



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

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

January 20, 2023

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

**Board Members Not Present:** Erich Holmsten

**Staff, Counsel, and Consultants Present:** Joseph Hoffer, Dr. David Lee, Jeffrey Cottrill, Dolores Gonzalez, Leanne Hernandez, Cody Grindle, Martin Winchester Jessica Hess, Layne Fisher, Kathey Mitchell, Macy Torres, Linda Parga, Sandra Sotelo, Alejandra Loya, Kathey Mitchell, Linda Parga, Macy Torres, Jill Dominguez, Ernest Cantu, Rolando Posada, Carlo Hershberger, Jennifer Meer, Brittany Perkins, Andrew Clarence, Erika Hernandez, Christopher Gonzalez, Marco Carbajal, Stephen Parmer, Massie Ritsch, Yadhira Flores, Efren Montenegro, Peter Lopez, Daniel Garza, Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Cielo Cruz, Yasmin Vazquez, Karla Casas, Jonathan Gallegos, Fidel Ozuna, Kevin Branch, Tita Terán, Iliana Gomez

**Audience Present:** Parent Maribel Leos, Parent Maira Hernandez, Parent Cynthia Lopez  
 View Student Sign In Sheet attached

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

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

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the 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**

Mr. Sewell, Board Chair, addressed the public comment policy for members of the public who wish to participate. Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, confirmed that requests were received for public comments, and provided instructions on how the dynamics would happen.

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent of Schools, addressed matters of public concern relating to changes to College Signing Day changes. He further indicated that the College Signing Day was not cancelled and talked about the reasoning for the changes to reimagine the event to be more personalized approach.

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, let members of the public know the importance of using the microphone in order for all board members, in person and virtually present, to be able to

hear their comments. She then indicated that she would be calling the names of the people that had signed on to provide comments one-by-one and reminded them that they had a total of three minutes to provide their comments.

Maribel Leos, IDEA Parent, provided a public comment related to Special Education funding and how her son has benefited from Special Olympics. She urged the Board to continue sponsoring kids in the RISE unit and not to cut that budget.

Public Comments related to College Signing Day were given by Gianna Rhodes, Colleen Gross, Brianna Hernandez, Lindsey Alvarez, Katelyn Davila, Javed Montes, Maira Hernandez, (IDEA Parent), Frida Gonzalez, Ashley Olvera, Tom Torkelson, Sophia Perez, Santana Manuel Casas Garcia, Cynthia Lopez (IDEA Parent), Lincoln Torkelson, Nicanor Garza, Cynthia Perez, Alvaro Vazquez, Laura Salinas

Mr. Sewell, Board Chair, thanked everyone for their comment and indicated the Board welcomed all comments related to the topic.

#### **Employee and Staff Comment**

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

#### **Break**

The Board returned from recess at 10:57 AM CST and announced no action took place while on recess. Dr. Cottrill indicated he met with students during the break and made reassurances that he would be following up with them. He once again commended the students for their comments.

#### **Organizational Update**

Mr. Sewell, Board Chair, indicated they would be presenting the Organizational Update but tabling the enrollment part of it. Dolores Gonzales, Chief Program Officer, and Christopher Gonzalez, VP of Accountability, presented an academic update regarding semester exam data.

A pause was made related to members of the public having additional concerns related to College Signing Day. Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent of Schools, requested that some members of the public conduct themselves in an orderly manner and asked them to allow the Board to continue with their course of business for the meeting.

A clarification was made by Mr. Sewell, Board Chair, indicating that they will not be taking any action on that related matter due to it not being part of today's agenda. Mr. David Earl, Board Member, also made comments related to his understanding of the facts to include that he looked forward to reviewing the Superintendents recommendations after he had met with students and parents related to College Signing Day.

Mr. Joseph Hoffer, Legal Adviser, confirmed that the Board is not legally allowed to take any action on items that are not listed under the meeting's agenda.

Mr. Sewell, Board Chair, moved the meeting along and thanked administrative members and staff for their hard work. He also mentioned they would be tabling Committee updates were available in the board binders.

**Committee Updates**

*Committee updates were tabled.*

**Non-Expansion Amendment**

Jessica Hess, Chief Administrative and Compliance Officer, presented the proposed changes to the organization chart. Advancement to Chief Information Officer; advocacy team to administrative services, marketing and creative services to Chief Operating Officer.

The Board passed a motion to approve the of the non-expansion amendment request and resolution related to the organizational chart.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Ed Rivera  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

A pause was made by Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, to redirect members of the public to move their posters that were obstructing the camera view required as part of the meeting. Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent of Schools, assisted with this matter.

**Policy Updates**

Jessica Hess, Sr. Chief of Staff and Administrative Officer, presented the proposed revisions to the Authority Over Fiscal Matters to update Chief Officer titles as well as to include the requirement of board approval for Area Assistant Superintendent compensation. Board passed a motion to approve the following policy updates:

a. Authority Over Fiscal Matters

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
Second by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan  
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) Non-Disclosure Agreement
  3. Contract Ratification
- b. Travel Policy Exceptions as discussed at the Finance Committee on January 13, 2023
- c. Residency Policy Exceptions as discussed at the Executive Committee on January 17, 2023
- d. Sponsorships
- e. Public Funds Investments Act Report for Quarter 1
- f. Financial Statements – October and November 2022
- g. Budget Amendments – December 2022
- h. Proposed Budget Amendments- January 2023
- i. December 9, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- j. January Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Gary Lindgren

All in favor: All

All opposed None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

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

Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Director of Safety and Security, presented a quick review of four campuses that were audited. Collin Sewell, Board Chair, requested this item to be further 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), 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit and Govt. Code 551.082 (School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint) at 11:30 AM CST.

Motion by: David Earl

Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

All in favor: All

All opposed None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 1:53 PM CST and announced no action occurred in Executive Session.

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

**Votes on Closed Session Items**

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

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
Second by: David Earl  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve the 2023-24 programmatic updates changes as discussed in closed session.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the items related to 2023-24 financial planning and budgeting items as discussed in closed session.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the 2023-24 teacher pay scales as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Reba C. McNair  
Second by: David Earl

All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Sewell, Board Chair, added that the Board has been briefed by legal counsel in closed session on federal and state requirements for compensation of executives. He indicated he would like the record to show that any person with any actual or potential conflict of interest has recused themselves from all discussions or deliberations and action, so that a disinterested board of directors can take action. He also added the Board also received third-party comparability data on salary and total compensation provided by Mercer that the Board is relied on to support the compensation plan for the Chief position.

The Board passed a motion to approve the Chief Operating Officer (COO) compensation including a finding that the total compensation offered is fair, reasonable and not excessive based on the comparability data the board has considered and appropriate and in line based on the chiefs' respective education, experience, prior salary histories, the job duties performed, and what a typical person with similar skills, experience and job duties would earn for the COO for the 2022-23 school year as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Ovidio Vitas  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve Mercer compensation recommendations for the APO and General Counsel compensation plans as discussed in closed session.

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

The Board passed a motion to ratify the action on the release of claims for D.A. discussed in closed session.

Motion by: David Earl  
Second by: Ed Rivera  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn**

In closing, Mr. Sewell, Board Chair, thanked and congratulated the Board as it is officially School Board Recognition month.

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 PM CST.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

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 January 20, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

*A. Ryan Vaughan*

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Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

8/31/2023

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Date



# Student Log In

DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	VISITOR NAME	SCHOOL NAME	STUDENT ID #	PURPOSE FOR VISIT
12/18/2022	9:18		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	Board Mtng
1-20-23	9:19		[REDACTED]	IDEA TOROS	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting
1-20-23	9:20		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
01/20/23	9:20		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting
01/20/23	9:21		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
01/20/23	9:22		[REDACTED]	IDEA Weslaco	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
01/20/23	9:22		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/20/23	9:23		[REDACTED]	IDEA SB	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/20/23	9:24		[REDACTED]	IDEA Frontier	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/20/23	9:24		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Juan	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1-20-23	9:26		[REDACTED]	IDEA Edinburg	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1-20/23	9:27		[REDACTED]	IDEA [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1-20/23	9:30		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1-20/23	9:53		[REDACTED]	IDEA Edinburg	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
			[REDACTED]			

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[illegible]



# Student Log In

DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	VISITOR NAME	SCHOOL NAME	STUDENT ID #	PURPOSE FOR VISIT
1/20/23	9:18		[REDACTED]	IDEA Mission	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting
1/21/23	9:19		[REDACTED]	Idea Mission	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/21/23	9:19		[REDACTED]	Idea McAllen	[REDACTED]	board meeting
1/21/23	9:19		[REDACTED]	Idea McAllen	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/21/23	9:19		[REDACTED]	Idea Toros	[REDACTED]	BSM
1/21/23	9:22		[REDACTED]	Idea Weslaco	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/21/23	9:22		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/21/23	9:23		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting
1/21/23	9:24		[REDACTED]	IDEA Frontier	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/21/23	9:25		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Juan	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/21/23	9:26		[REDACTED]	IDEA Edinburg	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/21/23	9:31		[REDACTED]	Idea mcallen	[REDACTED]	board meeting

# Student Log In

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# Student Log In

DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	VISITOR NAME	SCHOOL NAME	STUDENT ID #	PURPOSE FOR VISIT
1/20/23	9:18		[REDACTED]	Idea San Benito	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:19		[REDACTED]	Idea Frontier	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:20		[REDACTED]	Idea Quest	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:20		[REDACTED]	Idea McAllen	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:20		[REDACTED]	Idea Torres	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:20		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:22		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:23		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:23		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:24		[REDACTED]	IDEA Frontier	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:25		[REDACTED]	IDEA SAN JUAN	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:26		[REDACTED]	IDEA Edinburg	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20/23	9:24		[REDACTED]	Idea McAllen	[REDACTED]	CSD

# Student Log In

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# Student Log In

DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	VISITOR NAME	SCHOOL NAME	STUDENT ID #	PURPOSE FOR VISIT
1/20	9:18		[REDACTED]	IDEA Weslaco	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting
1/20	9:19		[REDACTED]	IDEA Frontier	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting
1/20	9:20		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting
1/20	9:20		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	BOARD MEETING
1/20	9:21		[REDACTED]	IDEA Weslaco	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/20	9:23		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/20	9:22		[REDACTED]	Idea San Benito	[REDACTED]	board meeting
1/20	9:23		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	board meeting
1/20	9:22		[REDACTED]	IDEA Quest	[REDACTED]	BOARD MEETING
1/20	9:24		[REDACTED]	IDEA Frontier	[REDACTED]	CSD
1/20	9:26		[REDACTED]	IDEA Edinburg	[REDACTED]	Board meeting
1/20	9:27		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	Board Meeting



# Student Log In

DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	VISITOR NAME	SCHOOL NAME	STUDENT ID #	PURPOSE FOR VISIT
	9:20		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:20		[REDACTED]	IDEA TOROS	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:21		[REDACTED]	Idea Westlaco	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:21		[REDACTED]	Idea North Mission	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:22		[REDACTED]	idea Westlaco	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:22		[REDACTED]	Idea San Benito	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:23		[REDACTED]	Idea San Benito	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:24		[REDACTED]	IDEA Frontier	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:25		[REDACTED]	IDEA SAN JUAN	[REDACTED]	CSD.
	9:26		[REDACTED]	IDEA Edinburg	[REDACTED]	CSD.
			[REDACTED]	IDEA Mcallen	[REDACTED]	CSD
			[REDACTED]	Idea Mcallen	[REDACTED]	CSD



# Student Log In

DATE	TIME IN	TIME OUT	VISITOR NAME	SCHOOL NAME	STUDENT ID #	PURPOSE FOR VISIT
	9:20		[REDACTED]	Idea Mcallen	[REDACTED]	
	9:21		[REDACTED]	Idea McAllen	[REDACTED]	
	9:21		[REDACTED]	Idea San benito	[REDACTED]	
	9:21		[REDACTED]	Idea San Benito	[REDACTED]	
	9:22		[REDACTED]	Idea westaco	[REDACTED]	
	9:22		[REDACTED]	IDEA SAN BENITO	[REDACTED]	
	9:23		[REDACTED]	IDEA San Benito	[REDACTED]	
	9:23		[REDACTED]	Idea Quest	[REDACTED]	
	9:24		[REDACTED]	Idea Frontier	[REDACTED]	
	9:25		[REDACTED]	Idea San Juan	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:26		[REDACTED]	IDEA Edinburg	[REDACTED]	CSD
	9:27		[REDACTED]	IDEA McAllen	[REDACTED]	

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