



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

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

August 23, 2024

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

*Theresa Barrera-Shaw left at 11:50 am CST and rejoined the meeting at 11:54 am CST.*

**Board Members Not Present:** Connie Miner.

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Jessica Hess, Jennifer White, Dolores Gonzalez, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Phillip Garza, Layne Fisher, Kathleen Zimmermann, Martin Winchester, Marlon Shears, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Mike Higgins, Jenessa Smith, Genevieve Cheng, Alejandra Loya, Keith Cantrelle, Kaitlin McDermott, Kelly Andrews, Joe Hoffer, Christopher Ruszkowski, Dr. David Lee, Megan Goossen, Felida Villarreal, Lawrence Galloway, Adam Miller, Christina Porter, Christopher Gonzalez, Erika Hernandez, Jaime Herrero, Kathey Mitchell, Linda Parga, Raquel Sanchez, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

**Audience Present:** Gerardo Olivas joined the public line at 9:02 am CST.

The meeting was called to order by presiding officer, Board Secretary Ed Rivera 8:33 AM CST.

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

Board Secretary Ed Rivera welcomed the Board Members to the August 23, 2024, Board of Directors' meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Board Secretary Rivera, 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 Secretary Rivera 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.

### **IT Matters and Payroll Issue**

Board Secretary Rivera proposed to take the agenda out of order and into Executive Session, pursuant to Govt. Code 551.071 (consultation with legal counsel on pending legal matters), Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, and Tex. Govt. Code 551.089 Information Technology Network Security Matters Tex.

The board passed a motion to move into Executive Session

Motion by: Collin Sewell  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:35 AM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Collin Sewell  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:23 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to IT matters as discussed in closed session, as advised by counsel.

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

The Board passed a motion for a board resolution authorizing employee pay due to IT outage as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren  
Second by: Collin Sewell  
All in favor: All  
All opposed: None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**TEA Conservator Report**

Dr. David Lee and Christopher Ruszkowski, Conservators, presented the TEA Conservator Report. This report contained preliminary findings from section two of the Texas Needs Assessment and feedback.

**24-25 District Improvement Plan Public Hearing**

Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, introduced the 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan Summative Review. The presentation continued with Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, sharing an update on the DIP College Scorecard, and the 24-25 proposal of performance objectives and strategies for college access. Next, Dr. Collen Sterns, Chief Academic Officer, shared the A Rating and student persistence performance objectives data and summary evaluation. The student persistence goals were presented by Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer. Layne Fisher presented the daily attendance performance objectives and summary evaluation. Lastly, Martin Winchester shared an update on the performance objective and strategies related to staff retention. The Board passed a motion to approve the 24-25 District Improvement Plan.

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

**2025-2029 House Bill 3 Goals**

Dr. Ernesto Cantu presented recommendations for the 25-29 HB3 Goals for reading and math to the Board. Philip Garza presented the Previous HB3 Performance in terms of College, Career, and Military Readiness. The Board passed a motion to approve the 2025-2029 House Bill 3 goals as presented.

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

**Organizational Update**

The next agenda item included Organizational Updates, which were presented by various staff members. First, Dr. Cottrill shared that state accountability ratings will be released until September 16th, but until then, the 23-24 Accountability update will be shared with data gathered by IDEA. Christopher Gonzalez, Senior Vice President of Accountability, shared the letter grade components, ELA and Math scores, letter grade estimates, and priority schools. Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, presented the next update on the current enrollment process and projections for the Texas regions. The last update was presented by Megan Goossen, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, this presentation included the TEA Charter Renewal Overview Process.

**Committee Updates**

Dr. Nanette Cocero provided the Academic Committee Update

The Academic Committee met on August 13, 2024. During the meeting, the committee received presentations related to the District Improvement Plan and the HB 3 goals, which were presented previously in our board meeting today. The feedback provided by the committee was incorporated into the presentation for the full board. The committee also reviewed data related to Texas State Accountability Results as well. No action was taken in this meeting. The next academic meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024.

Collin Sewell provided the Executive Committee Update.

The Executive Committee met on August 20, 2024. The committee reviewed and discussed revisions to the IDEA Board of Directors calendar to accommodate for board participation in the TPCSA Conference in October and College Signing Day in April. The committee also received a presentation regarding proposed adjustments to the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) goal and provided feedback. The Executive committee and the full board will receive a presentation and consider for approval all goals in September. The committee discussed a non-expansion amendment related to the IDEA Mission Statement that the board previously voted to approve, recommended the ratification of the 1882 Partnership Agreement with Midland ISD, and discussed recommended next steps corresponding to personnel agreements. These items are on the consent agenda for this meeting which will be discussed later. All other items reviewed by the Executive Committee are slated for later in the agenda for today's meeting for the full board to consider. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2024.

Ed Rivera shared the Finance and Audit Committee Updates.

The Audit Committee met on August 6, 2024. The committee received presentations, reviewed reports and held discussions regarding the TEA Risk Assessment Audit, Grant Risk Assessment, Student Persistence, Discipline and Discipline Equity reports. No action was taken at the committee meeting. The next meeting will be held on September 10, 2024.

The Finance Committee met on August 16, 2024. The committee reviewed and discussed updated preliminary financial statements, cash update, and variance report. The committee also considered and recommended for board approval the Public Funds Investment Act report for Quarter 4 of 23-24, purchasing policy exception requests, budget amendments for August, and payment during closure for July 8-10 for the Greater Houston region impacted by Hurricane Beryl. The items recommended have been added to the consent agenda to be approved later in today's meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

Presiding Officer, Ed Rivera, shared with the board that no grant agreements were presented this month, and suggested the item be pulled from the consent agenda. Dr. Nanette Cocero then asked about the construction contracts on the consent agenda, Layne Fisher addressed the questions. The board passed a motion to approve the consent agenda in one board action.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Executive Session**

Board Secretary, Ed Rivera, 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 Secretary Rivera, 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 into Executive Session.

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

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

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 12:23 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

**Action Items**

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to the Legislator's Govt. Code 552.008 Request for Confidential Information as discussed in closed session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren

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

The Board passed a motion to approve next steps related to A-F Accountability ratings and related district litigation as discussed in closed session.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to minimum sales prices and disposition of property as discussed in closed session.


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

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 PM CST.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
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 August 23, 2024.

Signed by:  
  
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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary  
  
9/27/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date