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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2025

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

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

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Dolores Gonzalez, Cody Grindle, Jessica Hess, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Martin Winchester, Marlon Shears, Layne Fisher, Kathleen Zimmermann, Marlon Shears, Jennifer White, April Seidensticker, Alejandra Loya, Kaitlin McDermott, Amanda Akle, Genevieve Cheng, Jacklyn Verdin, Kelly Andrews, Rebeccah Lyles, Robyn Birkla, Christopher Gonzalez, Chritopher Ruszkowski, Dr. David Lee, Destinee Brooks, Javier Campos, Francisco Pecina Jr., Linda Parga, Raquel Sanchez, Sandra Sotelo, Tanika Isaac, Joe Hoffer, Veronica Conforme, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present:

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

<u>Welcome and Call to Order</u>
Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the August 22, 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.

<u>General Comment</u>

Jessica Hess, Chief Governance Officer, stated that were prior requests. The first public comment was from Tomasa Belez. Maria R. Cervantes also signed up to make a public comment but was not in attendance for today's meeting.

<u>Agenda Item Comment</u>
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.

<u>TEA Conservator Report</u>

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

Organizational Updates

Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, introduced an overview of the K-16 Updates. Chris Gonzalez, Sr. VP of Accountability, presented 25-25 Accountability Results, including the newly released "B" letter grade from the Texas Education Agency, and an overview of each region's campus letter grades. Dr. Colleen Stearns, Chief Academic Officer, presented 2025 AP Final Results. Key takeaways from this presentation were that 26% of graduating seniors are AP Scholars, and 14 campuses met their AP Scholar goal in 24-25, which is double the number of campuses who met their AP Scholar goal the year before.

Layne Fisher, Chief Operating Officer, presented the Enrollment and Persistence Update. This item was also presented at this month's Finance Committee. No action was taken.

Committee Updates

Deputy Superintendent Dolores Gonzalez presented the Academic Committee Updates on behalf of Dr. Nanette Cocero. The Academic Committee met on August 7, 2025, with members David Dunn, Connie Miner and Dr. Nanette Cocero present. The committee received presentations regarding End of Year DIBELS Data and End of Year Critical Student Intervention Data, as well as an overview of the 25-26 Area Superintendent Portfolio and Support Teams. No action was taken on these items. The next Academic Committee meeting is October 16, 2025.

Kathleen Zimmerman, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Finance Committee Updates. The Finance Committee met on August 15, 2025, with members Ed Rivera, David Dunn, Lilya Matos and Erich Holmsten present. The committee received presentations regarding CFO Updates, Enrollment Updates, Financial Estimates, the June 2025 Variance Report, Liquidity Updates, Public Funds Investment Act – Q4 Updates, and a Drawdown Card Update. No action was taken on these items. The committee also received presentations on 25-26 Updates to IDEA's Recognition Program, Enterprise Resource Planning Contracts, Budget Amendments, Resolutions to Update Authorized Officers related to Regions Bank Lines of Credit, and Purchasing and Travel Policy Exceptions. These items were all recommended for board approval and are on the consent agenda for today's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting is September 19, 2025.

Board Chair Collin Sewell presented the Executive Committee Updates. The Executive Committee meeting was held on August 19, 2025, with committee members Erich Holmsten, Ed Rivera and Collin Sewell present. The Committee received a presentation from TEA Conservator David Lee, as well as a presentation regarding the Board Succession Plan, with no action taken. The committee also received presentations regarding 25-26 Board Calendar Updates, Resolutions to Designate Specific Days as Non-Business Days for 2025 and 2026 related to the Texas Public Information Act, Policy Adoptions including the Personal Communication Device Policy, Parental Engagement Policy, and Participation in UIL Activities by Non-Enrolled Students Policy, as well as Revisions to the Student Fees Policy, Student and Staff Handbook Updates in Alignment with Legal Requirements from Legislative Session, 25-26 Student Handbook Revisions, and the Renewal of the Good Cause Exception Claim. These items were all recommended for board approval and are on today's consent agenda. The committee then moved into Executive Session before reconvening in Open Session and adjourning, with no action taken. The next Executive Committee meeting will be September 30, 2025.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by: David Dunn

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

25-26 Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan

Jorge Chipres Castaneda, Managing Director of Safety and Security, presented the Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan for 25-26. No action was taken on this item.

Executive Session

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, Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters, Texas Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters, and Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Superintendent Performance Feedback.

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

Motion by: Connie Miner
Second by: Ed Rivera
All in favor: All
All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:23 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 11:48 AM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to authorize superintendent to negotiate final contracts related to Enterprise Resource Planning and bring contracts back for ratification as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board passed a motion to approve a personnel agreement as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

The Board passed a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 AM CST.

Motion by:	Theresa Barrera-Shaw
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 August 22, 2025.

Signed by:

Eduardo Rivera

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

10/9/2025

Date