



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

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

May 31, 2024

**Board Members Present:** Collin Sewell, Gary Lindgren, Constanza Miner, Dr. Nanette Cocero

**Board Members Not Present:** Ed Rivera, Theresa Barrera-Shaw

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Jess Hess, Jennifer White, Martin Winchester, Kathleen Zimmermann, Ernesto Cantu, Layne Fisher, Dolores Gonzalez, Phillip Garza, Marlon Shears, Keith Cantrelle, Jacklyn Verdin, Genevieve Cheng, Mike Higgins, Felida Villarreal, Raquel Sanchez, Macy Torres, Sandra Sotelo, Javier Campos, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Joseph Audino, James Dworkin, Joe Hoffer, Tanika Isaac, Paige Mcginty, Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Rick Lopez, Ben Bracher, David Brasher, Karla Casas, Jonathan Gallegos, Elizabeth Valades.

**Audience Present:** Paula Garcia, left at 8:39 AM CST

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

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

Board Chair Collin Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the May 31, 2024, Board of Directors' meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Board Chair Sewell, as presiding officer, conducted the meeting 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**

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, confirmed there was a prior request from Dr. Paula Gama Garcia. Dr. Paula Gama Garcia, an IDEA parent, shared comments on her concerns regarding teacher turnover, playground additions, lack of resources for extracurricular activities, and overall unmet expectations.

### **Agenda Item Comment**

Board Chair 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. Ms. Hess 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.

### **Grievance Hearing**

Board Chair Sewell proposed to take the agenda out of order, so that Agenda Item 16: Consider grievance appeal of A.Z. could be heard at the top of the meeting. Board Chair Sewell stated that given the nature of the item and pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, and Tex. Govt. Code 551.082 School Children, School

District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint, proposed a motion to move into Executive Session.

The board passed a motion to move into Executive Session

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:40 AM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:28 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to uphold the decision by management regarding the grievance.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Constanza Miner  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Organizational Update**

Dr. Ernesto, Chief Schools Officer, provided an Academic Update on Texas Test Results. Dr. Cantu continued by sharing a Persistence and Registration Update.

Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, shared a presentation on IDEA's Mission Statement.

Cody Grindle, President, shared a Board Giving Update, congratulating Board Members on their contributions.

**Campus Name Change**

Board Chair Sewell reviewed the Name Change Agenda item. The board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment and resolution regarding name change to campuses

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
Second by: Constanza Miner

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

### **Financial Updates**

Kathleen Zimmermann, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2024-2025 ESSA & IDEA-B applications to federal funds. Board Chair Sewell provided an opportunity for public comment regarding the agenda item 2024-25 ESSA and IDEA-B applications, but no comments were made.

Continuing with the Financial Updates, the board received a 2024-2025 advanced budget request presentation from Kathleen Zimmermann. The advanced request related to transportation.

The board passed a motion to approve the 24-25 advanced budget request related to transportation as presented.

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

### **Committee Updates**

Javier Campos, Staff Chair, provided the Audit Committee Update.

The IDEA Audit Committee met on Tuesday May 14, 2024. The committee received reports regarding Annual Risk Assessment, Child Nutrition Program, Grants Compliance Monitoring, Corporate Card Violations, and Human Resource Records Audit follow up results. The Audit Committee recommended for approval via consent agenda the third amendment to the internal audit plan.

Dr. Nanette Cocero, provided the Academic Committee Update.

The IDEA Academic Committee met on Tuesday May 21, 2024. Lisa Cortez provided information on low attendance waivers, which the committee recommended for approval via consent agenda. Additionally, Jennifer White shared the overview of the 24-25 student handbook that will come to the board in June, and highlighted policies that were recommended for approval as standalone policies. The committee completed an annual review of the grading, wellness, and meal charge policy which are recommended for approval via the consent agenda.

Collin Sewell, provided the Governance, Finance, and Executive Committee Updates.

The Governance Committee met on Tuesday May 14. The committee received reports regarding 24-25 Goal Setting Process, Staff Development Cycle, and the proposed meeting calendar for 24-25. The committee conferred with legal counsel regarding pending matters and personnel, including the recruitment of a potential bard candidate as discussed in closed session.

The Finance Committee met on Friday, May 24. The committee received various reports from members of the management team regarding April 2024 Financial statements, a cash update, a variance report, proposed May 2024 budget amendments, the 24-25 budget adoption timeline, April 2024 corporate card report, and

travel policy exceptions, as well as recommended authorization of minimum sale prices for reviewed properties, which will be reviewed by the full board later in this meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on June 21st, 2024.

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, May 28. The committee received an update regarding a non-expansion amendment for updates to the organizational chart. The Committee conferred with legal counsel regarding pending matters and personnel, including the 1882 partnership and action on payroll administrative fees, which the committee have recommended for the board to consider in today's meeting. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on June 26th, 2024.

**Consent Agenda**

The Board passed a motion to approve Consent Agenda in one board action.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Intruder Detection & Exterior Door Audit**

Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Director of Safety and Security, shared a presentation on Intruder Detection and Exterior Door Audit.

**Executive Session**

Board Chair Sewell called for a motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and or Security Audit, Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.072 Real Estate Matters (Purchase, lease, or sale of real property), and Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters.

**Executive Session**

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
Second by: Constanza Miner  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:15 AM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 12:27 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to approve the minimum sale price for each of the reviewed properties as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Constanza Miner  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to bus matter as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Constanza Miner  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

No Board action is necessary on agenda item 12 Mercer Compensation Analysis.

The Board passed a motion to approve action and corresponding resolution as discussed in Executive Session regarding Tyler System payroll error, authorizing payment of fees and other related matters for impacted personnel.

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

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 PM CST.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
Second by: Constanza Miner  
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 Meeting of IDEA Public Schools held on May 31, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

*Ed Rivera*

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

6/28/2024

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Date