



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

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

March 5, 2025

**Board Members Present:** Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten, Gary Lindgren, David Dunn, Theresa Barrera-Shaw

**Board Members Not Present:** Dr. Nanette Cocero, Connie Miner

**Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Dolores Gonzalez, Jessica Hess, Kathleen Zimmermann, Layne Fisher, Martin Winchester, Phillip Garza, Jennifer White, Mike Higgins, April Seidensticker, Alejandra Loya, Amanda Akle, Lawrence Galloway, Javier Campos, Linda Parga, Sandra Sotelo, Macy Torres, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Raquel Sanchez, Tanika Isaac, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Joe Hoffer, Jonathan Gallegos, Elizabeth Valades.

### **Audience Present:**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Sewell at 8:03 am CST.

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

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the March 5, 2025 Board of Directors' meeting, which was rescheduled from its original date of February 28, 2025 due to quorum, 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**

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. No prior requests to comment on a specific agenda item were made.

### **TEA Conservator Report**

TEA conservator Dr. David Lee presented the monthly TEA Conservator Report. No action was taken on this item.

**IDEA'S 25<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary**

Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, presented plans for IDEA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, including branding opportunities and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary limited edition merchandise. No action was taken on this item.

**Class of 2024 Matriculation Goal Update**

Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, and Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer, presented the Class of 2024 Matriculation Goal Update. Mr. Garza's portion of the presentation included a matriculation methodology, and a matriculation goal breakdown, noting that IDEA achieved the matriculation goal for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with its largest senior class ever. Mr. Winchester noted that matriculation attainment has been verified, completing the 23-24 Goal Verification process. No action was taken on this item.

**2035 Strategic Plan**

Cody Grindle, President, presented a 2035 Strategic Plan to the board, focusing on board engagement and a strategic planning process. No action was taken on this item.

**Charter Renewal Update & Action**

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, shared an update on the Charter Renewal Application and a recommended board action to authorize and direct the Superintendent/CEO and Board Chair to execute the charter contract when received. The Board passed a motion to authorize and direct the Superintendent/CEO and Board Chair to execute the charter contract when received as presented.

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

**Annual Employee Engagement Survey Results**

Martin Winchester presented the Annual Employee Engagement Survey Results, including 24-25 IDEA Texas results, org-wide results comparison over time between 2018 and 2025, regional results across all statements, and IDEA Texas results based on top 5 and bottom 5 statements. Board Chair Sewell suggested having a future board workshop based on the results. No action was taken on this item.

**FY26 Budget Pre-Approvals**

Lawrence Galloway, VP of Finance, presented FY26 Budget Pre-Approvals, including 25-26 Advanced Budgets by location and for instructional materials, facilities and the Child Nutrition Program. The board passed a motion to approve the FY26 Budget Pre-Approvals as presented.

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

**Consent Agenda**

The board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: David Dunn  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Executive Session**

Considering the remaining agenda items 8-9, Board Chair Sewell called for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.072 Real Estate Matters (purchase, lease, or sale of real property) and Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Superintendent Performance Review.

**Executive Session**

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
Second by: Erich Holmsten  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:48 AM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
Second by: David Dunn  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None

*Motion passed unanimously.*

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:24 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**Votes on Executive Session Items**

The Board passed a motion to approve the sale of a portion of IDEA's Pflugerville Property to the City of Pflugerville.

Motion by: Erich Holmsten  
Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
All in favor: All

All opposed      None  
*Motion passed unanimously*

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to real estate as discussed in closed session.


Motion by:          David Dunn  
Second by:         Gary Lindgren  
All in favor:        All  
All opposed         None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Adjourn**

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 AM CST.

Motion by:          Theresa Barrera-Shaw  
Second by:         Erich Holmsten  
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 March 5, 2025.

Signed by:  
  
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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary  
4/6/2025

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Date