



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2024

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

Gary Lindgren joins at 8:35 am CST and exits at 10:30 am CST.

Dr. Nanette Cocero exits at 10:00 am CST and rejoins at 10:32 am CST.

Board Members Not Present: Connie Miner

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Amanda Akle, April Seidensticker, Jessica Hess, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Dolores Gonzalez, Dr. Ernie Cantu, Christina Porter, Cody Grindle, Colleen Stearns, Cynthia Rodriguez, David Brasher, Fidel Ozuna III, Jaime Herrero, Javier Campos, Joe Hoffer, Kaitlin McDermott, Kathleen Zimmermann, Lawrence Galloway, Layne Fisher, Linda Parga, Macy Torres, Marlon Shears, Mike Higgins, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Martin Winchester, Phillip Garza, Raquel Sanchez, Kennedy Stonehawk, Sandra Sotelo, Sonya Wilson, Trevor Brooks, Tanika Isaac.

Audience Present: 432-889-9952 joined at 8:42 am CST, left at 8:43 am CST.

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

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the December 20, 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, stated that there was a prior request from Christina Gonzalez, but Ms. Gonzalez did not attend the meeting.

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.

Holiday Student Presentation

Board Chair Sewell and Jessica Hess introduced a special video for the enjoyment of board members and meeting attendees. In the video, students from IDEA Pharr and IDEA North Mission provided seasonal musical entertainment.

Recognition of Service and Commitment to Leadership

Board Chair Sewell introduced Superintendent Jeff Cottrill, who gave remarks and recognition to a retiring staff member.

TEA Conservator Report

Board Chair Sewell stated that there was no update from the conservators at this time.

Charter FIRST

Lawrence Galloway, Vice President of Finance, presented a report on the 2022-2023 Charter FIRST rating and a financial management report. No action was taken on this item.

Organizational Updates

Dr. Dolores Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent, and Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, presented the K-16 Updates. This update included an overview of the Q3 Action Plan. The next update included a College Matriculation Update from Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, including a detailed goals overview and projected outcomes.

Charter School Performance Framework

Megan Goossen, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, shared an update on the Charter School Performance Framework. No action was taken on this item.

Charter Renewal Update

Megan Goossen 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 shared the Audit Committee Updates. The Audit Committee meeting was held on December 5, 2024. The committee received a presentation on proposed revisions to the 2024-25 Internal Audit Plan, which was recommended for board approval. The committee also received presentations on the Federal Grant Compliance Monitoring Report, the FY 25 Quarter 1 Corporate Card Report, and the October 2024 Corporate Card Violations Report, but no action was taken on these items. Additionally, the committee entered and exited executive session to discuss the Child Nutrition Program and the Texas Department of Agriculture, with no action taken during closed session. Our next committee meeting will be held January 14, 2025.

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, shared the Executive Committee Updates. The Executive Committee met on December 12, 2024. The committee reviewed updates on charter renewal and discussed revisions to Special Education policies. The committee also received a presentation regarding proposed revisions to the Records Management Policy, and recommended for approval a name change for IDEA Permian Basin 4 to Idea Henry. These items are on the consent agenda for this meeting, which will be discussed later. Our next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025.

Erich Holmsten shared the Finance Committee updates. The Finance Committee met on December 17, 2024.

The committee reviewed various financial updates, including the 2023-2024 audit approval, budget kickoffs, cash investments, and legislative updates. They also discussed the Charter FIRST rating and the financial performance of the organization. Additionally, the committee recommended to approve purchasing and travel policy exception requests as well as a revision to the Corporate Card Policy to change the reporting frequency from monthly to quarterly. These items are on the consent agenda for today. Our next meeting will be January 24, 2025.

Consent Agenda

The board passed a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Erich Holmsten
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 551.008 Confidentiality Agreement.

Executive Session

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:29 AM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:58 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

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: Dr. Nanette Cocero
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 11:59 AM CST.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
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 December 20, 2024.

Signed by:

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

1/31/2025

Date