



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

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

March 24, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Reba C. McNair, David Earl, Erich Holmsten, Gary Lindgren, Michael Adams (joined at 10:08 PM CST), Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Nanette Cocero

**Board Members Not Present:** Anthony Ryan Vaughan

**Staff, Counsel, and Consultants Present:** Dr. David Lee, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Dolores Gonzalez, Leanne Hernandez, Cody Grindle, Martin Winchester, Jessica Hess, Layne Fisher, Mike Higgins, Javier Campos, Kathey Mitchell, Macy Torres, Linda Parga, Sandra Sotelo, Alejandra Loya, Ernest Cantu, Monique Morgan, Christopher Gonzalez, Stephen Parmer, Fidel Ozuna, Karla Casas, Tita Terán

**Audience Present:** David Ellis, IDEA Teacher

The meeting was called to order by the Board Vice Chair, Ed Rivera, at 9:34 AM CST.

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

Ed Rivera, Board Vice Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the Board of Directors' meeting and confirmed the quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Mr. Rivera, 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 one request for public comment had been received. Mr. David Ellis, IDEA Teacher, provided his comment related to items regarding construction and improvements, enrollment, and academics.

### **Employee and Staff Comment**

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, confirmed there were no requests for employee and staff comments, but offered the opportunity to anyone on the line to provide a comment if they wish to do so.

### **Organizational Update**

Dolores Gonzales, Chief Program Officer, introduced Christopher Gonzalez, VP of Accountability, who presented an academic update regarding areas of focus by subject matter.

Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, presented an enrollment update related to the enrollment progress to goal, the new application acquisition, the year-to-year rolling enrollment comparison and weekly

volume.

**Committee Updates**

*Academic Committee*

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent of Schools, presented the Academic Committee update from the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting where the Committee reviewed the 2023-24 Academic Calendars. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023.

*Finance Committee*

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, presented the Finance Committee update where he informed the Committee received updates and discussed the January 2023 financial statements and cash update, the February 2023 budget amendments, March 2023 proposed budget amendments, the 2023-24 advanced budget requests, the purchasing and travel policy exceptions, the Blazek and Vetterling's renewal, the 990-form, the February 2023 corporate card report, grants and contributions, the ESSER safe return and continuity of services plan, the payment during closure for the Austin region, personnel matters, the equipment line of credit extension, and the divestment sites. The next meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2023.

*Executive Committee*

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, presented the Governance Committee update from the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting where he informed the Committee discussed items in closed session. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023.

*Audit Committee*

Ed Rivera, Committee Chair, presented the Audit Committee update from the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting where he informed the Committee discussed the 2022-23 audit plan completion the consulting engagement request for student activity accounting activities, the amended 2022-23 internal audit plan amendment, the Blazek and Vetterling's renewal, the quarter 2 corporate card review report, the corporate card violations monthly reports for January 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

**Resolution: Payment During Closure**

Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, presented the proposed resolution related to the proposed hazard payment during closure for the Austin region for employees that attended work during the closure of January 30, 2023 through February 3, 2023.

The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the payment during closure for the Austin region.

Motion by: Reba C. McNair

Second by: Erich Holmsten

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) Equipment Purchases
  - 3. Contract Ratification
  - 4. Grant Agreements
  - 5. Student Agreement
- b. Travel Policy Exceptions as discussed at the Finance Committee on March 10, 2023
- c. Purchasing Policy Exceptions as discussed at the Finance Committee on March 10, 2023
- d. Financial Statements – January 2023
- e. Budget Amendments – February 2023
- f. Proposed Budget Amendments - March 2023
- g. 2023-24 Advanced Budget Requests
- h. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022-23 Internal Audit Plan Amendment Proposal (Audit Committee on March 9, 2023
- i. Blazek and Vetterling’s renewal for IDEA Annual Financial Audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (Audit Committee on March 9, 2023) (Finance Committee on March 10, 2023)
- j. Homebound Waivers
- k. Dual Credit Program
- l. 23-24 Academic Calendars
- m. ESSER Safe Return and Continuity of Services Plan for Texas
- n. March Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Collin Sewell  
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
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), 551.072 (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: Collin Sewell

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 11:49 AM CST and announced no action occurred in Executive Session.

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

**Votes on Closed Session Items**

The Board passed a motion to approve the ratification of the Midland ISD Agreement as discussed in closed session.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the Non-Expansion Amendments as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
Second by: Gary Lindgren  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution related to the equipment line of credit extension as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve the decisions related to the staffing personnel as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
Second by: Gary Lindgren  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board announced that the divestment sites in the Texas region item had been tabled.

The Board passed a motion to approve the personnel agreement discussed in closed session.

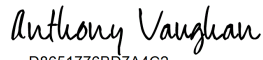
Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Reba C. McNair  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 AM CST.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
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 March 24, 2023.

DocuSigned by:  
  
D86547769C7A4C2...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

4/21/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date