraising Goal on track. Made on fundraising events

COVID-19 Update

Mrs. Gama provided a COVID update regarding the increase in in-person instruction, and the internal goal of reaching 70% by the end of the current school year. She further indicated that the Rio Grande Valley region is the one that has been hesitant to send students for in-person instruction. She further indicated that testing continues to be available at the campuses and 62% of the staff that has expressed they want to be immunized have been vaccinated. A vaccination clinic will be available in Austin on April 17th.

Academic Update

Lisa Garza presented on mock exams to get information to focus our instruction on standards not mastered. Texas will not be given an accountability score this year. Because of that, we created our own system based on TEA requirements and have determined that they would have a B rating even though the estimate is an A since there are five schools that have a letter grade of D or F.



Christopher Gonzalez presented on the Domain 1, 2a or 2b, and 3 scoring. Lisa and Christopher continued to present on the spirit of generosity and the growth targets. She also presented the strategies being used and that will be implemented to reach the goals.

Lisa Garza indicated that they continue to push for in-person summer school, and they will be looking at every child individually to create plans. She also indicated that they continue waiting on a response from the CDC regarding children's vaccines.

Ms. Dolores Gonzalez announced that the Team will be visiting regions to ensure that instruction is qualified and to provide any support needed. She further presented on student progress goals (PTG) and provided information regarding student persistence and the top three reason for leavers. She also presented on the summer engagement plan and bottom-line strategies. She further presented on 2nd graders reading percentages among regions. (virtual instruction is creating setbacks). She further discussed AP scholars and the goals and predictions to bring in 7 campuses that are within reach. She finalized with presenting the bottom-line strategy.

Human Assets Update

Mr. Martin Winchester presented an update on staff recruitment and hiring in the COVID era. More virtual meet and greets, and virtual resume writing. There is an advantage in recruitment, referrals continue to be top ways to consider applying and hiring. 17, 000 applications and high acceptance rate. He also mentioned that the current staff retention is 2.5% above where it was last year.

Core Values Update

Mr. Martin Winchester presented a Core Values update. Mr. Winchester indicated the organization continues to expand and discussed the reasons why the need to revisit the core values to continue honoring the values and reflect on new aspirations for the future. He further presented on the school's size, the timeline, and presented the recommendation.

The Board passed a motion to approve the revised core values of IDEA Public Schools, as presented by the management team, subject to further refinement and finalization.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
 Second by: Ryan Vaughan
 All in favor: All
 All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.



Committee Reports:**Academic Committee (Xenia Garza)**

Dolores Gonzalez presented on the 2nd grade reading data, AP scholar data, persistence data, and strategies for the goals. Phillip Garza presented on the on-track to graduate data and the strategies to ensure every student earns credits this year. Lisa Garza presented on the Path to A strategy. The next Committee meeting is April 29th.

Governance Committee (Collin Sewell)

The Governance Committee met on April 6, 2021 to cover several items, two of which are reflected on this meeting. The Governance Committee pre-reviewed the Superintendent recommendation related to the Chief Information Officer and the CEO evaluation plan. We also reviewed the continued planning work for the annual board evaluation and the creation of a board package and anticipated timeline for board recruitment efforts. We continue to engage, with legal counsel support, on reviewing the compensation work. We will continue to work with Jess and the committee on the annual evaluation process to ensure that there are seamless operations and succession plans for the board. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Audit Committee (Ed Rivera)

The first item on the agenda was the federal grant monitoring update. Javier Campos gave the committee a brief update on two ongoing monitoring reviews for the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Lottery Commission. All information requested by the auditors has been submitted and are waiting for a follow-up. The expectation is that there will be no action for correction from these engagements. The Committee was then presented with the facilities planning and construction audit report being focused on the non-procurement aspect of the construction function and included procedures on the construction contracts, pay applications, budget, and insurance. There were three findings around the commencement and substantial completion dates of projects and members of the operations team laid out the corrective action plan. Javier also gave an update on the corrective action plans for two previously presented audits. It was reported that the initiatives plan by management as a result of the average daily attendance and the corporate card audit recommendations were fully implemented. Finally, the committee was presented with the senior leadership credit card and meal and travel activity for the month of February 2021. A total of 343 individual



transactions were reviewed with an amount of 40,000 dollars, roughly, with few issues reported and addressed. The next meeting April 30, 2021 at 9:30 am.

Finance Committee (Erich Holmsten)

The Finance Committee met on April 8th and reviewed the financial results and budget amendments for the month of February 2021. These items are included in today's consent agenda. The operating income is at 156 million as of February 28th and are on track to achieve the 128 million operating income goal for the fiscal year ending on June 30th. In addition, we reviewed and discussed three compliance updates. One, is regarding from a letter received from the U.S. Department of Education indicating the fiscal year 2019-2020 single audit finding corrective action plan was implemented and considered resolved. We also reviewed the 2020 school health and related services cross report submission and a review of the historical analysis to that. Finally, we reviewed the foundation school program six weeks TEA reporting. In addition, we discussed one request for board approval from the advancement team related to a grant application from the Fort Brown foundation for the Permian Basin region for the purpose of supporting the IDEA Permian Basin after school education program at IDEA Travis and IDEA Yukon for the amount of \$542,000 dollars over a three-year period. The next finance committee is April 30th at 11:30 am.

The Board Chair preceded to thank the board members for their attendance, participation, and rigor.

Resolution to Give Authority

The Board passed a motion to give authority to Martin Winchester to issue teacher contracts, and when signing contracts, to sign on behalf of IDEA, in his capacity as Chief Human Assets Officer.

Motion by: Michael Burke

Second by: Xenia Garza

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Non-Expansion Amendment and Resolution

Mrs. Jessica Hess presented the non-expansion amendment and resolution for designation by board policy to delegate purchasing and contracting authority to include the policy limits. Mr. Joe Hoffer further added that this amendment is aligned with the board policy.



The Board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment and resolution for delegation by board policy.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten
Second by: Ryan Vaughan
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed all consent agenda items listed. Sam Goessling further presented on the grant application for the Elon Musk Foundation as well as the CAMP Rio portable facilities.

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

- a. Contracts
 - (1) Construction & Improvements
 - (2) Non-Construction
 - (a) Curriculum, Student Services
 - (b) Copiers
 - (c) Transportation
 - (3) Contract Ratification
- b. Grant Applications
- c. February 2021 Budget Amendment
- d. February 2021 Financial Statements
- e. March 12, 2021 Board Minutes
- f. March 30, 2021 Board Workshop Minutes
- g. January – March Committee Meeting Minutes
- h. Revised CEO Evaluation Plan 2020-2021
- i. Approval of 21-22 Teacher Contracts

Motion by: Erich Holmsten (all consent agenda items as stated)
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Board Training, Accountability to Public and Financial Accountability



Board Chair announced this agenda item will be covered with legal counsel, Joe Hoffer, in closed session, as there are likely to be questions as part of training and closed session presentation that will fall under attorney-client privilege.

Executive Session

The Board passed a motion to approve the 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 12:33 p.m. The Board invited the management team to participate in the beginning portion of the closed session.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board Chair announced that no action occurred in Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 1:43 p.m.

Motion by: David Earl
Second by: David Handley
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

CIO Offer

The Board passed a motion to approve the Superintendent recommendation related to hiring or promotion of a Chief Information Officer.

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

Indemnification Agreement

The Board passed a motion to approve the Indemnification Agreement between Accelerate Great Schools and IDEA Public School and its nonprofit affiliate IPS Enterprises, Inc.



Motion by: David Earl
Second by: Ryan Vaughan
In favor: All
All Opposed: None
Motion passed.

Real Estate

A recommendation was made to create a Real Estate committee to review and advise on real estate opportunities coming forward. No Action was taken on Real Estate agenda items.

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
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, April 16, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

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Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

5/14/2021

Date