



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2025

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

Erich Holmsten left the meeting at 8:52 am CST and returned at 9:00 am CST.

Collin Sewell left the meeting at 11:45 am CST.

Board Members Not Present: None.

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Dolores Gonzalez, Jessica Hess, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Marlon Shears, Kathleen Zimmermann, Layne Fisher, Martin Winchester, Phillip Garza, Alejandra Loya, Genevive Cheng, Kaitlin McDermott, Kelly Andrews, Jennifer White, April Seidensticker, Alicia Myers, Christopher Gonzalez, Christopher Ruskowski, Dr. David Lee, Joe Hoffer, Mike Higgins, Javier Campos, Macy Torres, Linda Parga, Francisco Pecina Jr., Sandra Sotelo, Tanika Isaac, Megan Goossen, Jaime Herrero, Jenessa Smith, Lawrence Galloway, Lynnette Montemayor, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present: Christina Gonzalez, Jessica Brandt, Kathryn E. Bailey

The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Ed Rivera at 8:31 am CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Presiding Officer Rivera welcomed the Board Members to the April 4, 2025, Board of Directors' meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Presiding Officer Rivera conducted the meeting as duly posted. He further indicated some members joined via video conference 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. Ms. Gonzalez expressed her campus-level concerns.

Agenda Item Comment

Presiding Officer Rivera 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 Christopher Ruzzkowski presented the monthly TEA Conservator Report. No action was taken on this item.

TAPR Public Hearing & Workshop

Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, presented a training on Accountability to the Public, the Texas Academic Performance Report Annual Public Hearing and Workshop. No action was taken on this item.

Math Instructional Materials Transition Plan

Dr. Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, presented a plan for the Math Instructional Materials Transition, transitioning to Bluebonnet Learning for the 2025-2026 school year. The Board passed a motion to approve the Math Instructional Materials Transition Plan as presented.

Motion by: Collin Sewell
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously.

Mock Exam Results

Chris Gonzalez, Sr. VP of Accountability, presented the spring Mock Exam Results for grades 3-8 and EOCs. No action was taken on this item.

Charter School Performance Framework

Megan Goosen, VP of Regulatory Affairs, presented the Charter School Performance Framework, including March Priority Indicators, Academic Standards and Operational Standards. No action was taken on this item.

Charter Renewal Update & Action

Megan Goosen shared an update on the Charter Renewal Application, noting that TEA has approved the renewal of IDEA's charter through June 30, 2035. No action was taken on this item.

Teacher Incentive Allotment 25-26 Expansion/Modification Application

Jennifer Meer, Sr. Vice-President of Compensation and Benefits, presented the Teacher Incentive Allotment 2025-2026 Expansion/Modification Application, noting that it's hopeful that with this year's expansion, the current teacher designation under the current program of 12% will at least double in Spring 2026. The board passed a motion to approve the Teacher Incentive Allotment 2025-2026 Expansion/Modification Application as presented.

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

Results-Driven Accountability Corrective Action Plan

Dr. Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, and Marlon Shears, Chief Information Officer, presented the

Results-Driven Accountability Corrective Action Plan, with Dr. Stearns explaining that the RDA is an automated data system that reports annually on the performance of local agencies in selected program areas (bilingual education/English as a second language, career and technical education, certain federal Title programs, and special education). Mr. Shears presented problem statements, summaries of root causes, current RDA rankings, annual goals, and implementation strategies for the RDA audit in the areas of OSP Domain 3 Disproportionate Analysis: Annual Dropout Rate 7-12 (Foster, Homeless, Military Connected) and OSP Domain 1 Academic Achievement: OSP STARR 3-8 (Foster, Homeless, Military Connected). No action was taken on this item.

Committee Updates

Erich Holmsten presented the March Finance Committee updates. The Finance Committee meeting was held on March 25, 2025, with committee members Erich Holmsten, Ed Rivera, David Dunn and Collin Sewell in attendance. The meeting began with CFO updates on financial matters including budget assumptions and progress towards goals, followed by a Financial Update, which led to the committee recommending the January 2025 financial statements. The committee received a Liquidity Update and Budget Update, resulting in a recommendation for a budget amendment for IDEA B funds. The committee also reviewed the Quarterly Corporate Card Report, recommended the consent agenda, approved recommendations for payment during closures for IDEA Burke and IDEA Achieve, and for a YMCA San Antonio sponsorship, before moving into and quickly reconvening from Executive Session for legal consultation, and subsequently adjourning the meeting.

Collin Sewell presented the March Executive Committee updates. The Executive Committee meeting was held on March 11, 2025, with committee members Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten and Collin Sewell present, and included presentations on the TEA Conservator Report, the RDA Corrective Action Plan focusing on improving math achievement for specific student groups, and the TIA 25-26 Expansion/Modification Application, with no action taken on these items. The committee approved a motion to recommend ADA Waivers for IDEA Texas schools and then moved into Executive Session to discuss a personnel settlement agreement, which they later voted to recommend for board approval upon reconvening in open session, before adjournment.

Ed Rivera presented the March Audit Committee updates. The Audit Committee meeting was held on March 4, 2025, with committee members Ed Rivera, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, and Erich Holmsten present. The committee reviewed the Quarterly Corporate Card Report presented by Linda Parga and an overview of Grant Monitoring Reports by Macy Torres, taking no action on either item. Following this, the committee entered Executive Session to consult with legal counsel regarding an ongoing investigation and subsequently reconvened in Open Session with no action taken during the closed session before adjourning.

Consent Agenda

The board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion by: David Dunn
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 an update regarding the

districtwide intruder detection audit report. No action was taken on this item.

Executive Session

Considering the nature of the rest of the safety information, in addition to remaining agenda items, Presiding Officer Ed Rivera called for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit, Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, Texas Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters, Tex. Govt. Code 551.082 School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or complaint, and Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Superintendent Performance Review.

Executive Session

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:32 AM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
Second by: Connie Miner
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 12:09 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve the TxSSC-certified Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP) as discussed in executive session.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
Second by: David Dunn
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 AM CST.

Motion by: Dr. Nanette Cocero
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 April 4, 2025.

Signed by:

Eduardo Rivera

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

4/29/2025

Date