



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2024

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

Connie Miner joined the meeting at 8:34 am CST.

Board Members Not Present: Erich Holmsten.

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Aaron Day Jr., Alejandra Loya, Amanda Akle, April Seidensticker, Armando Perez, Christopher R, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Dr. David Lee, Denise Gonzalez, Dolores Gonzalez, Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Fidel Ozuna III, Genevieve Cheng, Jana Carter, Javier Campos, Jennifer White, Jessica Hess, Joe Hoffer, Kathleen Zimmermann, Kelly Andrews, Laurie Gutierrez, Lawrence Galloway, Layne Fisher, Macy Torres, Marlon Shears, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Sonya Wilson, Tanika Isaac, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present: (956) 572-6965, (970) 405-1038, Thomas Anderson.
Thomas Anderson left at 9:42 am CST.

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 November 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 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 to make a comment in the public line, but no requests for comment were made.

FY 2024 Annual Audit

Laurie Gutierrez, from Blazek and Vetterling, presented the FY 2024 Annual Audit. The Board passed a motion to approve the audit as presented with comments, redlines and exhibits incorporated and finalized without any material changes to the financials presented

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

TEA Conservator Report

Christopher Ruszkowski and Dr. David Lee, Conservators, presented the TEA Conservator Report. This report consisted of Teaching and Learning themes and District Culture themes. No action was taken on this item.

Committee Updates

Ed Rivera shared the Audit Committee Update and the Finance Committee Update on behalf of Erich Holmsten.

The Joint Audit & Finance Committee met on November 15, 2024. The committee received an update from the Blazek & Vetterling Auditors on the FY 2024 Annual Audit review, and this was recommended for board approval. The committee also received a financial report including statements for September 2024, a cash update, and a budget variance report. The committee considered the proposed budget amendments for November 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 the purchasing policy exception requests, the travel policy exception requests, Draw Down Card Pilot for Field Lessons, the Public Funds Investment Act FY24-25, and the 24-25 Sponsorship Requests. These items were recommended by the committee for board approval. They are on the consent agenda for today's meeting as well.

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, shared the Governance and Executive Committee Updates.

To begin, the Governance Committee met on November 8, 2024. During the meeting the Committee discussed the TPCSA Conference and received an update on the Charter Renewal Policy Project. Also, the Governance Committee moved into Executive Session to review and recommend a board member appointment which is on today's agenda for consideration. The next Governance Committee meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2024.

The Executive Committee met on November 19, 2024. The Committee reviewed and recommended for board approval a resolution rescinding Primary Boundaries of IDEA Hardy/IDEA Spears, and next steps related to 22-23 Goal Attainment, both of which are on the consent agenda for today. Additionally, the Committee received a presentation on policy revisions related to the Charter Renewal and recommended

for approval the policy revisions including the Nepotism Policy. The Committee also recommended the Team and Family recognition payment for 24-25. Lastly the Executive Committee moved into executive session to review and recommend the updates to Commitment to Leadership, Compiled Recognition Program, compensation study and compensation, and a litigation matter, all of which the full board will hear in today's meeting.

Organizational Update

Dr. Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, presented the K-16 Updates. This update included an overview on the Carrer and Technology Education (CTE) Program at IDEA. The next update included a report on Advanced Placement (AP) year over year improvement and the 24-25 Q1 Reflection. Next, Dr. Stearns presented the Critical Student Intervention (CSI) District CSI Round 1 Results and the 24-25 Reflection.

Dr. Ernesto Cantu, Chief Schools Officer, presented the student persistence update. This update included current student persistence, kindergarten- third grade student persistence, and lastly the 24-25 current reflection and persistence priorities.

Lastly, Chief Human Assets Officer, Martin Winchester, shared an update on the 23-24 IDEA Texas Team Recognition Pay

Team and Family Recognition Payment

Martin Winchester presented the Team and Family Recognition Payment for 24-25. This presentation included the December 2024 Team and Family Recognition Guidelines. The board passed a motion to approve the 24-25 Team and Family Recognition Payment as presented.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

Second by: Connie Miner

All in favor: All

All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Revisions

The proposed policy revisions were presented by Jennifer White, Managing Director for Governance and Policy. This presentation included the timeline of the policy process and deadlines for the Charter Renewal Application. The board passed a motion to approve in one action the policy revisions related to Charter Renewal, listed as items 9a – 9h, as presented and any corresponding 24-25 Student Handbook updates that are needed.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren

Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

All in favor: All

All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

Nepotism Policy

The proposed policy revisions were presented by Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assests Officer. This presentation included the timeline of the policy process and deadlines for the Charter Renewal Application. Martin Winchester continued by presenting the Nepotism Policy and the proposed changes.

The board passed a motion to recommend the Nepotism Policy revisions, item 9i, as presented and any corresponding updates to the 24-25 Employee Handbooks as needed

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Non-Expansion Amendment Resolution & Enrollment Policy

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, presented the Non-Expansion Amendment and the Enrollment Policy. The board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment resolution, enrollment as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Nanette Cocero recommended pulling item c from the consent agenda to discussion. The board passed a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item c in one board action.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Gary Lindgren
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.

Executive Session

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:00 AM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Connie Miner
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 12:19 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve David Dunn as a member of the IDEA Public Schools Board of Directors as discussed in closed session, with board service to begin no sooner than January 2025.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the updates to the commitment to leadership program, as discussed in closed session.

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

The Board passed a motion to authorize the Superintendent/CEO to negotiate regarding Chief College Officer compensation retention as discussed in closed session and finding that the compensation proposal is fair and reasonable and not excessive based on Mercer study and TEA regulations, finalize the offer.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to litigation of former employee, as discussed in closed session

Motion by: Connie Miner
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to the confidentiality agreement and government code 552.008 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 12:22 PM CST.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

Second by: Connie Miner

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 November 22, 2024.

Signed by:

Eduardo Rivera

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

12/20/2024

Date