



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2024

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

Theresa Barrera-Shaw joined at 8:34 am CST.

Board Members Not Present: None

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Jessica Hess, Jennifer White, Dolores Gonzalez, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Kathleen Zimmermann, Martin Winchester, Marlon Shears, Alejandra Loya, Phillip Garza, Layne Fisher, Mike Higgins, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Colleen Stearns, Erika Hernandez, Jacklyn Verdin, Kaitlin McDermott, Kelly Andrews, David Brasher, James Dworkin, Javier Campos, Alec Macaulay, Joseph Audino, Kathey Mitchell, Raquel Sanchez, Tanika Isaac, Lawrence Galloway, Linda Parga, Nick Vander Meer, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present:

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Board Chair Collin Sewell 8:32 AM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Collin Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the July 26, 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 were no prior requests.

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 and Christopher Ruszkowski, Conservators, presented the TEA Conservator Report. This report included feedback on the governance aspect of the organization.

Organizational Update

The next item on the agenda was the Organizational Updates. The presentation began with Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, on the 100% Matriculation Update and goal. Next, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, presented the 2n2 Literacy and CSI Updates. Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, presented the current enrollment process and projections. Next, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer, shared the current and projected student persistence. Lastly, Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer, presented hiring for the first day of school, and staff recruitment.

District Improvement Plan Summative Review

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, CEO and Superintendent, introduced the 2023-2024 District Improvement Plan Summative Review as the next item on the agenda. The presentation continued with Martin Winchester sharing an update on the performance objective and strategies related to staff retention. The District Improvement Plan presentation continued with Phillip Garza sharing and update on the DIP College Scorecard, and the 24-25 proposal of performance objectives and strategies for college access. Next, Dr. Cantu shared the A Rating and student persistence performance objectives data and summary evaluation. Lastly, Layne Fisher, presented the daily attendance performance objectives and summary evaluation.

Committee Updates

Erich Holmsten, provided the Finance Committee Update.

The Finance Committee met on Friday July 19, 2024. The Finance Committee received various updates including reports on the preliminary June 2024 financial statements, a variance report, and a corporate card report. The Committee was asked to recommend for approval the financial statements, budget amendments, and revision to the authority over fiscal matters policy. This revision was adding correct titles for the policy that reflect the newly hired Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer. The financial statements, budget amendments, and revised policy are on the consent agenda. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on August 15, 2024.

Ed Rivera, provided the Audit Committee Update.

The Audit Committee met on Thursday July 18, 2024. The Audit Committee received various reports including the presentation of the Risk Assessment Report, the 24-25 Internal Audit Plan, and the 24-25 Internal Audit Budget, all of which were recommended for approval on today's consent agenda. The Committee also received an update regarding Grant Monitoring and no action was needed on this item. The next, Audit Committee Meeting will be held on August 6, 2024.

Collin Sewell, provided the Executive Committee Update.

The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, June 23, 2024. The Executive Committee reviewed with legal counsel contract updates with Midland ISD related to the 1882 partnership, questions related to our board self-evaluation, and received an update about the district needs assessment and the board's role. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on August 20, 2024.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

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 on pending legal matters). Board Chair Sewell, then after considering the remaining items slated on the agenda asked for a motion to continue in Executive Session pursuant to 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: Erich Holmsten
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
All in favor: All
All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:50 AM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:18 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Calendar Housekeeping

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, shared with the Board several updates relating to the calendar conflicts identified with the board calendar. The Board will receive a proposal for the board change date in next month's meeting.

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 AM CST.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
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 Meeting of IDEA Public Schools held on July 26, 2024.

Signed by:

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary
8/23/2024

Date