



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

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

November 18, 2022

**Board Members Present:** Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Reba C. McNair, David Earl, Erich Holmsten, Michael Adams, Gary Lindgren, Theresa Barrera-Shaw

**Board Members Not Present:** Saam Zarrabi, Ovidio Vitas

**Staff, Counsel, and Consultants Present:** Joseph Hoffer, Laurie Gutierrez, Donna Lynch, Jeffrey Cottrill, Dr. David Lee, Dolores Gonzalez, Leanne Hernandez, Cody Grindle, Martin Winchester Jessica Hess, Phillip Garza, Layne Fisher, Javier Campos, Kathey Mitchell, Macy Torres, Linda Parga, Sandra Sotelo, Alejandra Loya, Kathey Mitchell, Linda Parga, Macy Torres, Fidel Ozuna, III, Ernie Cantu, Rolando Posada, Carlo Hershberger, Jessica Neyman, Andrew Clarence, Brittany Perkins, Erika Hernandez, Karla Casas, Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Monique Morgan, Fidel Ozuna, Tita Terán

**Audience Present:** None

The 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 November 18, 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**

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

### **Employee and Staff Comment**

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

### **2022-23 Independent Audit Report/Annual Financial Report**

Laura Gutierrez from Blazek & Vetterling Certified Public Accounts presented the 2022-23 Independent Audit Report/Annual Financial Report.

The Board passed a motion to approve the 2022-23 Independent Audit Report and annual finance report

with the finalization of the final report to be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

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

**Organizational Update**

Dolores Gonzalez, Chief Program Officer, presented an update on the academic data to include a highlight on the Career Technology Education, the progress to goal report card on academics and the status on each goal where the organization is behind on student persistence and achievement of earning an “A” letter grade.

**Committee Updates**

*Academic Committee*

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent of Schools, presented the Academic Committee meeting update from the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting where he informed the Committee discussed the family study survey results, the 2022-23 District Improvement Plan (DIP), and received an update on the Texas Success Initiative. The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

*Finance Committee*

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, presented the Finance Committee update where he informed the Committee reviewed the July through Sept 2022 financial statements and audit reporting timeline, the 2022 October budget amendments and proposed amendments for November 2022, the monthly corporate card report for October 2022, payment during closure for IDEA Hardy in Tarrant County, grant communications, recruitment and advancement sponsorships, working capital credit facility resolution, the banking signatory resolution, the return of the hidalgo property resolution, and the travel and purchasing policy exception requests. The Committee also received updates on the bond series, cash, real estate, and finance matters. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2022.

*Audit Committee*

Ed Rivera, Committee Chair, presented the Audit Committee update from the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting where he informed the Committee discussed the overtime audit report, internal audit plan amendment, and the monthly corporate card violations report. The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

*Governance and Real Estate Committee*

*Collin Sewell, Board Chair, announced that the Governance and the Real Estate Committees did not convene but will do so in January.*

*Executive Committee*

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, presented the Executive Committee update from the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting where he informed the Committee reviewed the residency exceptions, the 2022-23 goal attainment, and other personnel matters. December 6, 2022.

**2022-23 COVID-19 Employee Leave**

Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets, presented the 2022-23 COVID-19 Employee Leave proposal to extend the leave as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requirements have not changed. The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the 2022-23 COVID-19 Employee Leave extension.

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

**Resolution: Payment During Closure – IDEA Hardy**

Dr. Jeff Cottrill presented the resolution related to the closure of the IDEA Hardy campus in Houston, Texas due to water utility issues. The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the payment during closure of IDEA Hardy.

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

**Resolution: Hidalgo County Property**

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed resolution to return the property donated and have not built within the timeframe established. The resolution is needed to go through with the transaction. The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the property in Hidalgo County, Texas and the signature authorities required.

Motion by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
Second by: Ed Rivera  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

**Resolution: Banking Signature Authority**

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed banking signature authority request to include Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Leanne Hernandez, Carlo Hershberger, Guadalupe Hinojosa, and Jazmine Leon-Wing as a result as the treasury transition. The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the banking signature authorities.

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

**Resolution: Contract Signature Authority**

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer presented the proposed contract signature authority request as there have been some challenges with external individuals on who is authorized to sign contracts although it is established on the policy but are requesting a resolution to match the policy. Joseph Hoffer, Legal Counsel, indicated this is an alignment with the policy and a restatement of the authorities. The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the Contract Signature authority.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
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, Facilities, & Improvements
  - 2. Non-Construction
    - a) Contracted Services
    - b) Copier Agreements
    - c) Data Sharing Agreement
  - 3. Contract Ratification
  - 4. Grant Agreements
- b. Travel Policy Exceptions
- c. Purchasing Policy Exceptions
- d. Residency Policy Exceptions
- e. Sponsorship Requests – November 2022
- f. Financial Statements – July through September 2022
- g. Budget Amendments – October 2022
- h. Proposed Budget Amendments – November 2022

- i. Internal Audit Plan Amendment, 2022-23
- j. October 21, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- k. November 1, 2022 Board Workshop Meeting Minutes

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

**District-wide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings**

Jorge Chipres Castaneda presented the findings.

**Resolution: New Working Capital Credit Facility**

This item was discussed in closed session.

**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), 551.072 (Real Estate Matters), 551.074 (personnel) and Govt. Code 551.082 (School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint) at 10:25 AM CST.

Motion by: Reba Cardenas McNair  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 12:15 PM CST and announced no action occurred in Executive Session.

Motion by: Anthony Ryann Vaughan  
Second by: Ed Rivera  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Votes on Closed Session Items**

The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the New Working Capital Credit Facility as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to deny the grievance of the former employee after listening to the recommendation.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the 2021-22 Goal attainment for matriculation organizational goals as well as other finance goals as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Gary Lindgren  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve the compensation stipend related to the Chief Operating Officer.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan  
Second by: Michael Adams  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve the personnel agreement, AG, as discussed in executive session.


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

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 PM CST.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
Second by: Anthony 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 Board of Directors Meeting of IDEA Public Schools held on November 18, 2022.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

12/10/2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date