



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

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

May 17, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Ed Rivera, Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Collin Sewell, Reba C. McNair, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Dr. Nanette Cocero

**Board Members Not Present:** David Earl, Erich Holmsten, Gary Lindgren

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. David Lee, Jessica Hess, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Joe Hoffer, Jennifer White, Fidel Ozuna

**Audience Present:** None

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Collin Sewell, at 5:05 PM CST.

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

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the May 17, 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 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, Chief Governance 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. Public member Christina Gonzalez announced themselves. Jessica Hess provided Ms. Gonzalez with two minutes for comment. Ms. Gonzalez shared her comments.

### **Agenda Item Comment**

Mr. Sewell stated that the public, employees, and staff have three (3) minutes each to comment on items that are on the agenda for this meeting if they wish to do so. Jessica Hess confirmed that no prior requests to comment on a specific agenda item were made. She provided the opportunity for anyone in the meeting and in the public line, but no requests to comment were made.

### **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.

### **Organizational Vision 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 met on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, and considered a residency policy exception and nepotism policy exception. Other personnel and legal items were considered in closed session as well. All items have been recommended today for board approval. The next Executive Committee meeting is Monday, June 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Governance update.

The IDEA Governance Committee met on Wednesday, May 2, 2023, and received an update on the Annual Employee Engagement Survey Results and President/CSO search. We considered and recommended the updated Organizational Vision, the 23-24 Board Calendar, and eight policy recommendations. Additionally considered were personnel items related to the Mercer Executive Compensation Analysis concerning the Chief Schools Officer and President, and the Superintendent/CEO contract, all of which will be considered for your approval today.

**Resolution-Non-Expansion Amendment- IDEA San Juan Address Change**

Mike Higgins, In-House Counsel, provided an overview of the Resolution related to the non-expansion amendment for IDEA San Juan Academy address change, noting that this item was reviewed and recommended by the Academic Committee.

**Resolution-Investments Policy Annual Review and Investments Strategies**

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item

**Resolution-Payment during Closure-IDEA Rio Grande Valley region**

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.

**Policy Recommendations**

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.

- a. Tobacco Use and Possession policy
- b. School Safety Transfers Policy
- c. Prohibited Organizations and Hazing Policy
- d. Student Fees Policy
- e. School Sponsored Publications Policy
- f. Distribution of Non-School Literature Policy
- g. Interrogations and Searches Policy
- h. Student Conduct Alcohol and Drug Use Policy

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Ryan Vaughn

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Resolution-AP Student Incentives**

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.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Sewell called for a motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.072, Tex. Govt. Code 551.074

Personnel Matters, and Tex. Govt. Code 551.082 School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint.

**Executive Session**

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 5:07 pm CST.

**Open Session**

Mr. Sewell called for a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 6:58 pm CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**AP Student Incentives**

Mr. Sewell asked the board to consider and take action regarding the grievance presented by Mr. Williams. Ms. McNair motioned to uphold the decision.

The Board passed a motion to uphold the decision regarding grievance by M. Williams.

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

**District Wide Intruder Audit Report Findings**

Mr. Sewell asked the board to consider and take action on the nepotism policy exceptions as presented and discussed in Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to approve the nepotism policy exceptions and presented.

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

**Resolution-Non-Expansion Amendment & Organizational Chart**

Mr. Sewell asked the board to consider and take action on the nepotism policy exceptions as presented and discussed in Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to approve the nepotism policy exceptions and presented.

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

**Compensation for Chief Schools Officer and President**

Mr. Sewell called for a motion to approve the Mercer Executive Compensation Analysis in relation to the Chief Schools Officer and President roles and compensation for CSO and President. Mr. Sewell stated that the board would need to adopt the following findings:

1. The Board obtained and relied on appropriate comparability data in making its determination, specifically the Mercer Executive Compensation Analysis;
2. The total compensation package is now being approved in advance by the Board, and no individuals who had an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to the compensation arrangement participated in deliberations; and
3. The Board is herein adequately and contemporaneously documented the basis for its determination.

Mr. Sewell called for a motion that the compensation provided to the CSO and the President is fair, reasonable, and not excessive and appropriately in line with the individual's education, experience, prior salary history, the job duties actually performed, and what a typical person with similar skills, experience, and job duties would earn.

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

**Delegation Authority- Area Superintendents**

In one motion, the Board adopted the findings in relation to the Mercer Executive Compensation Analysis regarding the Chief Schools Officer and President roles and compensation as well as approved that the compensation provided to the CSO and the President is fair, reasonable, and not excessive and appropriately in line with the individual's education, experience, prior salary history, the job duties actually

performed, and what a typical person with similar skills, experience, and job duties would earn.

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

**School Security Project**

The Board approved the compensation decision for the Area Superintendent role.

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

**Legal Matters**

The grievance of T.R. was not heard in this meeting and will be rescheduled for a later meeting.

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

**Tabled Items**

No action taken on an organizational chart update as there have been no changes since the last meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Sewell stated that consent agenda item e, the Nepotism Policy Exceptions, was pulled from the consent agenda prior to any board action.

- a) Contracts
  - (1) Construction & Improvements
  - (2) Non-Construction
    - (a) Interlocal Agreements
    - (b) Cooperative Agreements
    - (c) Contracted Services
    - (d) Copier Agreements
    - (e) Software Services
    - (f) Data Sharing Agreement
    - (g) Instructional Material Services
  - (3) Contract Ratifications
  - (4) Grant agreements

- b) Travel Policy Exceptions (Finance Committee on May 12, 2023)
- c) Purchasing Policy Exceptions (Finance Committee on May 12, 2023)
- d) Residency Policy Exception (Executive Committee on May 16, 2023)
- e) ~~Nepotism Policy Exception (Executive Committee on May 16, 2023)~~ **Tabled**
- f) Low Attendance Waivers (Academic Committee on May 11, 2023)
- g) Benefits matter related to end of instructional year 22-23
- h) 23-24 Board Calendar
- i) Financial Statements – March 2023
- j) Budget Amendments – April 2023
- k) Proposed Budget Amendments – May 2023
- l) Public Funds Investment Act Report for Quarter 3
- m) April 28, 2023 Board Workshop Minutes
- n) April 21, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- o) May 8, 2023 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes
- p) May 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes

The Board passed a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
 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 7:05 PM CST.

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

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of IDEA Public Schools held on May 17, 2023.

DocuSigned by:  
  
 8733898FD090495...  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

9/6/2023  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date