



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2024

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

Board Members Not Present: None

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Alejandra Loya, Christopher Gonzalez, Cody Grindle, Dolores Gonzalez, Dr. David Lee, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Fidel Ozuna III, Javier Campos, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Jenessa Smith, Jennifer Meer, Jennifer White, Jessica Hess, Joe Hoffer, Karla Casas, Kathey Mitchell, Layne Fisher, Linda Parga, Macy Torres, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Nick Vander Meer, Philip Garza, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Marlon Shears, Andrea Fernandez, Armando Perez, Marlon Shears, Genevieve Cheng, Stephen Parmer

Audience Present: None

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Collin Sewell, at 8:33 AM CST. Collin

Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten, and Dr. Nanette Cocero were in attendance at call to order.

Theresa Barrera Shaw joins at 8:34am CST, Michael Adams joins at 8:36am CST, Collin Sewell left at 9:55am CST, Collin Sewell returned at 9:57am CST, Gary Lindgren joins at 10:03am CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, welcomed the Board Members to the February 23, 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 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.

Organizational Update

Dolores Gonzales, Chief Program Officer, provided and Academic update. Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, provided a Matriculation update. Layne Fisher, Chief Operations Officer, provided an update on Lottery and Enrollment. Megan Arenas-Goosen, Managing Director- Authorizer Strategy, provided an update on the Charter School Performance Framework (CSPF).

Annual Employee Engagement Survey Results Update

Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer, reviewed the recent employee engagement survey results with Board Members. Board Members discussed the results and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Committee Updates

Ed Rivera, Chair, provided the Audit update.

At this month's Audit Committee on February 13, the committee received regular updates regarding our grant compliance reporting and corporate card violations. We also reviewed the employee separations audit and the amendment to the audit plan, both which appear on our consent agenda today for the full board's consideration. I continue to be proud of our internal audit function and commend the cross-collaboration and accountability with other areas in IDEA management for the presentation of audit reports and most importantly, our commitment to improvement. We are scheduling an audit committee for March 8, 2024 to ensure we continue to review critical items of compliance.

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, provided the Finance update.

The IDEA finance committee met on February 16th. We reviewed January financial statements, budget amendments for January and February, a budget pre-approval request related to compensation initiatives. We also received an update on cash and the corporate card. We were presented with several sponsorship requests and recommended one of those to the board via consent agenda today, in addition to exceptions to the travel and purchasing policy. We reviewed the resolution for payment during closure related to inclement weather. We reviewed a gift acceptance policy, but that item will be recommended to return at a later date by management. Moreover, there were reviews of real estate and our bond plans.

Collin Sewell, Board Chair, presented the Executive update.

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. The committee received an update regarding IDEA Robinson as well as considered and recommended for board approval several expansion amendments as well as one non-expansion amendment. The next Executive Committee meeting is Tuesday, March 18, 2024, at 4:00pm CST.

24-25 Budget Pre-Approval Request

Jennifer Meer, Sr. Vice President of Compensation and Benefits, presented the pre-approval budget request for 24-25. The Board passed a motion to approve the budget pre-approval request for 24-25 as presented.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Series 2024 Bonds of Texas

Board Chair Sewell noted that the Board would receive an update on this item from Stephen Parmer, VP of Financial Planning and Treasury, in anticipation of action on a corresponding Borrower’s Resolution at the March meeting. Board Chair Sewell explained that while the agenda notes the Board will consider and approve, the Board will not approve. He explained that since the Board will receive an update, following the presentation, the Board will need to defer action until March, rather than approve the item. Mr. Parmer presented the item for discussion only. The Board voted to defer action on the Series 2024 Bonds of Texas item.

Motion by: Michael Adams

Second by: Gary Lindgren

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

IDEA Robinson Update

Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer provided a presentation to the Board regarding high school changes at IDEA Robinson. No action was taken on this item.

Board officer election, role of Secretary

Board Chair Sewell explained that the regular Board Meeting in January was the last meeting for Ryan Vaughan. Since Ryan had been in the role of secretary, Board Chair Sewell documented an interim action to name Ed Rivera the Secretary, in addition to the role he holds as Vice Chair. Board Chair Sewell recommended that Ed is appointed to the secretary role by the Board today through our Board Annual Elections in September. The Board motioned to approve Ed Rivera as Board Secretary from February 23, 2024 to Board Annual Elections in September.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Gary Lindgren

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 any items. At the request of management, Board Chair pulled item h, item l, and item n from the consent agenda to discuss and consider action.

Approve Consent Agenda

a) Contracts

(1) Construction & Improvements

- (a) Sewer Easement
- (2) Non-Construction
 - (a) Contracted Services
 - (b) Professional Development Services
 - (c) Software Services
 - (d) Technology Services
 - (e) Equipment
- (3) Contract Ratifications
 - b) Purchasing Policy exceptions (Finance Committee, February 16, 2024)
 - c) Travel Policy exceptions (Finance Committee February 16, 2024)
 - d) January 2024 Budget Amendments (Finance Committee, February 16, 2024)
 - e) February 2024 Proposed Budget amendments (Finance Committee, February 16, 2024)
 - f) January 2024 Financial Statements (Finance Committee, February 16, 2024)
 - g) Sponsorship event (Finance Committee, February 16, 2024)
 - h) ~~Revised Gift Acceptance policy (Finance Committee, February 16, 2024)~~ **pulled**
 - i) Resolution related to payment during closure for IDEA Texas campuses (Finance Committee, February 16, 2024)
 - j) 2023-24 2nd Audit Plan Amendment (Audit Committee, February 13, 2024)
 - k) Employee Separations Report (Audit Committee, February 13, 2024)
 - l) ~~24-25 Academic Calendars~~ **pulled**
 - m) Attendance Waiver Request
 - n) ~~January 26, 2024 Board Workshop & Meeting Minutes~~ **pulled**
 - o) February 2024 Committee Meeting Minutes

The Board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda in one action, with the exception of the pulled items; item h, item l, and item n.

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

Consent Agenda Item H: Revised Gifts Acceptance Policy

The Board motioned to defer action on Consent Agenda Item H: Revised Gifts Acceptance Policy.

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

Consent Agenda Item N: January 26, 2024 Board Workshop & Meeting Minutes:

The Board motioned to defer action on Consent Agenda Item N: January 26, 2024 Board Workshop and Meeting Minutes.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Item M: Revision of 24-25 Academic Calendars:

The Board motioned to approve Consent Agenda item M as provided in Board Packet with an adjustment so that the 24-25 Academic Calendar for the Houston region reflect moving Spring Break up one week, changing Spring Break from 3/17-3/21 to 3/10-3/14.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

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 11 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 11:06 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: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:55 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Closed Session Items

TEA Waiver related to expansion amendment, enrollment

The Board passed a motion to approve the TEA Waiver related to expansion amendment, enrollment as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Non-Expansion Amendment for organizational chart update

The Board passed a motion to approve the Non-Expansion Amendment for organizational chart update as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

Second by: Gary Lindgren

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Business Plan and Expansion Amendment related to Permian Basin IV

The Board passed a motion to approve the Business Plan and Expansion Amendment related to Permian Basin IV as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Ed Rivera

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Ratification of expansion amendment and real estate, southern Dallas

The Board passed a motion to ratify the expansion amendment and real estate, southern Dallas as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren

Second by: Michael Adams

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 AM CST.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten

Second by: Michael Adams


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 February 23, 2024.

DocuSigned by:


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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

3/22/2024

Date