

Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 20, 2021

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

Guest Board Members Present: None

Board Members Not Present: David Handley, David Earl, Dr. Saam Zarrabi

Staff and Consultants Present: Joseph Hoffer, Alejandra Loya, Carlo Hershberger, Daniel Fishman, Dolores Gonzalez, Javier Campos, Jazmine Leon-Wing, Jessica Hess, Jose Ramirez, Layne Fisher, Leanne Hernandez, Martin Winchester, Massie Ritsch, Phillip Garza, Tita Teran, Melisa Abascal-Anzaldua

Audience Present: Cindy Villarreal, IDEA parent; JC Haggen, IDEA parent; Susan Lopez, IDEA parent; Samantha Cantu, IDEA parent; Joe Cantu, IDEA parent; Christina Gonzalez, IDEA parent; Frank Garcia, IDEA parent.

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Lopez, at 9:35 AM CST

Summary of Motions and Approvals

1. The Board passed a motion to approve the transition into Executive Session to discuss matters pursuant to 551.074 (personnel) and 551.071 (consultation with Legal Counsel regarding Pending Legal issues and matters, real estate) at 11:22 AM. The Board invited the management team to participate in the beginning portion of the closed session.

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

2. The Board passed a motion to approve the policies discussed above during the meeting.
 - a. 2021-22 Remote Conferencing
 - b. COVID clerk
 - c. Health and Safety Monitors
 - d. Camp Rio Temporary Kitchen

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

3. The Board passed a motion to approve contracting with NMSI, pending final legal review.

Motion by: Mike Burke

Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passes unanimously.

4. The board passed a motion to authorize the CEO to issue mask mandates by campus, region or system-wide, to file waivers with TEA, to close campuses, to take all necessary mitigation efforts and, suspend procurement policies for procurements related to COVID-19 and approve emergency procurement related to COVID-19 and approve COVID-related personnel budget amendments, as determined necessary, and to direct legal counsel as needed to protect the interest of IDEA, its students and staff, with modifications discussed.

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

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

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

6. The Board passed a motion to approve the transition into Executive Session to discuss matters pursuant to 551.074 (personnel) and 551.071 (consultation with Legal Counsel regarding Pending Legal issues and matters, real estate) at 11:22 AM.

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

7. The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 1:04 PM.

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

8. The Board passed a motion to approve sending an offer letter to the candidate of Chief Communications Officer.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Mike Burke
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passes unanimously.

9. The Board passed a motion to approve the acquisition of Tarrant County site – Sandy Lane.

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

10. The Board passed a motion to approve the Return of donated land in Hidalgo County.

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

11. The Board passed a motion to approve a resolution authorizing a new master equipment lease/purchase agreement with Regions.

Motion by: Mike Adams
Second by: Ryan Vaughan
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passes unanimously.

12. The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 PM.

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

Welcome and Call to Order

Al Lopez, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the August 20, 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 there is a new board member on our Texas Governing Body and our national fiduciary board, Mr. Michael Adams. Mr. Lopez also took a few moments to recognize one of our biggest supporters who is resigning as board member, Mr. Michael Burke. Mr. Lopez asked for public comment and there were a few.

Public Comment

Jessica Hess confirmed there were three requests for public comment.

1. Cindy Villarreal, IDEA parent
Concern: Disregard mask mandate
2. JC Haggen, IDEA parent
Concern: Encourage virtual learning
3. Susan Lopez, IDEA parent
Concern: Reinforce protocols for covid-19
4. Samantha Cantu, IDEA parent
Concern: Encourage mask mandate and virtual learning
5. Joe Cantu, IDEA parent
Concern: Encourage virtual learning
6. Christina Gonzalez
Concerns: Encourage mask mandate and virtual learning; request to have A/C on the buses, Better communication and availability from schools, discourage doing physical education with uniform due to heat in the Rio Grande Valley
7. Frank Garcia
Concern: Encourage virtual learning

Employee and Staff Comment

Jessica Hess confirmed there were no requests for employee and staff comments.

Charter FIRST Update

Mr. Lopez provided an update on this item as IDEA will be working with TEA and our legal counsel on an appeal for at least one indicator in the preliminary score and rating we received. Therefore, this item will be brought back to committee and the board, for a public hearing, at a later date in compliance with all TEA requirements.

Organizational Update

Mr. Al Lopez provided an update on the Board-wide goals. He further discussed on the priorities of the organization during this transitional time:

1. The College Matriculation on track,
2. Enrollment is on track of all regions across Texas
3. Persistence Goal on track at 87.4%;
4. Teacher and staff retention on track at 85% for teacher and 85% for staff;
5. Operating Income Goal on track, projected \$151MM; and

Covid Update

Layne Fisher, VP of Auxiliary services provided an update on:

1. IDEA COVID case comparison by region from first day of school through 8/18/21;
2. COVID Case Counts: IDEA Region vs Community.
3. Continue to Reinforce Core Safety Protocols

Committee Reports:

Academic Committee (Xenia Garza)

The Committee reviewed the following areas:

1. Waivers for Pre-K for Permian Basin
2. AP and ivy results from last year
3. Student persistence

Next Meeting September 9th, 2021.

Governance Committee (Collin Sewell)

The Committee reviewed the following areas:

1. COVID leave policy, Dress code policy, Reporting employee misconduct policy, Employment credentials and records policy, electronic communication policy, Staff development cycle and bonus policy
2. Chief Communication officer
3. Board recruitment efforts and evaluations
4. Diversity and equity inclusion work

Next governance committee meeting is September 8, 2021, at 8:30 am.

Finance Committee (Erich Holmsten)

The Committee met on July 30th and reviewed the following areas:

1. Preliminary financial results for the month of June and budget amendments for the months of June and July 2021.
2. CNP financial update was provided for: Net cash resources update, meal program options, free meals for all students and beyond
3. Public Funds Investment Act report for the 4th quarter, which is included in today's consent agenda.
4. Compliance update on: PEIMS III Summer Submission, 2021-22 FSP Estimate Data, Charter FIRST

Next meeting: August 27, 2021 at 11:30 am

Audit Committee (Ed Rivera)

The Committee met on July 30th and reviewed the following areas:

1. Results of the High-Risk Federal Programs Audit
2. Key areas highlighted by completion of risk assessments
3. Audit Plan with highlighted areas to be audited this year
4. Reviewed the monthly Senior Leadership Credit Card Meal and Travel activity for April 2021

Next meeting: August 27, 2021 at 9:30 am

Real Estate Committee (Al Lopez for David Earl)

The Committee met on June 8th and reviewed plans and made recommendations based on acquisitions and future planning of

1. Reviewed tentative launch schedule

2. Provided the green light for a new site acquisition in Tarrant County
3. Reviewed updates on real estate approved for sale in the RGV and Tarrant County

Next meeting: September 8, 2021 at 10:30 am

Personnel Policies

Chief Human Assets Officer, Martin Winchester, presented the recommendation for ratification of the following policies:

1. COVID Leave Policy
2. Dress code policy
3. Reporting employee misconduct policy
4. Employment credentials and records policy
5. Electronic communication policy
6. Staff development cycle and bonus policy

The Board passed a motion to approve the policies discussed above during the meeting.

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

National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) Agreement

Chief Programs Officer, Dolores Gonzalez, and Chief Financial Officer, Leanne Hernandez, provided a summary on services provided by vendor. NMSI is qualified and experienced in Advanced Placement curriculum, teacher development and student support services to develop and deliver training and support for Advanced Placement (herein after referred to as AP) subjects in English Language Arts, History, Spanish, Mathematics and Science. The trainings provided by NMSI include pre-service content specific training, in-service content specific training and opportunities for advanced teacher mentorship and coaching. Additionally, they provide access to AP curricular resources, including unit and Mock assessments, teacher-facing instructional resources and on-demand student resources, for the abovementioned subjects.

The Board passed a motion to approve contracting with NMSI, pending final legal review.

Motion by: Mike Burke
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passes unanimously.

Amendment Requests

Chief Programs Officer, Dolores Gonzalez, and Chief Financial Officer, Leanne Hernandez, provided a summary on the following budget amendments and its rationale:

1. 2021-22 Remote Conferencing
2. COVID clerk
3. Health and Safety Monitors

4. Camp Rio Temporary Kitchen

The Board passed a motion to approve these budget amendments discussed.

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

COVID Mitigation

The board passed a motion to authorize the CEO to issue mask mandates by campus, region or system-wide, to file waivers with TEA, to close campuses, to take all necessary mitigation efforts and, suspend procurement policies for procurements related to COVID-19 and approve emergency procurement related to COVID-19 and approve COVID-related personnel budget amendments, as determined necessary, and to direct legal counsel as needed to protect the interest of IDEA, its students and staff, with modifications discussed.

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

Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed all consent agenda items listed.

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

1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Contracts
 1. Construction & Improvements
 2. Non-Construction
 - a. Service Agreements
 - i. Copiers Services
 - ii. Postal Services
 - iii. Water Dispenser Services
 - iv. Produce
 - b. Software Renewals
 - i. Accounting
 - ii. Professional Development
 - iii. Curriculum
 - iv. College Matriculation
 - v. Instructional Support
 3. Contract Ratification
 - b. June 2021 Budget Amendments – approved in Finance Committee
 - c. June 2021 Financial Statements – this item will be removed as the final statements are not available
 - d. Public Funds Investment Act, Quarter 4 Report – approved in Finance Committee

- e. July 16, 2021 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- f. July 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- g. July Committee Meeting Minutes
- h. 2021-22 Revised ADA Manual – continued updates
- i. 2021-22 Revised IDEA Kyle Academic Calendar – due to COVID mitigation and delayed start of school
- j. Revised 2021-22 Grading Policy – clerical update from last month
- k. 2021-22 Internal Audit Plan – approved in Audit Committee
- l. Annual PFI Resolution
- m. 2021-22 Pay Scales Updates – update due to ESSER funds

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

Executive Session

The Board passed a motion to approve the transition into Executive Session to discuss matters pursuant to 551.074 (personnel) and 551.071 (consultation with Legal Counsel regarding Pending Legal issues and matters, real estate) at 11:22 AM.

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

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

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 1:04 PM.

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

Closed Session Action Items

Chief Communications Officer Offer

The Board passed a motion to approve sending an offer letter to the candidate of Chief Communications Officer.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan
Second by: Mike Burke
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passes unanimously.

New Board Member

This item was tabled.

Real Estate

The Board passed a motion to approve the acquisition of Tarrant County site – Sandy Lane.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the Return of donated land in Hidalgo County.

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

Treasury

The Board passed a motion to approve a resolution authorizing a new master equipment lease/purchase agreement with Regions.

Motion by: Mike Adams
Second by: Ryan Vaughan
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passes unanimously.

Adjournment

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 PM.

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

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board Meeting of IDEA Public Schools held on August 20, 2021.

DocuSigned by:

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Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

9/17/2021

Date