



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2023

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

Board Members Not Present: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. David Lee, Jessica Hess, Cody Grindle, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Joe Hoffer, Jennifer White, Dr. Monique Morgan, Fidel Ozuna, Matin Winchester, Sandra Sotelo, Karla Casas, Kathey Mitchell, Adriana Gonzales, Christopher Gonzales, Daniel Garza, Jacklyn Verdin, Ben Bracher, Linda Parga, Macy Tores, Marlon Shears, Osvaldo Santiago-Ramos, Raquel Sanchez, Yasmine Vasquez, James Dworkin, Stephen Parmer

Audience Present: Dave Hendricks

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Collin Sewell, at 9:21 AM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the September 29, 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.

General Comment

Jennifer White, Managing Director of Governance and Policy 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. Jennifer White 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.

Board Recognition

Collin Sewell, Board Chair and Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, CEO/Superintendent, shared a presentation in recognition of Reba C. McNair's service as a member of the board of directors and her retirement.

Introduction of Chief Information Officer

Cody Grindle, President formally introduced Marlon Shears to the board as the new Chief Information Officer

Organizational Update

Cody Grindle, President and Christopher Gonzales, VP of Accountability, shared an academic update. Osvaldo Santiago-Ramos, VP of Enrollment and Launch Operations, shared an update on enrollment data.

Committee Updates

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, CEO/Superintendent, provided the Academics update.

The IDEA Academic Committee met on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, and discussed the Reading Academies Completion update and State testing updates. The committee recommended the Business plan and Charter Expansion Amendment resolution, the local accountability next steps, a virtual homebound request for a student at IDEA San Juan, and policy recommendations pertaining to the Graduation Policy, Medical treatment policy, the Administering of Medication policy, and the Accommodations for Transgender Students policy. The recommendations are included in this meeting's materials for approval today. The next IDEA Academic Committee is Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, provided the Finance update.

The IDEA Finance Committee met on Friday, September 22, 2023, and reviewed a cash update and recommended the financial statements for August 2023. The budgetary items recommended were the FY 2023 final budget amendments, the August 2023 budget amendments, and the September 2023 proposed budget amendments. Other items recommended were the travel policy exceptions, the CTSO AmEx request and subsequent corporate card exception policy, the IDEA Round Rock Tech Water Line Easement Resolution, the IDEA Rundberg TXDoT Counteroffer, the Bank Signature Authority Resolution, and resolutions on revolving lines of credit. Other discussions included the August 2023 corporate card report, an update on grants and contributions, the Audit update, an update on facilities and construction committee composition, and the real estate divesture update. The next IDEA Finance Committee meeting is Friday, October 20, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Governance update.

The IDEA Governance Committee met on September 12, 2023 and reviewed the 23-24 Organizational Goal setting process. The committee recommended the organization chart update, salary setting policy, the CEO/Superintendent evaluation, and the Board elections and committee assignments. All of these items are being presented today for your consideration. Our next scheduled governance committee meeting is November 7, 2023 at 9:30 am.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Executive update.

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, September 21, 2023, and considered a residency policy exemption, the residency policy and consulted with legal. The next Executive Committee meeting is Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

23-24 Organizational Goal Setting Process update

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, CEO/Superintendent provided an update to the board on the 23-24 Organizational Goal Setting process.

Non-expansion amendment and resolution related to organizational chart update

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, CEO/Superintendent, presented the non-expansion amendment and resolution related to organizational chart update. The Board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment and resolution related to organizational chart update.

Motion by: Reba C. McNair

Second by: Ed Rivera

Abstain: Michael Adams

All in favor: All

Motion passed unanimously.

Bank Signature Authority Resolution

Stephen Parmer, VP of Financial Planning and Treasury presented the Bank Signature Authority Resolution which provided an updated list of individuals authorized to sign on behalf of the organization. The Board passed a motion to approve the Bank Signature Authority Resolution.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten
Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

IDEA Rundberg TXDoT Counteroffer

Daniel Garza, VP of Facilities & Construction presented the resolution related to the IDEA Rundberg TXDoT Counteroffer to acquire approximately 10' of additional ROW from IDEA along the I-35 frontage at the Rundberg campus. The Board passed a motion to approve the IDEA Rundberg TXDoT Counteroffer.

Motion by: Michael Adams
Second by: Gary Lindgren
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

IDEA Round Rock Tech Water Line Easement Resolution

Daniel Garza, VP of Facilities & Construction presented the resolution related to the IDEA Round Rock Tech Water Line Easement Resolution in which the city of Round Rock requires that all public water lines be in easements. The Board passed a motion to approve the IDEA Round Rock Tech Water Line Easement Resolution.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
Second by: Michael Adams
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution-Regions Commercial Equipment Finance, LLC as Master Debt for Working Capital Needs

Stephen Parmer, VP of VP of Financial Planning and Treasury presented the Resolution Authorizing a Taxable Revolving Line of Credit from Regions Commercial Equipment Finance, LLC as Master Debt for Working Capital Needs. The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing a Taxable Revolving Line of Credit from Regions Commercial Equipment Finance, LLC as Master Debt for Working Capital Needs.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren
Second by: Reba C. McNair
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution-Regions Commercial Equipment Finance, LLC as Master Debt for Capital Need

Stephen Parmer, VP of VP of Financial Planning and Treasury presented the Resolution Authorizing a Taxable Revolving Line of Credit from Regions Commercial Equipment Finance, LLC as Master Debt for Capital Need. The Board passed a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing a Taxable Revolving Line of Credit from Regions Commercial Equipment Finance, LLC as Master Debt for Capital Need.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Recommendations

The Board approved in one board action the policy recommendations.

- a. Salary Setting policy
- b. Residency Policy
- c. Graduation Policy
- d. Medical treatment policy
- e. Administering Medication policy
- f. Accommodations for Transgender Students policy

Motion by: Erich Holmsten
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Sewell took the agenda out of order and 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, Tex. Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit, 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. Nannette Cocero
Second by: Reba C. McNair
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:25 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: Reba C. McNair
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:42 A.M. CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Motion by: Reba C. McNair
Second by: Dr. Nannette Cocero
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Collin Sewell, Board Chair read all items under the consent agenda and asked if Board Members had questions or wanted to discuss further any of the items on the list. The Board did not have questions and proceeded to vote.

- a) Contracts
 - (1) Construction & Improvements
 - (2) Non-Construction
 - (a) Contracted Services
 - (b) Software Services
 - (c) Professional Development
 - (d) Interlocal Agreements
 - (e) Cooperative Agreements
 - (3) Grant Agreements
 - (4) Contract Ratifications
 - (5) Personnel agreement, N.R.
- b) Travel Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, September 22, 2023)
- c) FY 2023 final budget amendments (Finance Committee, September 22, 2023)
- d) August 2023 Budget Amendments (Finance Committee, September 22, 2023)
- e) September 2023 Proposed Budget amendments (Finance Committee, September 22, 2023)
- f) August 2023 Financial Statements (Finance Committee, September 22, 2023)
- g) CTSO AmEx request and subsequent corporate card exception policy (Finance Committee, September 22, 2023)
- h) Local accountability next steps (Academic Committee, September 19, 2023)
- i) Virtual homebound request (Academic Committee, September 19, 2023)
- j) Residency policy exemption, G.F. (Executive Committee, September 21, 2023)
- k) August 25, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- l) September Committee Meeting Minutes

The Board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Eric Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Votes on Closed Session Items
CEO/Superintendent evaluation

The Board did not have any discussion on the CEO/Superintendent evaluation. The board approved a motion to defer the item.

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

23-24 EOP approval

The Board did not have any discussion on the 23-24 EOP approval. The board approved a motion to defer the item.

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

Business plan and Charter Expansion Amendments

The Board approved the Resolution for approval of Business plan and Charter Expansion Amendments.

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

Personnel agreement, J.N.

The Board approved the personnel agreement, J.N.

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

Board Officer election

The Board approved the following candidates for Board Officers: Board Chair, Collin Sewell; Vice-Chair, Ed Rivera; Treasurer, Eric Holmsten; Secretary, Ryan Vaughan.

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

The board also approved a motion for Theresa Barrera-Shaw to a new term beyond her first year of service.

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

Committee Assignments

The Board approved the following Committee Assignments and Staff Co-Chair for Committees:
Executive Committee: Chair-Collin Sewell and staff Chairperson-Dr. Jeff Cottrill
Governance Committee: Chair-Collin Sewell and staff Chairpersons- Dr. Jeff Cottrill and Jessica Hess
Academic Committee: Chair-Dr. Nanette Cocero and staff Chairpersons- Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Dr. Ernie Cantu*
Finance Committee: Chair-Erich Holmsten and staff Chairpersons Dr. Jeff Cottrill, CFO, Cody Grindle*
Audit Committee: Chair Ed Rivera and staff Chairpersons Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Javier Campos

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

Personnel agreement, J.N.

The Board approved the personnel agreement, J.N.

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

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 AM CST.

Motion by: Reba C. McNair
Second by: Eric Holmsten
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 September 29, 2023.

DocuSigned by:
A. Ryan Vaughan
8733898FD696495...

Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

10/27/2023

Date