



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

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

January 31, 2025

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

**Board Members Not Present:**

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Dolores Gonzalez, Jessica Hess, Jennifer White, April Seidensticker, Kathleen Zimmermann, Layne Fisher, Dr. Collin Stearns, Martin Winchester, Marlon Shears, Alejandra Loya, Amanda Akle, Genevieve Cheng, Kaitlin McDermott, Megan Goossen, Javier Campos, Macy Torres, Francisco Pecina Jr., Linda Parga, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Chris Ruszkowski, Dr. David Lee, Joe Hoffer, Destinee Brooks, Heather Pardo, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

**Audience Present:**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Sewell at 8:31 am CST.

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

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the January 31, 2025 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 were no prior requests for comment.

### **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, and Christina Gonzalez shared a public comment.

### **Board Appreciation Month**

In honor of Board Appreciation Month, Superintendent and CEO Jeff Cottrill welcomed new board member

David Dunn, and presented Board Appreciation Month appreciation letters to board members from IDEA students and staff.

**TEA Conservator Report**

TEA conservators Dr. David Lee and Christopher Ruszkowski presented the monthly TEA Conservator Report. No action was taken on this item.

**Committee Updates**

Ed Rivera presented the Audit Committee updates. The Audit Committee meeting was held on January 14, 2025. The committee received a presentation on mid-year audit updates, as well as on internal audit annual attestations. The committee also received presentations on the Federal Grant Compliance Monitoring Report, and the Hiring Practices and Requirements Audit Report. No action was taken on these items. Additionally, the committee entered Executive Session to discuss the mid-year update of whistleblower reports and investigations, with no action taken during closed session or when the committee reconvened in Open Session. The next Audit Committee meeting will be held February 4, 2025.

Dr. Nanette Cocero presented the Academic Committee updates. The Academic Committee met on January 16, 2025. The committee reviewed the 24-25 District Improvement Plan Goals and Objectives, including a comprehensive needs assessment, College Access performance objectives and strategies, the A Rating performance objectives and strategies, student persistence and student daily attendance data, and staff retention information. The committee received a presentation regarding Targeted Improvement Plans for four campuses, outlining a potential plan of action for school improvement, and a presentation on semester exam data. No action was taken on these items. The next Academic Committee meeting will be April 15, 2025.

Erich Holmsten presented the Finance Committee updates. The Finance Committee met on January 24, 2025. The committee received an overview of budget and legislative updates, the announcement of the resignation of the Vice President of Accounting and welcomed new Finance Committee and Board Member David Dunn. The committee received a presentation on 24-25 sponsorship requests to date, and reviewed various routine financial updates, including financial statements, cash updates, and the variance report. The committee recommended to approve December 2024 purchasing and travel policy exception requests and the January 2025 budget amendments, as well as an exception to the travel policy for the TPCSA Conference, payment during weather closures for multiple IDEA Texas regions, and a May calendar update for the Finance Committee. These items are on the consent agenda for today's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be February 21, 2025.

Collin Sewell presented the Executive Committee updates. The Executive Committee met on January 28, 2025. The committee received an update from the TEA Conservators, as well as an update regarding the performance status of IDEA Travis, and the committee recommended to approve proposed 1882 performance goals related to IDEA Travis. The committee also recommended for approval several policy revisions, some of these related to Charter Renewal. These items are on the consent agenda for today's meeting. The committee also met in closed session to discuss a Human Resources data report. No action was taken on this item. The next Executive Committee meeting will be February 25, 2025.

**Charter Renewal Update**

Megan Goossen shared an update on the Charter Renewal Application. The Board passed a motion to approve the Charter Renewal Application as presented.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Ed Rivera

All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Organizational Updates**

The K-16 updates included an overview of the 24-25 District Improvement Plan from multiple presenters, as well as an overview of Semester Exam Data from Chris Gonzalez, Sr. Vice-President of Accountability.

**Targeted Improvement Plans**

Dr. Colleen Stears, Chief Academic Officer, presented an overview of Targeted Improvement Plans for four campuses. The Board passed a motion to approve the Targeted Improvement Plans (La Joya Academy, Eastside College Prep, Achieve Academy, and Hardy Academy) as presented.

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

**Midland ISD/1882 Partnership**

Dr. Annette Macias, Permian Basin Executive Director, presented an update regarding progress toward goals for IDEA Travis. The Board passed a motion to approve the proposed 1882 performance objectives as presented.

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

**Consent Agenda**

Board Chair Sewell noted that Consent Agenda Item (g) does not need action. The finance committee received a presentation on the outcomes of approved sponsorship requests, and no action is needed. The board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, noting that item (g) was removed before approval as this was an information item to the committee that was included in administrative error, in one board action.

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
Second by: Connie Miner  
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 into 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 13-17, slated on the agenda, Board Chair Sewell recommended continuing in Executive Session pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, Tex. Govt. Code 552.008 Confidentiality Agreement, Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel pending legal matters, and Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Superintendent Performance Review.

**Executive Session**

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:45 AM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by:            Connie Miner  
Second by:          David Dunn  
All in favor:        All  
All opposed        None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 12:04 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 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 January 31, 2025.

Signed by:  
  
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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

3/7/2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date