



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2025

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

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

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Jessica Hess, Mike Higgins, Dolores Gonzalez, Layne Fisher, Kathleen Zimmermann, Marlon Shears, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Martin Winchester, Alejandra Loya, Kelly Andrews, Amanda Akle, Genevieve Cheng, Kaitlin McDermott, Jill Dominguez, Destinee Brooks, Macy Torres, Francisco Pecina Jr, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Linda Parga, Sandra Sotelo, Tanika Isaac, Raquel Sanchez, Mary Kendall, Stephanie Duran, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Joe Hoffer, Abe Barela, James Dworkin, Christina Porter, Veronica Conforme, Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Rachel Beech, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present: 832-494-7490, Arturo, Lily Matos.

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 July 25, 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 there was a prior request. Massimo Licandro shared a public comment.

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 551.071 (Consultation with Legal counsel regarding pending legal issues and matters), and Texas Government Code 551.082 (School Children, School District Employees, Disciplinary matter or complaint) for Agenda Item #11 – the grievance appeal of G.B.

Executive Session

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

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 8:37 AM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:03 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 G.B. as discussed in Executive Session.

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

TEA Conservator Report

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

Organizational Updates – Enrollment and Persistence Update

Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, and Kaitlin McDermott, Chief of Staff II, Deputy Superintendent, presented the Enrollment and Persistence Update. This item was also presented at this month's Finance and Executive Committees. No action was taken.

Committee Updates

Board Chair Collin Sewell presented both the Audit Committee and Executive Committee updates. The Audit Committee met on July 15, 2025, with members Erich Holmsten, Theresa Barrera-Shaw and Collin Sewell present. The committee received presentations regarding the IDEA Risk Assessment Report, a Grant Risk Assessment Report, and the Whistleblower Hotline and Investigations End of Year Update, with no action taken on these items. The committee also received an overview of the 25-26 Internal Audit Plan, which the committee recommended for board approval, and which is on today's consent agenda. The next Audit Committee meeting is September 9, 2025.

The Executive Committee meeting was held on July 22, 2025, with committee members Erich Holmsten and Collin Sewell present. The Committee recommended for board approval a calendar change for IDEA San Antonio, and this item is on the consent agenda for today. The agenda also included presentations on 2025-26 Enrollment Updates, the Board Succession Plan, and potential updates to the Board of Directors Meeting Calendar, with no action taken on these items. The committee then moved into Executive Session to preview a Grievance matter, which was discussed earlier in today's meeting, and A-F Litigation Fees, which is on today's agenda, with no action taken on either of these items. The next Executive Committee meeting will be August 19, 2025.

Board Member Gary Lindgren presented the Governance Committee updates. The Governance Committee met on July 10, 2025, with members Ed Rivera, Dr. Nanette Cocero, and Gary Lindgren present. The committee received presentations regarding Board Recruitment and potential board calendar adjustments, with no action taken on these items. The committee also received presentations on the Board Member Application and the Board Member Interview Guide and Process, both of which were recommended for approval and are on today's consent agenda. The next Governance Committee meeting is September 4, 2025.

Chief Governance Officer, Jessica Hess, presented the Finance Committee updates. The Finance Committee met on July 18, 2025, with members Collin Sewell and Erich Holmsten present. The committee received presentations regarding CFO updates, Enrollment updates, a review of Contracts, the May 2025 Variance Report, and Liquidity updates. No action was taken on these items. The committee received a presentation on the July 2025 Budget Amendments, which was recommended for board approval and is on the agenda for today's meeting. In addition, the committee reviewed May 2025 financial statements, a 25-26 Pay Scales Update, and Bilingual/ESL Stipends, and 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 real estate resolutions for Genesis, Walton Walker, and Toros parcel of land as discussed in Executive Session, which were also presented earlier in today's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting is August 15, 2025.

July 2025 Budget Amendment

Kathleen Zimmermann, Chief Financial Officer, presented a July 2025 Budget Amendment regarding House Bill 3. This item was previously recommend for approval by this month's Finance Committee. The Board passed a motion to approve the July 2025 Budget Amendment as presented.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Real Estate Resolutions

Layne Fisher presented the next item, Real Estate Resolutions authorizing the sale of Genesis, Toros parcel of land, and Walton Walker. This item was also reviewed in Executive Session by this month's Finance Committee. The Board passed a motion to approve the Real Estate Resolutions authorizing the sale of Genesis, Toros parcel of land, and Walton Walker as presented.

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

Consent Agenda

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

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

District Safety and Security Audit Report

Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Managing Director of Safety and Security, presented the District Safety and Security Audit Report. 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).

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:31 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 10:44 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve next steps related to A-F Litigation Fees 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 the appointment of a candidate for the Board of Directors as discussed in Executive Session.

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

The Board passed a motion to delegate CEO/Superintendent on personnel matters related to corporate offices as discussed in executive session.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
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 10:46 AM CST.

Motion by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
Second by: Ed Rivera
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 July 25, 2025.

Signed by:

Eduardo Rivera

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary
8/22/2025

Date