



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025

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

Board Members Not Present: None

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Jessica Hess, Dolores Gonzalez, Kathleen Zimmermann, Layne Fisher, Phillip Garza, Marlon Shears, Martin Winchester, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Jennifer White, April Seidensticker, Mike Higgins, Javier Campos, Alejandra Loya, Hector Leiva, Genevieve Cheng, Kaitlin McDermott, Linda Parga, Macy Torres, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Tanika Isaac, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Christopher Gonzalez, Jaime Herrero, Christopher Thompson, Meritza Jones, Rachel Beech, Heather Pardo, Rachel Beech, Christopher Ruskowski, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present: Christina Gonzalez, Jason Bonney, 432-352-7053, 832-494-7490, 832-971-0663

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

The Presiding Officer, Ed Rivera, requested to take a board meeting break at 9:53 AM CST. The meeting resumed at 10:00 AM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Presiding Officer Ed Rivera welcomed the Board Members to the June 17, 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 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 two prior requests for comment. The first public comment was from James Bonney and the second public comment was from Christina Gonzalez.

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

Organizational Updates: DIP Summative Review

Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, began the organizational updates by introducing an overview of a summative review of the 24-25 District Improvement Plan. The District Improvement Plan consists of 5 goals. The first goal related to College Matriculation was presented by Phillip Garza, Chief College Officer. Dr. Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, presented the next goal related to A Ratings. Next, Kaitlin McDermott, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Superintendent, presented the goal related to Student Persistence. The next goal related to Student Daily Attendance was presented by Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer. The last goal related to Staff Retention was presented by Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer. Dolores Gonzalez closed the DIP presentation with upcoming engagements.

Organizational Updates: STAAR Results

The next update was STAAR Results, presented by Christopher Gonzalez, Sr. VP of Accountability. No action was taken on this item.

Organizational Updates: Charter School Performance Framework

Jessica Hess presented the next update regarding the Charter School Performance Framework. No action was taken on this item.

Finance Updates: 25-26 Enrollment Preview

The next item, presented by Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, and Dolores Gonzalez, was the 25-26 Enrollment Preview. No action was taken on this item.

Finance Updates: 25-26 Annual Insurance Program Renewal

Felida Villarreal, VP of Human Resources, introduced the 25-26 Annual Insurance Program Renewal, which was then presented by Joffrey Clark of EPIC. The board passed a motion to approve the 25-26 Annual Insurance Program Renewal as presented.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw

Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Updates: 25-26 Budget Adoption

Kathleen Zimmermann, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 25-26 Budget Adoption. The board passed a motion to approve the 25-26 Annual Insurance Program Renewal as presented.

Motion by: David Dunn

Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero

All in favor: All

All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Updates

The Audit Committee met on June 5, 2025, where Ed Rivera was the presiding officer and Theresa Barrera-Shaw joined. The committee received general updates related to the Internal Audit team, reviewed the Q3 Sr. Leadership Corporate Card Review, and received a presentation related to Title 1 Part A Engagement, taking no action on these items, and then moved to recommend for board approval the updates to the Committee Calendar. The next meeting is July 15, 2025.

The Academic Committee met on June 6, 2025, with David Dunn and Gary Lindgren present, with Dr. Nanette Cocero as the presiding officer. The committee received a summative review of the 24-25 District Improvement Plan, which included presentations on goals related to college matriculation, achieving an A rating, student persistence, daily attendance, and staff retention. The board received this presentation today as well in earlier updates. The committee also received a presentation on 25-26 Student Handbooks, which is on the consent agenda for today. The next meeting is August 7, 2025.

The Finance Committee met on June 13, 2025. Erich Holmsten was the presiding officer, with committee members Collin Sewell, David Dunn, and Ed Rivera present. The committee received presentations regarding CFO updates, 2025 Bond updates, Liquidity updates, DOE Grant Reimbursements, Quarterly Corporate Card Report, and the April 2025 Variance Report. No action was taken on these items. The committee also received presentations on the 2025 Annual Insurance Program Renewal and the FY26 Budget Adoption, both of which were presented earlier in today's board meeting. In addition, the committee reviewed April 2025 financial statements, budget amendments, the 2025 Teacher Recognition Handbook, Exhibit A Agreements and Stipends and Transformational Transfer Stipend, Fall 2025 Sponsorship Events, Management of Organizational Conflict of Interest Policy, Annual Approval of Investments Policy, Meal Charge Policy, and Capital Assets Policy, as well as 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 delegate signature authority on specific real estate matters as discussed in Executive Session. This item is also on today's consent agenda. The next Finance Committee meeting is July 18, 2025.

The Executive Committee met on June 16, 2025. Collin Sewell was the presiding officer, with committee members Ed Rivera and Erich Holmsten present. The committee received the TEA Conservator Report, and recommended for board approval 25-26 Employee Handbooks, updates to the Public Information Request Policy, Orientation & Training Policy, Title IX Policy, and Wellness Policy, an update to Core Values, a non-expansion amendment and resolution for IDEA Henry Academy and IDEA Henry College Prep, and ADA Waivers for campuses affected by inclement weather. These items are all on the consent agenda for today's meeting. The Committee then moved into Executive Session to discuss a settlement agreement, with consultation with legal counsel. The committee subsequently reconvened in Open Session, and recommended for board approval the settlement agreement, also on today's consent agenda. The next meeting is July 22, 2025.

Consent Agenda

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

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

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:30 AM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 11:52 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve the real estate item discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: David Dunn
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 11:52 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 June 17, 2025.

Signed by:

Eduardo Rivera

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

7/26/2025

Date