



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

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

April 21, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Reba C. McNair, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Erich Holmsten, Dr. Nanette Cocero, Michael Adams, Gary Lindgren

**Board Members Not Present:** David Earl, Anthony Ryan Vaughan,

**Staff, Counsel, and Consultants Present:** Joseph Hoffer, Jeffrey Cottrill, Dr. David Lee, Dolores Gonzalez, Martin Winchester, Phillip Garza, Layne Fisher, Leanne Hernandez, Mike Higgins, Cody Grindle, Javier Campos, Alejandra Loya, Dr. Monique Morgan, Dr. Ernie Cantu, Fidel Ozuna, III, Jennifer White, Linda Parga, Kevin Branch, Jr., Raquel Sanchez, Macy Torres, Karla Casas, Kathey Mitchell, Christopher Gonzalez, Tita Teran, Jennifer Meer, Jorge Chipres Castaneda

**Audience Present:** None

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Collin Sewell, at 9:33 AM CST

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

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the April 21, 2023, 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**

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, confirmed there were no prior requests for employee and staff comments, but made an announcement if anyone on the public line would like to participate.

### **Employee and Staff Comment**

None

### **Organizational Update**

Dolores Gonzalez, Chief Program Officer and Christopher Gonzales, VP of Accountability shared an update on the academic data regarding the mock exam results. Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer, presented updates on enrollment data.

### **Committee Updates**

Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Superintendent, provided the Academic update.

The Academic Committee met Thursday, April 13th and reviewed the results of the mock exam data outcomes and presented the District Improvement Plan Formative assessment from what was in the March report. Our next academic committee will be held on Thursday, May 11th, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, provided the Finance update.

The Finance Committee met on Friday, April 14th and received a cash update and recommended the financial statements for February of 2023 in the budgetary segment of the meeting, we recommended the March 2023 budget amendments in the April 2023 proposed budget amendments regarding compliance. The items reviewed were the 990-form update and the recommended purchasing uh and travel policy exemptions. We also recommend that capital assets policy and the investment policy annual review. Additionally, we reviewed the March corporate Card report recommended a gift acceptance concerning that grant and recommended compensation items.

Ed Rivera, Committee Chair, presented the Audit update.

The Audit Committee presented the budget and position control report, which related to the internal process for position management and for budgeting personnel costs. Overall, a very clean and productive audit with only a few control issues that are positioned controller employee information systems and teams are working to resolve through their corrective plan. Additionally, the team gave an overview of the risk assessment process and timeline for completion of the project. Finally, presented was the corporate card report for the month of February 2023.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Executive update.

The executive Committee, it convened April 18th at 20 on 2023, reviewed the board evaluation process, consider residency policy exceptions and a grievance appeal. All are being considered today for board approval in the next executive Committee meeting is Tuesday, May 16th at 9:00 AM.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Governance update.

The Governance Committee met on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023. We received an update on the teacher incentive allotment plan, discussed organizational vision planning and that timeline. Recommended was the update to the public comment policy and considered recommendations for compensation items. The next Governance Committee meeting is May 2nd, 2023 at 8:30 AM.

### **District Improvement Plan**

Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Superintendent, provided a presentation on the District Improvement Plan March formative review. The Texas Education code chapter 11.252 essentially allows for evaluation of performance objectives, the strategies that are deployed to attain those goals and objectives. Have had considerable progress on many performance objectives set forth. There is still work to do and yet we are engaged in a process of planning for next year's District Improvement plan.

**Organizational Vision Planning and Timeline**

Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Superintendent, presented the Organizational Vision Planning Timeline. A process and timeline for vision work. A revising, not an overhaul.

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

**Policy Recommendations**

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, provided a brief context around each policy: Public comment policy- updates from last legislative session; Capital assets policy- better define what a capital asset is and really allow a look at \$5000 or more in value; Investment Policy Annual Review-an improved definition around required inventory for the investments policy. Public Funds Investment act, training for investment officers and then a clear definition of investment objectives moving away from the language around strategy, there's also requirement for annual review.

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

**Consent Agenda**

The Board chair read all items under the consent agenda and asked if anyone had questions or wanted to discuss further any of the items on the list. The Board did not have questions and proceeded to vote. The Board passed a motion to approve the following items under the consent agenda:

- a) Contracts
  - (1) Construction & Improvements
  - (2) Non-Construction
    - (a) Interlocal agreements **(tabled)**
    - (b) Contracted Services
    - (c) Consulting Services
    - (d) Copier Agreements
    - (e) Software services
  - (3) Contract Ratifications
- b) Travel Policy Exceptions (Finance Committee on April 14, 2023)

- c) Residency Policy Exception (Executive Committee on April 18, 2023)
- d) Financial Statements – February 2023
- e) Budget Amendments – March 2023
- f) Proposed Budget Amendments – April 2023
- g) Gift acceptance in relation to grant (Finance Committee on April 14, 2023)
- h) Corporate Card Violations Monthly Reports – February 2023 (Audit Committee on April 19, 2023)
- i) February 17, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- j) March 24, Board Meeting Minutes
- k) April 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Michael Adams  
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 grievance filed by Ms. Norma Perez. For the record, a quorum was present and able to hear the matter. Ms. Perez’s grievance consists of a complaint regarding her termination and that her complaint involves other people, which required to proceed in closed session. The Board convenes in closed session under the authority of Texas Government Code sections 551.074 and 551.082 for the purpose of hearing the employee grievance of Ms. Perez. Subsequently, the Board convene in closed session under the authority of Texas Government Code section 552.071 for the purpose of consultation with the Board’s attorney to seek advice on legal matters at 10:34 AM CST.

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
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 11:26 AM CST and announced no action occurred in Executive Session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
Second by: Ed Rivera  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Grievance Appeal**

The Board passed a motion to uphold the actions related to the grievance appeal as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Michael Adams  
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), 551.072 (Real Estate Matters), 551.074 (personnel) and Govt. Code 551.082 (School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint) at 11:28 AM CST.

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 reconvene in Open Session at 11:26 AM CST and announced no action occurred in Executive Session.

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

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings.

Motion by: Reba McNair  
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**23-24 Recognition Program Recommendations**

The Board passed a motion to approve the 23-24 Recognition Program Recommendations.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**23-24 Benefits Program**

The Board passed a motion to approve the 23-24 Benefits Program.

Motion by: Ed Rivera

Second by: Reba McNair

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**23-24 Stipends and Extra Duty**

The Board passed a motion to approve the 23-24 Stipends and Extra Duty.

Motion by: Ed Rivera

Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn**

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

Motion by: Ed Rivera

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 April 21, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

*A. Ryan Vaughan*

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Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

5/19/2023

Date