



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

**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
January 26, 2024

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

**Board Members Not Present:** None

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. David Lee, Cody Grindle, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Joe Hoffer, Jessica Hess, Jennifer White, Dr. Monique Morgan, Fidel Ozuna, Sandra Sotelo, Karla Casas, Kathey Mitchell, Jacklyn Verdin, Ben Bracher, Linda Parga, Macy Tores, Raquel Sanchez, Yasmine Vasquez, James Dworkin, Stephen Parmer, Tanika Issac, Javier Campos, Layne Fisher, Christopher Gonzales, Meagan Arenas-Goosen, Elizabeth Valades, Alejandra Loya, Genevieve Cheng, Andrea Fernandez, Jenessa Smith, Jennifer Meer

**Audience Present:** None

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Collin Sewell, at 9:27 AM CST.

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the January 26, 2024, 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 Weslaco, 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. Guest was present on the public line but did not submit a request to make comment for this meeting.

**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 Appreciation Month**

Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Superintendent & CEO, provided remarks in celebration of Board Appreciation Month and appreciation for Board Secretary Anthony Ryan Vaughan on his resignation from the IDEA Board.

### **Organizational Updates**

Dr. Jeff Cottrill, Superintendent & CEO, provided a presentation on quarterly update: progress towards organizational goals, Christopher Gonzales, VP of Accountability, provided the Academic update, and Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief of Schools, shared an update on persistence data.

### **Committee Updates**

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

The IDEA Academic Committee met on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 and considered the dual credit program for P-TECH campuses and amending HB3 Performance Objectives for 3rd Reading & Math Metrics. Other items reviewed were the semester exam results, the 22-23 state accountability results, and the District Improvement Plan (DIP) January Formative Review. The next IDEA Academic Committee is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

Ed Rivera, Committee member, provided the Audit update.

The IDEA Audit Committee met on Tuesday, January 18, 2024, and received updates such as the Federal Programs Audit Corrective Audit Plan, the Procurement Audit Corrective Audit Plan, the Whistleblower and Investigations 1st Semester update, and the November and December 2023 Corporate Card Violations Reports. The next Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2024, at 10:30 am.

Erich Holmsten, Committee member, provided the Finance update.

The IDEA Finance Committee met on Friday, January 19, 2024 and recommended the November and December 2023 financial statements, the November 2023 budget amendments, the January 2024 proposed budget amendments, the Resolution Amending TEXPOOL Authorized Representatives, and the Resolution of Permanent School Fund (PSF). We reviewed the cash update and variance report. For compliance, recommended were the travel and purchasing policy exceptions. Additionally discussed were the November and December 2023 corporate card reports and the real estate update. The next IDEA Finance Committee meeting is Friday, February 16, 2024.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Governance update.

The Governance Committee met on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 and considered the ratification of the Teacher Career Pathway handbook, the 24-25 pay scales, the 24-25 Financial Planning and Budget pre-approval request, and the clerical updates to goal maximum and impacted goal metrics for ADA. Other items covered were the Texas goal ratings from TEA and goal payout. The next Governance Committee meeting is Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Executive update.

The Executive Committee met on Friday, January 19, 2024 and discussed the 24-25 Pay Scale follow-up, CFO Compensation, Non-Expansion Amendment and Real Estate Acquisition. The next Executive Committee meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

### **Amending HB3 Performance Objectives for 3rd Reading & Math Metrics**

Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer presented provided a presentation on amending HB3 Performance Objectives for 3rd Reading & Math Metrics. The Board passed a motion to approve the amending HB3 Performance Objectives for 3rd Reading & Math Metrics.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Ed Rivera

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Resolution of Permanent School Fund (PSF)**

Stephen Parmer, VP of Financial Planning and Treasury provided a presentation on the Resolution of Permanent School Fund (PSF). The Board passed a motion to approve Resolution of Permanent School Fund (PSF).

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Theresa Barrea-Shaw

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 made no decision to pull any items.

- a) Contracts
  - (1) Construction & Improvements
  - (2) Non-Construction
    - (a) Contracted Services
    - (b) Professional Development Services
    - (c) Software Services
  - (3) Contract Ratifications
- b) Purchasing Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, January 19, 2024)
- c) Travel Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, January 19, 2024)
- d) November 2023 Budget Amendments (Finance Committee, January 19, 2024)
- e) January 2024 Proposed Budget amendments (Finance Committee, January 19, 2024)
- f) November 2023 Financial Statements (Finance Committee, January 19, 2024)
- g) December 2023 Financial Statements (Finance Committee, January 19, 2024)
- h) Resolution Amending TEXPOOL Authorized Representatives (Finance Committee, January 19, 2024)
- i) Clerical update to 23-24 goal maximum and impacted goal metrics for ADA (Governance Committee, January 9, 2024)
- j) Ratification of Teacher Career Pathway Handbook (Governance Committee, January 9, 2024)
- k) Dual credit program P-TECH campuses (Academic Committee, January 16, 2024)
- l) Ratification of October Safety and Security Committee meeting minutes
- m) December 1, 2023 Board Workshop & Meeting Minutes
- n) December 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes
- o) January 2024 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.*

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:14 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: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 1:42 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**Votes on Closed Session Items**

**IDEA Frontier Academy 2022-23 Persistence Goal Appeal**

The Board passed a motion to approve the IDEA Frontier Academy 2022-23 Persistence Goal Appeal as discussed in closed session.

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

**24-25 pay scales**

The Board passed a motion to approve the 24-25 pay scales as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Ed Rivera

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**24-25 Budget pre-approval requests**

The Board passed a motion to approve the 24-25 Budget pre-approval requests as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Chief Financial Officer Compensation**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Chief Financial Officer Compensation as discussed in closed session, but for the record stated: 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 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.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Non-expansion amendment**

The Board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment related to grade level configuration as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan

Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Regulatory matters**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Regulatory matters as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
Second by: Anthony Ryan Vaughan  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Real estate and Charter amendment**

The Board passed a motion to approve the negotiation of real estate acquisition and financing, filing of corresponding expansion amendments, and related business plan as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
Second by: Ed Rivera  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Encroachment Agreement**

The Board passed a motion to approve the Encroachment Agreement as discussed in closed session.

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

**HR Matter**

The Board passed a motion to approve the HR Matter as discussed in closed session.

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

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 PM CST.

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
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 January 26, 2024.

DocuSigned by:  
*Ed Rivera*  
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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

3/22/2024

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Date