



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 July 28, 2023

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

Board Members Not Present: None

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. David Lee, Jessica Hess, Leanne Hernandez, Cody Grindle, Layne Fisher, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Joe Hoffer, Jennifer White, Dr. Monique Morgan, Fidel Ozuna, Kevin Branch, Alejandra Loya, Javier Campos, Elise Gilbert

Audience Present: None

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Collin Sewell, at 8:04 AM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the July 28, 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.

Agenda Item Comment

Collin 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 for the meeting and in the public line, but no requests to comment were made.

Executive Session

Mr. Sewell called to take the agenda out of order and cover items 13, 14, 15 and 16, moving these next items to Executive Session. For the record, Mr. Sewell stated...

Today is July 28, 2023 and the time is now 8:05 A.M. The Board will now convene into closed session under the authority of Texas Government Code sections 551.082 and 551.0821 for the purpose of hearing a grievance appeal filed by the parent(s) of an IDEA Brownsville student. Following the grievance presentation, the Board may deliberate and consider the matter being appealed. While the oral presentations and deliberations will be heard in closed session, the Board will reconvene in open session to announce any decision it may reach.

Additionally, the Board will hear a grievance filed by Ms. Tiwana Robison. For the record, a quorum is present and able to hear this matter, and we are ready to proceed. However, because Ms. Robinson's grievance consists of a complaint regarding her termination and that her complaint involves other persons, we will proceed in closed

session. The Board will convene into 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. Robinson. Subsequently, the Board may 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. While the Board's attorney consultations and deliberations will be heard in closed session, the Board will reconvene in open session to vote and take action on any decision it may reach regarding this grievance.

The board will hear the grievances in closed session, but also remain in closed session for our other matters as listed on the agenda. I'm now looking for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to:

- Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters
- Tex. Govt. Code 551.072 Real Estate Matters
- Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters
- Tex. Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit
- 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. Nannette Cocero
- Second by: Erich Holmsten
- All in favor: All
- All opposed: None
- Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:08 am CST.

Open Session

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

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

Gary Lindgren left the meeting at 8:30 A.M.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:59 A.M. CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Closed Session Items

Resolution School Security

The Board approved the Resolution related to School Security.

- Motion by: Dr. Nannette Cocero
- Second by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan
- All in favor: All
- All opposed: None
- Motion passed unanimously.*

Finance-Regions Line of Credit

The Board approved the Resolution authorizing amendments to 2017 Regions Bank Taxable Revolving Loan.

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

Grievance Appeal. T.R.

The Board took No Action on the Grievance Appeal for, T.R.

Grievance Appeal. C. G.

The Board took No Action on the Grievance Appeal for, C.G.

Organizational Update

Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer shared an update on enrollment data. Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer shared an update on hiring. Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief of Schools Officer shared an update on Regional Leadership.

23-24 Goals, Methodology, and process

Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer and Elise Gilbert, VP of Talent Management shared an update on the goals, methods and processes for performance pay and goal setting. The Board passed a motion to approve the 23-24 Goals, Methodology, and processes as presented.

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

Committee Updates

Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Committee Chair, provided the Academic update.

The IDEA Academic Committee met on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, and considered the Dual Credit Program for IDEA Edgecliff College Preparatory and Tarrant County Community College. We considered and recommended various policy recommendations, which are included for your approval today. Lastly, we received a presentation on the District Improvement Plan-Summative review.

Ed Rivera, Committee Chair, provided the Audit update.

The Audit Committee met on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, and received an overview of the annual risk assessment report as prepared by the internal audit department. On behalf of the internal audit, I want to thank the board and management for participating in the interview process and making this report possible.

We discussed and recommended the 2023-2024 internal audit plan proposed by the internal audit and recommended with minor changes the internal audit charter document to keep it updated. The committee reviewed and discussed the grant monitoring reports and updated them with very informative reports on our federal grant spending and drawdown of funds. Additionally presented were the corporate card violations reports for May and June of 2023, offering an overall improvement of our corporate card process.

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, provided the Finance update.

The IDEA Finance Committee met on Thursday, July 20, 2023, and received a cash update and recommended the financial statements for May 2023. In the budgetary segment of the meeting, we recommended the July 2023 budget amendments. Regarding compliance, the items recommended were the purchasing and travel policy exceptions. We

also considered revisions to the Authority over Fiscal Matters policy.

Additionally, we discussed the June 2023 corporate card report and an update on grants and contributions. Other recommendations were the RFP Strategy for Security Personnel, the Resolution related to school security, Cobra premium reimbursement, the Resolution related to HB 1707- The Municipal Fairness Bill, and the premium pay for the payment during closure for the IDEA Rio Grande Valley region, which is presented today for your approval.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Executive update.

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, and considered a settlement agreement and consulted with legal. The next Executive Committee meeting is Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Governance update.

The IDEA Governance Committee met on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, and discussed and considered for recommendation the 23-24 Employee Handbook and the ratification of the Teacher Career Pathway Handbook. We also considered and recommended updates to the Chief Information Officer hiring plan and related compensation items, the National Board Agreement for IDEA Texas, and the updated Commitment to Leadership Program, all of which will be considered for your approval today.

HB 1707- The Municipal Fairness Bill

Leanne Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Resolution on HB 1707- The Municipal Fairness Bill. The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolution on HB 1707- The Municipal Fairness Bill.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Payment during closure premium pay: IDEA Rio Grande Valley region

Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer, presented the Resolution related to the premium pay for payment during closure for the IDEA Rio Grande Valley region.

The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolution related to the premium pay for payment during closure for the IDEA Rio Grande Valley region.

Motion by: Dr. Nannette Cocero

Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Recommendations

The Board approved in one board action the policy recommendations.

- a. Naloxone Policy
- b. Dual Credit Policy
- c. Wellness Policy
- d. Meal Charge Policy
- e. Parent and Student Grievance Policy

- f. Employee Complaints & Grievances Policy
- g. Authority over Fiscal Matters policy

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

23-24 Employee Handbook

Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer provided a presentation on the revisions and policy updates included in the 23-24 Employee Handbook.

Consent Agenda

Collin Sewell stated that consent agenda item *K, Internal Audit Budget*, was pulled from the consent agenda prior to any board action.

- a) Contracts
 - (1) Construction & Improvements
 - (2) Non-Construction
 - (a) Interlocal Agreements
 - (b) Contracted Services
 - (c) Software Services
 - (d) Copier Agreements
 - (e) Uniforms
 - (3) Contract Ratifications
 - (4) Cobra Premium Reimbursement
 - (5) Personnel Agreement – N.O.
- b) Travel Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, July 20, 2023)
- c) Purchasing Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, July 20, 2023)
- d) July 2023 Budget Amendments (Finance Committee, July 20, 2023)
- e) May Financial Statements (Finance Committee, July 20, 2023)
- f) Dual Credit Program for IDEA Edgecliff College Preparatory and Tarrant County Community College (Academic Committee, July 18, 2023)
- g) Teacher Career Pathway Handbook (Governance Committee, July 11, 2023)
- h) National Board Agreement IDEA Texas (Governance Committee, July 11, 2023)
- i) Commitment to Leadership Program (Governance Committee, July 11, 2023)
- j) 23-24 Internal Audit Plan (Audit Committee, July 25, 2023)
- k) ~~Internal Audit Budget (Audit Committee, July 25, 2023)~~ - **pulled for this meeting**
- l) Internal Audit Charter (Audit Committee, July 25, 2023)
- m) May 17, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- n) June 16, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- o) July Board Workshop and Committee Meeting Minutes

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

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

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 AM CST.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

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 July 28, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

A. Ryan Vaughan

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Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

8/31/2023

Date