



IDEA Public Schools
2115 W. Pike Blvd.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Board Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2022

Board Members Present: Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Reba C. McNair, David Earl, Erich Holmsten, Saam Zarrabi, Michael Adams, Gary Lindgren, Ovidio Vitas

Board Members Not Present: Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Xenia Garza

Staff, Counsel, and Consultants Present: Joseph Hoffer, Jeffrey Cottrill, Dr. David Lee, Dolores Gonzalez, Martin Winchester, Phillip Garza, Samuel Goessling, Leanne Hernandez, Jessica Hess, Jennifer Meer, Javier Campos, Fidel Ozuna, III, Tita Teran

Audience Present: Pastor Brad Burkes, Norma Brown, Ashley Wheeler

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Collin Sewell, at 9:34 AM CST

Welcome and Call to Order

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the June 17, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Mr. Sewell, as presiding officer, conducted the meeting in the headquarters offices in Odessa, Texas, as duly 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

Pastor Brad Burkes introduced himself and commented on the safety and security issues in IDEA schools. He also provided some articles that were added to the board book for the board members to review. His suggestions included adding an armed security guard and additional front desk receptionist. He also briefly discussed other safety measures taken by other educational institutions.

Ashley Wheeler introduced herself and commented on the letter she requested to be sent to the Board. She further detailed the content of the letter and suggested for a partnership with the board or the chiefs to move towards a more community educational approach for all schools.

Employee and Staff Comment

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, confirmed there were no requests for employee and staff comments.

Organizational Update

The Board Chair introduced Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill as the new Superintendent. Dr. Cottrill gave some words on the work needed and the priorities for the 2022-23 year to move the organization forward. Dolores Gonzalez, Chief Program Office, presented an update on the academic data regarding testing scores. Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer, presented an update on safety and security. Pastor Brad Burkes, member of the public, provided a comment regarding this topic.

2022-23 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, and Erika Hernandez, Managing Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, presented the proposed 2022-23 annual operating and capital expenditures budget. The Board passed a motion to approve the 2022-23 annual operating and capital expenditures budget.

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

Committee Updates

Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, provided the Academic update. The Committee met on June 9, 2022 and reviewed minor required updates regarding the Texas grading policy specially in pursuit of more equitable practices, and received an update on the Pre-K renewal waiver and a look at the academic services team priorities. The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2022 at 8:30 am.

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, provided the Finance update. The Committee met on June 2 and reviewed the finance results for the month of April, the YTD variance report, the May budget amendments, the proposed June budget amendments, the child nutrition update, the corporate card report, the submitted grant applications, proposals and awards. They further reviewed the medical insurance plan, the insurance policies, the master equivalent lease, the travel exception requests, and the real estate update. The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for July 18.

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, provided the Governance update. The Committee met on June 7, 2022 and reviewed the GET Rubric and performance and compensation plan. The Committee also reviewed the board evaluation plan and determined the next steps. The Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, provided the Executive update. The Committee met on June 13, 2022 and reviewed the performance plan, the covid leave resolution, and nepotism policy requests.

The Board Chair indicated the Audit Committee did not meet this month but will meet in the month of July.

Resolution: Master Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the recommendation and the Board passed a motion to approve the resolution authorizing a \$10 million master equipment lease/purchase agreement.

Motion by: Saam Zarrabi
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Construction Projects

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the resolution to continue with appropriately bidding them out. The Board requested that in the event that the contracts come back exceeding the budget, they brought back to the Board for further review. The Board passed a motion to approve the following construction projects in one board action:

- a. IDEA Pharr Phase 3
- b. IDEA Weslaco Phase 3
- c. IDEA Yukon Phase 2
- d. IDEA Mesquite Hills Phase 2
- e. IDEA Sports Park Phase 2
- f. IDEA La Joya Phase 2

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

2012 Bond Series

This item was originally considered but is being tabled.

CapEx Project Budget Amendment

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the agenda item regarding the Angelita site, former HQ offices, for the extensive damages to the roof and the interior of the building and the Board

passed a motion to approve the CapEx project budget amendment.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Procurement Resolution for the Angelita Property

This item was table.

Resolution: Employee Medical Insurance Plan

Norma Cruz, Managing Director of Staff Benefits and Wellness, presented the agenda item for an improved and fully funded plan and the Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the employee medical insurance plan.

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

Teacher Incentive Allotment Plan

Jennifer Meer, Sr. VP of Compensation and benefits, presented the agenda item and the Board passed a motion to approve the Teacher Incentive Allotment Plan as presented.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten
Second by: Ovidio Vitas
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution/Waiver: Full Day and High-Quality Pre-K

Dolores Gonzalez, Chief Program Officer, presented the agenda item and the Board passed a motion to approve the resolution and the waiver related to the full day and high-quality pre-k program.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten
Second by: David Earl
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: Payment During Closure

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, presented the agenda item and the Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to payments during closures for IDEA Rundberg and IDEA South Flores.

Motion by: Reba C. McNair
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: COVID-19 Leave

Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer, presented the agenda item and the Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the COVID-19 leave extension for school personnel.

Motion by: Reba C. McNair
Second by: Ovidio Vitas
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) Contracted Services
 - (b) Copier Agreements
 - (c) Transportation Services
 - (d) Software Agreements
 - (e) Professional Services
 - (f) Professional Development Services
 - (g) RFP Vendor Selection
 3. Contract Ratifications
- b. Travel Policy Exceptions
- c. Nepotism Policy Exceptions
- d. May 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- e. June 7, 2022 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- f. June 9, 2022 Board Workshop Meeting Minutes

- g. April Committee Meeting Minutes
- h. May Committee Meeting Minutes
- i. Financial Statements – April 2022
- j. Budget Amendments – May 2022
- k. Proposed Budget Amendments – June 2022
- l. Insurance Policy Renewals

Motion by: Ed Rivera
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 Govt. Code 551.071 (consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal issues and matters), 551.074 (personnel) and Govt. Code 551.082 (School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint) at 11:15 AM CST.

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

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 12:40 PM CST.

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

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

Votes on Closed Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve the suggested board member, Ed Rivera, as discussed in closed session as the Board Vice Chair and Board Treasurer to fulfill the vacancy through the scheduled election cycle for the board.

Motion by: David Earl
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board passed a motion to approve the compensation recommendations for chief positions and roles as discussed in closed session. The board was briefed by legal counsel in closed session on state and federal requirements for compensation of these executives. Let the record reflect that any person(s) with any actual or potential conflict of interest have recused themselves from all discussions or deliberations and action, so that this interest board of directors can now take action. The Board also received third party comparability data on salary and total compensation provided by Mercer that the Board is relying on to support the compensation plan for the chief positions.

As a note, please know that the Chief Operating Officer position was inadvertently omitted as a clerical error in the disclosure; however, this motion is for all chiefs within IDEA Public Schools. The Board passed a motion to approve the chiefs' compensation plan including a finding that the total compensation offered is fair, reasonable, and not excessive based upon the comparability data the Board has considered appropriate and in line based on the chiefs' respective education, experience, prior salary histories, the job duties actually performed and what a typical person with similar skills experience, and job duties would earn. Motion adopting the findings as stated and part of the motion to approve the compensation as recommended by the executive committee and based on the third-party data and advise of legal counsel shared in executive session.

Motion by: David Earl
Second by: Saam Zarrabi
All in favor: All
All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board Chair apologized for the clerical error made.

Policy Recommendations

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, all recommended by committees except for item E, the Authority Over Fiscal Matters Policy. This update is clerical and administrative in nature and is update with title and roles shifted. The Board passed a motion to approve the policy recommendations items 22 e c, d and e and to implement those recommendation by the various committees as well as the grading policy and the authority over fiscal matters to be in effect for the IDEA district.

Motion by: David Earl
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, requested a clarification on the motion made. Board Member David Earl amended his motion to approve items 22 a, b, c, d, and e to implement those policies respectively.

Motion by: David Earl
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board passed a motion to approve the lease amendments to the IDEA Travis agreement as discussed.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten
Second by: Ovidio Vitas
All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board passed a motion to approve the multi-year lease agreement for the Permian Basin temporary regional office.

Motion by: David Earl
Second by: Erich Holmsten
Recused: Collin Sewell
All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 PM CST.

Motion by: Saam Zarrabi
Second by: Ovidio Vitas
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 May 20, 2022.

DocuSigned by:
Anthony Vaughan
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Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

7/28/2022

Date