



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

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

October 23, 2024

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

Gary Lindgren left at 3:34 PM

**Board Members Not Present:** None

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Jessica Hess, Jennifer White, Genevieve Cheng, Marlon Shears, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Martin Winchester, Phillip Garza, Mike Higgins, Kathleen Zimmermann, Dr. David Lee, Alejandra Loya, Joe Hoffer, Colleen Stearns, Ana Padron, Elizabeth Alvarado, Jacklyn Verdin, Javier Campos, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Kaitlin McDermott, Fidel Ozuna III, Stephen Kerr, Elizabeth Valades.

**Audience Present:** Bionca, Jerri Love, Kiarann, Desiree Correa, Kiabet1993, lyndacox72, mprz22, Rolando Rivera, Victoria Sanchez, ABarrera, Christina Merced, Jamzin Garcia, Veronica Noris, Erin Mansur.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Sewell at 8:34am CST.

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

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the October 23, 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 Rolando Rivera. Mr. Rivera expressed his concern about the hiring 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 and Christopher Ruszkowski, Conservators, presented the TEA Conservator Report. This report consisted of several key areas of operations. No action was taken.

### **Organizational Update**

Alejandra Loya, Senior Chief of Staff to Superintendent, introduced the 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan Formative Review. The presentation continued with Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, sharing an update on student college matriculation and the 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 strategies. The student persistence goals and strategies were presented by Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer. Layne Fisher presented the daily attendance performance objectives and strategies. 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.

Next, the Board received an update on K-16 Academics. Dr. Ernesto Cantu began the presentation with the Current Student Persistence data, and the 24-25 current reflections and persistence priorities. Dr. Colleen Stearns continued by sharing the Unit Exam STAAR Data and the 24-25 Q1 reflections and Q2 priorities.

### **Charter Renewal Update**

Megan Goossen, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, shared an update on the Charter Renewal Application, the expedited application timeline, and next steps. No action was taken on this item.

### **Committee Updates**

Ed Rivera, Committee Chair, shared the Audit Committee Update.

The Audit Committee was held on October 8, 2024. The committee received updates related to Federal Grants Compliance monitoring, corporate card violations report for August 2024, high-risk federal programs, and an average daily audit report. No action was taken at this meeting. The next committee meeting will be held on November 5, 2024

Dr. Nanette Cocero, Committee Chair, shared the Academic Committee Update.

The Academic Committee met on October 17, 2024. The committee received a presentation related to the 24-25 District Improvement Plan formative review as well as an update regarding K-2 literacy readiness. The Committee provided feedback on the information which management incorporated into their presentation for the full board that was received earlier. The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2024.

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, provided the Finance

The Finance Committee met on October 18, 2024. The committee received a financial report including statements for August 2024, a cash update, and a budget variance report. The committee considered the proposed budget amendments for October 2024 and recommended those for board approval. The financial statements and the budget amendments are on the consent agenda for today's meeting. The committee reviewed and recommended purchasing policy exception requests, also noted for approval via the consent

agenda. Sponsorship requests for December were reviewed, as well as updates to the banking signature authority and the Texpool signature resolution, as well as three fiscal policies. These items were recommended by the committee for board approval and are on the consent agenda for today's meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2024.

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, provided the Executive Committee Updates.

The Executive Committee met on October 17, 2024. The Committee reviewed clerical updates to the previously approved 24-25 goals. This item was recommended for board approval at today's meeting via the consent agenda. The Committee also received an update regarding the charter renewal, which the full board received earlier in this meeting. Lastly, the Committee reviewed personnel settlement agreements that were recommended for board approval today via the consent agenda as well.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings**

Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Managing Director of Safety and Security, presented the Open Session part of the report that included information on the Intruder Detection Audits from TEA. No action was taken on this item.

**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.

Further, considering the remaining items slated on the agenda, Board Chair Sewell recommended to continue in Executive Session pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.082 School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint, and Tex. Govt. Code 551.089 Cyber Security Matters.

**Executive Session**

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera

Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

All in favor: All

All opposed        None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 3:32 PM CST.

Board Chair Sewell recommended to take a break before Executive session and resumed at 3:40 PM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 4:57 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**Campus Tour and Charter Conference**

Jessica Hess discussed the Texas Charter School Conference and the upcoming campus tour for our Board Members at IDEA Monterrey Park on October24, 2024.

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 PM CST.

Motion by:        Ed Rivera  
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 October 23, 2024.

Signed by:  
  
8DD22C2785DB409...  
Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

11/22/2024

Date