



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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
December 1, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten, Gary Lindgren, Dr. Nanette Cocero, Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Michael Adams

**Board Members Not Present:** Theresa Barrera-Shaw

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. David Lee, Cody Grindle, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Joe Hoffer, Jennifer White, Dr. Monique Morgan, Fidel Ozuna, Sandra Sotelo, Karla Casas, Kathey Mitchell, Daniel Garza, Jacklyn Verdin, Ben Bracher, Linda Parga, Macy Tores, Raquel Sanchez, Yasmine Vasquez, James Dworkin, Stephen Parmer, Tanika Issac, Javier Campos, Layne Fisher, Dolores Gonzales, Meagan Arenas-Goosen, Kevin Branch, Elizabeth Valades, Alejandra Loya, Marlon Shears, Antonio Guevara

**Audience Present:** None

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Collin Sewell, at 9:34 AM CST.

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the December 1, 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. No one was present on the public line.

**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.

**Public Hearing: Charter FIRST**

James Dworkin, Interim-Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2022-23 Charter FIRST rating and the Financial Management report.

### **Committee Updates**

Dr. Nanette Cocero, Chair, provided the Academic update.

The IDEA Academic Committee met on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, and received presentations on the 22-23 State Accountability Update, Class of 22-23 Matriculation and the District Improvement Plan-October formative review. The next IDEA Academic Committee is Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Committee member, provided the Finance update.

The IDEA Finance Committee met on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, and received a cash update and variance report. We recommended the October 2023 financial statements, the October 2023 budget amendments, the November 2023 proposed budget amendments, the College Signing Day funding, and the ATX Solar Photovoltaics Proposal. Regarding compliance, the items recommended were the travel and purchasing policy exceptions. We discussed the 2022-23 Charter First rating and financial management report, the October 2023 corporate card report, and received a treasury update. Additional discussions included an update on real estate. The next IDEA Finance Committee meeting is Friday, January 19, 2024.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Governance update.

The IDEA Governance Committee met on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 and reviewed the 22-23 Goal Attainment and TX SB 693-Seat Belt requirements. Our next scheduled Governance Committee meeting is January 9, 2024 at 8:30 am.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Executive update.

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, and considered settlement agreements. The next Executive Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

### **College Signing Day 2024 funding**

Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer presented the College Signing Day funding for 2024. The Board passed a motion to approve the College Signing Day funding for 2024.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Gary Lindgren

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

### **ATX Solar Photovoltaics Proposal**

Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer provided an option to enter into a customer service agreement to secure a rate and due diligence for the ATX Solar Photovoltaics Proposal. The Board passed a motion to approve entering into a customer service agreement to secure a rate and due diligence for the ATX Solar Photovoltaics Proposal.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Annual Governance Forms**

Jennifer White, Managing Director, presented the request to approve the ratification of the annual governance forms. The Board passed a motion to ratify the annual governance form submission.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

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 decided to pull item 4 from the consent agenda to discuss in closed session and proceeded to vote.

- a) Contracts
  - (1) Construction & Improvements
  - (2) Non-Construction
    - (a) Contracted Services
    - (b) Software Services
    - (c) Interlocal Agreements
  - (3) Contract Ratifications
  - (4) Student Settlement agreements-**PULLED**
  - (5) Settlement agreement-US Dept of Education
- b) Purchasing Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, November 17, 2023)
- c) Travel Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, November 17, 2023)
- d) October 2023 Budget Amendments (Finance Committee, November 17, 2023)
- e) November 2023 Proposed Budget amendments (Finance Committee, November 17, 2023)
- f) October 2023 Financial Statements (Finance Committee, November 17, 2023)
- g) Ratification of Safety and Security Committee meeting minutes-July and August 2023
- h) TX SB 693 Seat Belt requirements
- i) October 27, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes
- j) November Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Gary Lindgren

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Organizational Update**

Dolores Gonzales, Chief Program Officer, provided and Academic update. Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief of

Schools, shared an update on persistence data.

**Executive Session**

Collin Sewell, Board Chair took the agenda out of order referring to item 10 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: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Gary Lindgren

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:31 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: Ed Rivera

Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:00 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**Votes on Closed Session Items**

**Retention Stipend**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Retention Stipend as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Ed Rivera

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Student Settlement Agreements**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Student Settlement Agreements.

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 11:02 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 December 1, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

*A. Ryan Vaughan*

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Anthony Ryan Vaughan, Board Secretary

1/30/2024

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Date