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## Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2021

**Board Members Present:** Al Lopez, Collin Sewell, Reba C. McNair, Erich Holmsten, Xenia Garza, Ryan Vaughan, Dr. Saam Zarrabi, David Earl, Michael Adams

**Board Members Not Present:** Ed Rivera, Gary Lindgren

**Staff and Consultants Present:** Joseph Hoffer, Lisa Garza, Dolores Gonzalez, Martin Winchester, Phillip Garza, Samuel Goessling, Leanne Hernandez, Cody Grindle, Candace Burns, Jessica Hess, Amir, Roohi, Emily Nielson, Jennifer Meer, Carlo Hershberger, Jazmin Leon-Wing, Javier Campos, Layne Fisher, Erika Hernandez, Pablo Mejia, Miguel Berlanga, Alejandra Loya, Fidel Ozuna, Amy Loibl Tita Teran

**Audience Present:** Cristina Gonzalez/Denise Rodriguez, Juanita Townsend/Garcia, John Richard Damasiewicz, Reyna Rodriguez, and Anonymous

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Al Lopez, at 9:37 AM CST

### Summary of Motions and Approvals

1. The Board passed a motion to approve the all the virtual learning program policies presented today in one action item.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Xenia Garza

*Motion passed unanimously.*

2. The Board passed a motion to approve the TEA Pre-K Waiver and Resolution.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Erich Holmsten

*Motion passed unanimously.*

3. The Board passed a motion to approve the June 2021 Budget Amendments.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Xenia Garza

*Motion passed unanimously.*

4. The Board passed a motion to approve all the policies presented in one board action.
  - a. Residency Policy



- b. Tuition Reimbursement. License/Certification, Loan Reimbursement Policy
- c. Allowable and Prohibited Use of Funds

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Michael Adams

*Motion passed unanimously.*

- 5. The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolution in support of the Cameron County Quality of Life Initiative.

Motion by: David Earl

Second by: Ryan Vaughan

Abstained: Collin Sewell

*Motion passed 8-0-1*

- 6. The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution to apply for the Texas Park and Wildlife Department's Community Outdoor Outreach grant.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Xenia Garza

*Motion passed unanimously.*

- 7. The Board passed a motion to approve the consent agenda in one board action.

- a. Contracts – Finance Committee Approved
  - 1. Construction & Improvements
  - 2. Non-Construction
    - a. Service Agreements
      - i. Copiers Services
      - ii. Educational Program
      - iii. Information Return Preparation Services
      - iv. IT Technology
      - v. VERBDB
    - b. Interlocal Agreement
      - i. Professional Development
  - 3. Contract Ratification
    - ii. August 2021 Budget Amendments – Finance Committee Approved
    - iii. September 17, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
    - iv. September Committee Meeting Minutes
    - v. National Board Certification Agreement



vi. Camp Rio Per Diem

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

8. The Board passed a motion to approve the recommended vendors selected and to authorize the delegate to negotiate and execute appropriate contracts for each of these RFPs. The contracts will be reviewed by the business office and legal counsel and executed subject to the Board's ratification authority at our December meeting.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

9. 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) at 11:19 AM CST.

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

10. The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 1:32 PM CST.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: David Earl  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

11. The Board passed a motion to approve the Acting Executive Roles.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

12. The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolution for the NMSI Agreement for SY 21-22.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan



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Second by: David Earl  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

13. The Board passed a motion to approve the amendment on rehire eligibility of CN.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: David Earl  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

14. The Board passed a motion to approve Korn Ferry to conduct CEO Search.

Motion by: Collin Sewell  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

15. The Board passed a motion to approve the procurement next steps as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

16. The Board passed a motion to approve the 21-22 performance incentives and goals for the CFO, CIO, CHAO, CCAO, CCO, CCO, CPO, CSO, CAO.

Motion by: Collin Sewell  
Second by: David Earl  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

17. The Board passed a motion to approve the Acting CEO/Superintendent's recommendation related to the Chief Operations Officer.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

18. The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:38 PM CST.



Motion by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
Motion passed unanimously.

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

Al Lopez, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the October 22, 2021, Board of Directors' meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Mr. Lopez, as presiding officer, conducted the meeting in the headquarters offices in Weslaco, Texas, as posted. He further indicated some members joined via videoconference and a phone line was available for members of the public to join in the meeting if they wish to do so.

### **Public Comment**

Jessica Hess, VP of Board Relations and Governance, confirmed there were requests for public comment from Ms. Cristina Gonzalez, and Juanita Townsend. Each person was given three minutes to provide their comments. Ms. Gonzalez provided her public comment in which she expressed her opposition for her child to participate in a Day of the Death celebration as part of a cultural assignment. She further indicated this acknowledgement is similar to Mardi grass and very few people participate in these celebrations to the full extent of what it actually means. She finalized her comment by reading a verse. The Board thanked Ms. Gonzalez for her public comment and proceeded to hear the second request for public comment from Ms. Juanita Townsend. She was given three minutes to provide her public comment to which she expressed her suggestion to offer additional foreign language options in schools. She indicated she is a supporter of the AP program but would like to see more options. Additionally, she expressed a concern regarding the plexiglass in her sibling's classroom occupies an excessive amount of space and causes a disturbance in the learning process. She further detailed that her sibling has to overlook the plexiglass setup of several students to view instruction given by the teacher on the board and expressed her concern on the repercussions on his eyesight. Jessica Hess opened the forum for any other attendees to participate in the public comment section, to which no others participated.

### **Employee and Staff Comment**

Jessica Hess, VP of Board Relations and Governance, confirmed there were no requests for employee and staff comments.

### **Organizational Update**

Al Lopez presented the 20-21 End-of-Year Org Wide goals update where he shared that the organization closed out three of the five org wide goals and met two of those three which are staff retention and operating income. He further discussed the 21-22 Progress-to-Goal Org Wide goals to



include the college matriculation goal and the launch of the Quality Application Campaign to ensure students are able to access opportunities at transformational colleges and universities, the student achievement data for assessments administered, the retention efforts, the enrollment application campaign and the persistence compared to the previous year. He also talked about the district's A rating, the retention tracking system, and efforts. He further indicated that the application campaign kickoff has begun and are at 16.80% towards the goal in enrollment. Lastly, he sent out a shout out to the Houston region for being at 97.09% in new student persistence, which is above the October benchmark. Cody Grindle, Chief Information Officer, gave a briefing on attendance (ADA) and the systems used to reach the goal along with indicating that they have seen an increase in attendance. He further indicated that all teams are collaborating to reach and see results in the classroom.

### **COVID Update**

Layne Fisher, VP of Auxiliary Services, provided a COVID 19 update to include health and safety status and the importance to follow the protocols. He further indicated that student and staff data reflected a decrease in cases in the last three weeks. He indicated that the cases are at the lowest and is proud of his team that makes an effort to create and follow the safety protocols.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Academic Committee by Ryan Vaughan**

The Academic Committee met on October 7, 2021 and received two updates on a request for proposals for Pre-K and ACT curriculum and training. The Committee was provided the most current data regarding HB3. Lastly, the Committee received a presentation the current process and support provided to students and alumnus through alumni funding. The next Academic Committee meeting is November 11, 2021 at 10:00 am.

#### **Governance Committee by Collin Sewell**

The Governance Committee met on October 8, 2021 to discuss the continued recruitment efforts. The Committee also reviewed and approved the Residency Policy and the 21-22 performance incentives for the Chiefs' team. The next governance committee meeting is November 4, 2021 at 8:30 am.

#### **Finance Committee by Erich Holmsten**

The Finance Committee met on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and reviewed the preliminary financial results for the month of June 2021 and the budget amendments for the months of August and September 2021. The Committee received an update on the 2020-21 external audit completion timeline and the operating income org wide financial goal. The Committee was also presented with a Child Nutrition Program and a compliance update. Moreover, the Committee received an update on the grants and contributions from the advancement



team. The next Finance Committee meeting is November 4, 2021.

### **Audit Committee by Al Lopez for Ed Rivera**

The Audit Committee met on October 1, 2021 and reviewed the Payroll Audit Report that included the corrective action plan prepared by the payroll team in conjunction with the Human Resources and Employee Information Systems teams, to address the findings brought forward by the audit department on the latest payroll audit completed. The committee got an update on five audits including the State Allotment Funding Audit, a Facility Planning and Construction Audit, an employee compensation audit, a high-risk federal programs audit and a procurement audit. Lastly, the Committee reviewed Monthly Senior Leadership Corporate Card and Meal and Travel Reports. The next Audit Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

### **Real Estate by David Earl**

The IDEA Real Estate Committee met on October 5, 2021 and made recommendations based on acquisitions and future planning. The Committee received a presentation from Invited Centric Infrastructure Group on connectivity network services and fiber on the ground for communities. The Committee reviewed the tentative campus launch schedule and discussed the commercial realtor rubric for one site in RGV. the Committee received an update on all real estate approved for sale and sites for divestment. The next Real Estate committee meeting is November 2, 2021 at 10:00 am.

### **Virtual Learning Program**

Dolores Gonzalez, Chief Program Officer, and Pablo Mejia, Sr. VP of Program Innovation, presented

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Xenia Garza

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

### **TEA Pre-K Waiver and Resolution**

Dolores Gonzalez presented the request to approve the TEA Pre-K Waiver and Resolution.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Xenia Garza

All in favor: All



All opposed        None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**June 2021 Budget Amendments**

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the June 2021 Budget Amendments.

Motion by:        Ryan Vaughan  
Second by:        Xenia Garza  
All in favor:       All  
All opposed:       None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Policy Updates and New Policies**

1. Jennifer Meer, Sr. VP of Compensation and Benefits, presented the proposed personnel policies. Board passed a motion to approve the all the policies presented in one board action.
  - a. Residency Policy
  - b. Tuition Reimbursement. License/Certification, Loan Reimbursement Policy
  - c. Allowable and Prohibited Use of Funds

Motion by:        Erich Holmsten  
Second by:        Michael Adams  
All in favor:       All  
All opposed:       None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Resolution – Cameron County Quality of Life Initiative**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolution in support of the Cameron County Quality of Life Initiative.

Motion by:        David Earl  
Second by:        Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor:       David Earl, Ryan Vaughan, Reba Cardenas McNair, Xenia Garza, Erich Holmsten, Michael Adams, Dr. Saam Zarrabi, Al Lopez  
All opposed        None  
All abstaining:   Collin Sewell  
Absent:            Ed Rivera and Gary Lindgren  
*Motion passed with 8-0-1 votes*





**Sponsorship – Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show**

This item was tabled

**Resolution – Texas Park and Wildlife Department’s Community Outdoor Outreach Grant**

Samuel Goessling, Chief Advancement Officer, presented the Resolution related to the Texas Park and Wildlife Department’s Community Outdoor Outreach Grant (TPWD COOP) to allow Dr. Vaneshette Henderson, to submit an application for the Texas Park and Wildlife Department’s Community Outdoor Outreach Grant in the amount of \$60,000, and to allow Deidre Medina, Founding Principal of IDEA Palmview College Prep, to act for and on behalf of the of the board to administer, manage and implement the grant project.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Xenia Garza

All in favor: All

All opposed None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Consent Agenda**

The board passed a motion to approve the consent agenda in one board action:

- a) Contracts
  - 1. Construction & Improvements
  - 2. Non-Construction
    - a. Services Agreement
      - (ii) Copier Leases
      - (iii) Educational Program
      - (iv) Information Return Preparation Services
      - (v) IT Technology
      - (vi) VERDBDB
  - 3. Contract Ratification
- b) August 2021 Budget Amendments
- c) September 17, 2021 Board Minutes
- d) September Committee Meeting Minutes
- e) National Board Certification Agreement
- f) Camp Rio Per Diem



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

**RFP Award Recommendations**

The Board passed a motion to approve the recommended vendors selected and to authorize the delegate to negotiate and execute appropriate contracts for each of these RFPs. The contracts will be reviewed by the business office and legal counsel and executed subject to the Board’s ratification authority at our December meeting.

- a. ACT vendor
- b. Family Engagement Workshop vendor
- c. Test Preparation Materials vendor

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
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 551.071 (consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal issues and matters) and 551.074 (personnel) at 11:19 AM CST. The Board invited the management to join the closed session.

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

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



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The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 1:32 PM CST.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Acting Executive Roles**

The Board passed a motion to approve the recommendation of the Acting Executive Roles as discussed in closed session.

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

**Resolution – NMSI Agreement for SY 21-22**

The Board passed a motion to approve the NMSI Agreement discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Personnel Agreement Rehire Eligibility**

The Board passed a motion to approve the amendment of the CN agreement.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**CEO Search**



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The Board passed a motion to approve Korn Ferry to conduct the CEO search.

Motion by: Collin Sewell  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Procurement Next Steps**

The Board passed a motion to approve the procurement next steps.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**21-22 Performance Incentives**

The Board passed a motion to approve the 21-22 performance incentives and goals for the CFO, CIO, CHAO, CCAO, CCO, CCO, CPO, CSO, CAO.

Motion by: Collin Sewell  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Chief Operations Officer Offer**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Acting Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent recommendation for the Chief Operating Officer.

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



**Tax Matters**

The Board passed a motion to approve the actions discussed in closed session with counsel regarding Tax Matters.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:38 PM CST.

Motion by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
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 Meeting of IDEA Public Schools held on October 22, 2021.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

12/1/2021

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Date