



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

**Board of Directors Workshop**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
November 18, 2025

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

**Board Members Not Present:** None

**Staff, Counsel, and Consultants Present:** Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Cody Grindle, Jessica Hess, Layne Fisher, Martin Winchester, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Robyn Birkla, April Seidensticker, Genevieve Cheng, Kaitlin McDermott, Alejandra Loya, Bethany Solis, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Veronica Conforme, Malka Borrego, Jessica Conlon, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

*Dr. David Lee and Christopher Ruszkowski left the meeting at 9:55 am CST and returned at 10:26 am CST.*

**Audience Present:** None

The workshop was called to order at 8:39 AM CST.

**Workshop**

Superintendent and CEO Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill welcomed the Board to the workshop and shared the agenda review. President Cody Grindle began with the first presentation on the 2035 Strategic Plan, and Jessica Conlon from Loom continued the current state assessment. The Board split up into small breakout groups for discussion. Due to the fact that there were small groups without a quorum present in any group, Board Chair Collin Sewell recommended stopping the recording of the meeting and re-starting once the board reconvened. The Board passed a motion to recess at 9:14 AM CST.

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

The Board passed a motion to reconvene at 9:29 AM CST.

Motion by: Ed Rivera  
Second by: Erich Holmsten

All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Executive Session**

Board Chair Sewell thanked the management team and Loom for their work on the 2035 plan and proposed move into executive session due to the nature of the workshop. The Board passed a motion to move into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel.

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

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:35 AM CST.

**Open Session**

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.


Motion by: Lilya Matos  
Second by: Dr. Nanette Cocero  
All in favor: All  
All opposed None  
*Motion passed unanimously*

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:01 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

**Adjourn**

Board Chair Sewell adjourned the meeting at 5:01 PM CST.

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct minutes for the Board Workshop of IDEA Public Schools held on November 18, 2025.

Signed by:  
  
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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary  
1/23/2026  
Date