



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2024

Board Members Present: Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Gary Lindgren, Theresa Barrera-Shaw.

Board Members Not Present: Dr. Nanette Cocero, Michael Adams. Erich Holmsten.

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Jennifer White, Jessica Hess, Cody Grindle, Michael Higgins, Joe Hoffer, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Alejandra Loya, Dolores Gonzalez, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Fidel Ozuna III, Jacklyn Verdin, Javier Campos, Karla Casas, Kathey Mitchell, Linda Parga, Martin Winchester, Jennifer Meer, Phillip Garza, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Stephen Parmer, Tanika Isaac, Elizabeth Valades, Jorge Chipres, Marlon Shears, Janet Robertson, Nick Vander Meer, Megan Arenas-Goossen.

Audience Present: WFFA Dallas, (317) 432-4469, Liz George

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Board Chair Collin Sewell at 8:37am CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Collin Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the March 22, 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 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

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, confirmed there were no prior requests for employee and staff comments. Three members were present on the public line.

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.

TAPR Public Hearing and Workshop

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, CEO & Superintendent, presented the TAPR Hearing and Workshop. Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, presented the Annual report requirements and district accreditation status. Stephen

Parmer, VP of Financial Planning & Treasury, presented the financial standard report. Dr. Ernie Cantu, Chief Schools Officer, presented the academic performance report. Dolores Gonzalez, Chief Program Officer, presented the 2022-23 TAPR highlights and organization rating. Dr. Cantu presented the student and staff demographics related to the standard academic model. Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, presented the Higher Ed Coordinating Board Report. Dr. Cantu presented the Campus Improvement Plans (CIP) and continued by presenting the House Bill (HB) 3 goal update assisted by Phillip Garza, who presented the college, career and military readiness (CCMR). Lastly, Dr. Cantu presented the report on violent and criminal incidents to include the discipline reporting and the safe and supportive schools' program (SSSP) reporting, the school violence prevention.

24-25 Budget Pre-Approval Requests

The Board received an update from Jennifer Meer, Senior Vice-President- Compensation and Benefits regarding HQ Compensation Investments and Stipends for 24-25 school Year. Additionally, Stephen Parmer, Vice President of Financial Planning and Treasury, provided an update regarding other general pre-approval requests. The Board passed a motion to approve the Budget Requests as presented.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Gary Lindgren
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Updates

Ed Rivera, Chair, provided the Governance Committee Update. The Governance Committee met on March 19, 2024 and reviewed the disaggregated data from the Annual Employee Engagement Survey as a next step from the February board meeting. The Committee also reviewed and recommended expansion and modifications to the Teacher Incentive Allotment plan, as presented for approval in consent agenda today. Moreover, the committee recommended the 24-25 benefits program and 24-25 budget pre-approval requests including: HQ compensation investments, stipends and extra duty requests, and 24-25 operating and general expenses. The committee also recommended a new board member and updates to committee assignments which will be reviewed in Executive Session today.

Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Committee Chair, provided the Academic Committee Update. The Academic Committee met on Tuesday, March 19. The Committee received an update on the District Improvement Plan – March Formative Review from various members. We also reviewed and recommended updates to our grading policy and student handbook sections related to grading necessary to accommodate specificities at our 1882 partnership site of IDEA Travis. It was great to meet our recently named Executive Director, Dr. Aaron Fong when he presented that information.

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, provided the Executive Committee Update. The Executive Committee met on Wednesday, March 20. The Committee received an update and recommended the ATX Solar Project and associated contracts. The committee also received an update on the approach to successfully launching IDEA in Southern Dallas. As well as confirmed with legal counsel concerning legal matters and personnel, including a recommended legal settlement agreement.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by: Gary Lindgren

Second by: Ed Rivera

All in favor: All

All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Board Chair Sewell 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 Real Estate Matters, 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: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

All in favor: All

All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:25am CST.

Open Session

Board Chair Sewell called for a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera

Second by: Gary Lindgren

All in favor: All

All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:31am CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Closed Session Items

New Board Member

The Board passed a motion to approve the new board member, C. Miner, as discussed in closed session. C. Miner's membership begins at her first board meeting.

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

Board Committee Membership

The Board passed a motion to approve the updated committee membership as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Gary Lindgren
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

Southern Dallas Expansion

The Board passed a motion to take action to ratify and approve documents to be executed and delivered in connection with the Southern Dallas expansion and A.W. Brown Leadership Academy real estate acquisition, financing, personal property acquisition and other matters related to the transaction including, without limitation, an Acquisition Agreement, a Purchase and Sale Agreement, approve the Financing, a Bill of Sale and any and all other certificates, agreements, contracts, instruments and documents necessary to effectuate the transaction, and authorize Superintendent/CEO to sign on behalf of IDEA Public Schools

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

Non-Expansion Amendments related to IDEA Charter with TEA

The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution and non-expansion amendments related to IDEA's charter with TEA.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
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 11:34am PM CST.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren
Second by: Ed Rivera
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 March 22, 2024.

Signed by:

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

8/23/2024

Date