



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2025

Board Members Present: Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, David Dunn, Gary Lindgren, Connie Miner.

Board Members Not Present: Erich Holmsten, Dr. Nanette Cocero,

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Abby Chalmers, April Seidensticker, Christopher Ruszkowski, Dr. David Lee, Erika Hernandez, Fidel Ozuna III, Heather Pardo, Javier Campos, Jennifer Meer, Jennifer White, Jessica Hess, Kaitlin McDermott, Macy Torres, Martin Winchester, Mike Higgins, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Phillip Garza, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Tanika Isaac, Veronica Conforme, Elizabeth Valades, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Felida Villarreal, Dolores Gonzalez, Joe Hoffer, Kathleen Zimmermann, Amanda Akle, Ana Padron, Daniel Garza, Genevieve Cheng, Macy Torres.

Audience Present:

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Sewell at 8:33 AM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the May 23, 2025, Board of Directors meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Board Chair Sewell 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 were prior requests. The first public comment was from James Bonney and the second public comment was from Christina Gonzalez.

Agenda Item Comment

Presiding Officer 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.

Executive Session

Board Chair Sewell called for a motion to take the agenda out of order and move into Executive Session

pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.074 (Personnel Matters), Texas Government Code 551.071 (Consultation with Legal counsel regarding pending legal issues and matters), as well as Texas Government Code 551.082 (School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter or complaint) for Agenda Item #13 – the grievance appeal of J.L.

Executive Session

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 551.074, Texas Govt. Code 551.071, Texas Govt. Code 551.082.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:44 AM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:27 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to uphold management's decision related to the grievance appeal of J.L. as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren
Second by: Connie Miner
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously

TEA Conservator Report

TEA conservator Christopher Ruszkowski presented the monthly TEA Conservator Report. No action was taken on this item.

Organizational Updates

Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer, presented Class of 2025 updates, including Tier 1 and Tier 2 Matriculation, Top Performing Regions and Campuses, Where We're Winning and Gaps to Close. Next, Kaitlin McDermott, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Superintendent, presented Student Persistence, noting a summer focus on persistence. Lastly, Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, presented updates regarding student

enrollment, including a year over year comparison from 2022-2025.

25-26 Organizational Goals

Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer, shared an update on 25-26 Organizational Goals, highlighting a new minimum performance floor to uphold rigor and the introduction of kindergarten enrollment as a 6th goal to extend visibility and early-stage accountability. The Board passed a motion to approve the 25-26 Organizational Goals as presented.

Motion by:___Gary Lindgren

Second by:___Ed Rivera

All in favor: All

All opposed None

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Updates

Collin Sewell, Chair for the Executive Committee and the Governance Committee, presented updates for both committees. The Executive Committee met on May 20, 2025. Collin Sewell was the presiding officer, with committee members Ed Rivera and Erich Holmsten present. The committee received the TEA Conservator Report, an update on ADA Waivers, and 25-26 Organizational Goals, which have been heard or considered in consent during today's meeting. The Committee then moved into Executive Session to discuss a settlement, review a grievance appeal, updates to IDEA's core values, and a litigation matter, as well as the Superintendent Evaluation Administrative Regulations and consultation with legal counsel. The committee subsequently reconvened in Open Session, and recommended for board approval the ADA Waivers, 25-26 Organizational Goals, settlement agreement, and the Gravely construction engagement. The next Executive Committee meeting is June 16, 2025.

The Governance Committee met on May 13, 2025. Collin Sewell was the presiding officer, with committee member Dr. Nanette Cocero present. The committee received presentations on Board Member Service Description, Board Recruitment Priorities and a Board Composition Framework, a proposal to engage with Greenwich Partners for Board Recruitment, and updates to the Board Selection Committee. These items were all recommended and on the agenda for today. The next Governance Committee meeting is July 10, 2025.

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, presented updates for the Finance Committee on behalf of Erich Holmsten, Finance Committee Chair, who was not in attendance for the board meeting. The Finance Committee met on May 14, 2025. The committee received presentations regarding CFO updates, Insurance Renewal, Liquidity Update, DOE Grant Reimbursements, and the March 2025 Variance Report. No action was taken on these items. The committee also received presentations on the Public Funds Investment Act FY24-25 Q3 Report, the renewal of a taxable revolving loan from Texas Capital Bank for the purposes of working capital, March 2025 financial statements, and purchasing and travel policy exceptions. These items were all recommended for board approval and are on today's consent agenda. The committee entered Executive Session to discuss legal and real estate matters, subsequently recommending a resolution to authorize application for financing and re-financing of educational facilities and approving the issuance, delivery, and execution of bonds related to financing as discussed in Executive Session. The next Finance Committee meeting is June 13, 2025.

Consent Agenda

The board passed a motion to approve the Consent Agenda in one board action.

Motion by: David Dunn

Second by: Connie Miner
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Board Recruitment Priorities and Composition Framework

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, presented the Board Recruitment Priorities and Composition Framework. This presentation included recruitment goals, the Nygren aligned board matrix categories, and the current state based on Nygren work. The Board passed a motion to approve the Board Recruitment Priorities and Composition Framework as presented.

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

Board Recruitment Consultant

Jessica Hess continued presenting for the next item, Board Recruitment Consultant, a proposal to engage with Greenwich Partners for board recruitment for 9 months at a cost of \$120,000. The Board passed a motion to approve the engagement with Greenwich Partners as Board Recruitment Consultant as presented.

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

Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, presented an update regarding the districtwide intruder detection audit report on behalf of Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Managing Director of Safety and Security. No action was taken on this item.

Executive Session

Considering the nature of the rest of the safety information, Board Chair Sewell called for a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit. Further, considering the remaining items on the agenda, Board Chair Sewell proposed to continue in Executive Session pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, Texas Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters, Texas Govt. Code 551.082 School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter, or Complaint, Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Superintendent Performance Review, and Texas Govt. Code 551.072 Real Estate Matters (purchase, lease, or sale of real property).

Executive Session

The Board passed a motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 551.076, Texas Govt. Code 551.074, Texas Govt. Code 551.071 and Texas Govt. Code 551.082, and Texas Govt. Code 551.072.

Motion by: Connie Miner

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:33 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 12:49 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve engagement with Gravely related to construction as discussed in Executive Session.

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

The Board passed a motion to approve resolution authorizing an application to and borrowing from Clifton Higher Education Finance Corporation to finance and refinance certain educational facilities, approving the issuance of bonds, delegating authority to approve the terms of the bonds, effect the sale, issuance and delivery of bonds and the execution of certain documents related to these matters as discussed in Executive Session.

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

The Board passed a motion to allow superintendent to negotiate and finalize transportation contracts, up to amounts as determined by grant agreement and 25-26 budget planning as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
All in favor: All

All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously

The Board passed a motion to approve the KLE grant agreement as discussed in closed session.


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

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:51 PM CST.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: David Dunn
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 May 25, 2025.

Signed by:

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary
6/17/2025

Date