



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

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

June 28, 2024

**Board Members Present:** Collin Sewell, Constanza Miner, Erich Holmsten, Gary Lindgren, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Ed Rivera.

*Ed Rivera joins at 8:56 am CST*

**Board Members Not Present:** Dr. Nanette Cocero

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Jessica Hess, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Martin Winchester, Dolores Gonzalez, Phillip Garza, Layne Fisher, Kathleen Zimmermann, Colleen Stearns, Jennifer White, Mike Higgins, Jenessa Smith, Felida Villarreal, Christopher Gonzalez, Megan Goosen, James Dworkin, David Brasher, Alec Macaulay, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Joffrey Clark, Joe Hoffer, Denise Gonzalez, Joseph Audino, Kathey Mitchell, Macy Torres, Maya Martin, Sandra Sotelo, Erika Hernandez, Fidel Ozuna III.

**Audience Present:** Massimo Licandro, Angie Arismendi, (214) 916-7472, (972) 341-7296.

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Board Chair Collin Sewell 8:34 AM CST.

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

Board Chair Collin Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the June 28, 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 Massimo Licandro. Mr. Licandro expressed his concerns on teacher retention, and the student expulsion process.

### **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.

### **TEA Conservator Report**

Dr. David Lee, Conservator, presented the TEA Conservator Report. This report included feedback on the governance aspect of the organization.

**Organizational Update**

Dolores Gonzalez, Chief Program Officer, provided an Academic Update on Preliminary 2024-2025 STAAR and End of Year Results. Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, continued by sharing a Persistence and Registration Update. Megan Goossen, Managing Director of Authorizer Strategy, continued with the Charter School Performance Framework (CSPF) Update.

**IDEA's Mission Statement**

Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, presented the previous prototypes and a recommendation for the mission statement to the Board. The Board passed a motion to approve IDEA's mission statement, "IDEA transforms education by preparing graduates to succeed in college and life."

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

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Financial Updates**

**24-25 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget**

Kathleen Zimmermann, Chief Financial Officer, with the support of Erika Hernandez, Managing Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, presented the 24-25 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget.

The board passed a motion to approve and adopt the 24-25 Annual Operating and Capital Expenditures Budget as presented.

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

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**HB 1707 and IDEA AW Brown**

Joe Hoffer from SHLA continued the Financial Updates by providing a review of HB 1707 and IDEA AW Brown.

The board passed a motion to approve a resolution required by HB 1707 related to the IDEA AW Brown Property as presented.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Ed Rivera  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

### **Insurance Renewal**

The next item under Financial Updates, included a presentation related to the Insurance Program Renewal for 24-25. Board Chair Sewell stated that he would like to take the agenda out of order, and move the Insurance Renewal item. The Insurance Renewal item was moved after review of the Consent Agenda.

### **Committee Updates**

Erich Holmsten provided the Finance Committee Update.

The Finance Committee met on Friday June 21, 2024. The Finance Committee received several routine reports including reports covering May 2024 Financial Statements, cash on hand, federal programs funding updates, a variance report, and corporate card reports for May 2024. The Committee reviewed the proposed 24-25 budget, that was recommended for approval. Additionally, the committee recommended multiple requests for an exception to the travel policy, including a request associated with travel to the Texas Public Charter Schools Association conference in October. The Finance Committee also reviewed the proposed Insurance Program for 24-25 as well as the HB 1707 resolution related to IDEA AW Brown property, which will be considered by the full board later in this meeting.

Collin Sewell provided the Executive Committee Update.

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. The Committee received a presentation regarding the updates to the Teacher Career Pathway Handbook for 24-25 and recommended those updates for board approval at this meeting. The Committee received a presentation on the 24-25 IDEA Employee Handbook. The Committee provided recommendations and revisions for management to make ahead of this board meeting. These have been implemented by management and included in your board packets for this meeting. Based on the recommendations and requested revisions, the committee did ask that the employee handbook be pulled from the consent agenda and reviewed and discussed by the full board prior to any action. The Committee entered into Executive Session to consider a settlement agreement and consult with legal counsel regarding an engagement letter with Gravely PC. Both the settlement agreement and the engagement letter are on today's agenda for action.

### **Consent Agenda Amendments**

Chair Sewell proposed that the 24-25 IDEA Handbook be pulled from consent and heard as a separate item for the board to consider. Chair Sewell also proposed to have items 9-a-2-c Contracts and Grants Agreements pulled from the consent agenda. The board passed a motion to remove items 9p and 9-a-2-c from Consent Agenda and consider them as separate actions.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

### **2024-2025 Texas Employee Handbook Updates**

Felida Villarreal, VP of Human Resources, shared a presentation on the Employee Handbook updates. The board passed a motion to approve the 24-25 Employee Handbook as presented.

Motion by: Connie Miner  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Grant Agreements**

Dolores Gonzalez presented the Camp Rio grant from the Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation. Cody Grindle, President, shared the 50CAN agreement a renewal program that provides services to the students. The board passed a motion to approve the Camp Rio Grant and 50CAN grant agreements as presented. Other grant agreements were not reviewed or discussed, and no additional action was taken.

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

**Consent Agenda**

The board passed a motion to approve the remaining items from the consent agenda in one board action.

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

**Insurance Program Renewal**

Joffrey Clark, Insurance Broker, presented the program changes from the Insurance Program Renewal.

**Executive Session**

Board Chair Sewell called for a motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.072 Real Estate matters, 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 10:47 AM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Gary Lindgren  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:29 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**Votes on Executive Session Items**

The Board passed a motion to approve the 24-25 Insurance Program Renewal as presented and discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
Second by: Constanza Miner  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board passed a motion to approve the Gravely PC Engagement Letter as presented and discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 AM CST.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
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 June 28, 2024.

Signed by:

*Ed Rivera*

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

8/23/2024

Date