



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2026

Board Members Present: Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten, Naj Atkinson, Ryan Green, Gary Lindgren, Lilya Matos, Connie Miner

Erich Holmsten left the meeting at 6:14 PM CST.

Board Members Not Present: Dr. Nanette Cocero, David Dunn, Stacy Eng, Theresa Barrera-Shaw

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Jessica Hess, Amanda Akle, April Seidensticker, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Dr. David Lee, Fidel Ozuna III, Joe Hoffer, Kaitlin McDermott, Macy Torres, Mike Higgins, Myrna Rodriguez, Raquel Sanchez, Robyn Birkla, Sandra Sotelo, Elizabeth Valades

Audience Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Collin Sewell at 5:03 PM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the March 31, 2026, 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 there were no prior requests.

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.

TEA Conservator Report

TEA conservator Dr. David Lee presented the monthly TEA Conservator Report. No action was taken on this item.

Organizational Updates

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent and CEO, began the Organizational Updates by presenting Org Wide Goals. Layne Fisher, Deputy Superintendent of Operations & Chief Operating Officer, shared an Enrollment update that included enrollment focus and progress. Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, shared persistence updates and impact on enrollment. No action was taken on this item.

25-26 Annual Employee Engagement Survey results

Martin Winchester, Chief Human Assets Officer, presented the 25-26 Annual Employee Engagement Survey results. No action was taken on this item.

Committee Updates

Lilya Matos, Audit Committee Chair, presented the Audit Committee Updates. The Audit Committee met on March 10, 2026, with members Erich Holmsten, Ed Rivera and Lilya Matos present. The committee received presentations regarding Internal Audit Updates, Student Activity Accounts, and the 24-25 Goal Verification Phase 1 Report, with no action recommended on these items. The next Audit Committee meeting is April 14, 2026.

Ed Rivera, Governance Committee Chair, presented the Governance Committee Updates. The Governance Committee met on March 12, 2026 with committee members Dr. Nanette Cocero, Stacy Eng and Ed Rivera present. The committee received presentations regarding Chief Governance Officer Updates, including next month's board retreat and new board member onboarding, as well as fall planning. The Committee entered into Executive Session, and upon returning to Open Session, passed a motion to recommend for board approval a non-expansion amendment and resolution for the 26-27 Organization Chart, as discussed in Executive Session. The next Governance Committee meeting is May 7, 2026.

Erich Holmsten, Finance Committee Chair, presented the Finance Committee Updates. The Finance Committee met on March 13, 2026, with members David Dunn, Lilya Matos, Ryan Green and Erich Holmsten present. The committee received presentations regarding CFO updates, Enrollment and Registration Update, Liquidity Update, Quarterly Corporate Card Report, and the January 2026 Variance Report. No action was recommended on these items. The committee also received presentations regarding January 2026 financial statements, a travel policy exception request related to travel and lodging for the TPCSA Conference, travel exceptions to policy, and Certification of Provision of Instructional Materials approval for 26-27. These items were all recommended for board approval and are on today's consent agenda. The next Finance Committee meeting is April 24, 2026.

Collin Sewell, Executive Committee Chair, presented the Executive Committee Updates. The Executive Committee met on March 24, 2026, with committee members Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten and Collin Sewell present. The committee received the TEA Conservator Report, as well as a presentation regarding 25-26 Annual Employee Engagement survey results, which were also presented earlier in tonight's meeting. The committee also received presentations on ADA Waivers and Teacher Incentive Allotment Renewal, Modifications and Expansion, both of which were recommended for board approval and are on tonight's consent agenda. The Committee then moved into Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter and the Superintendent Evaluation. The

committee subsequently reconvened in Open Session, and recommended for board approval the TPIA litigation matter as discussed in Executive Session. The next Executive Committee meeting is April 28, 2026.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by: Gary Lindgren
Second by: Connie Miner
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

Given the nature of the rest of the safety information, Board Chair Sewell recommended to move the meeting into executive session pursuant to Texas Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit, and considering the remaining items on the agenda, Board Chair Sewell recommended 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, and Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Superintendent Performance Feedback.

Executive Session

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

Motion by: Ryan Green
Second by: Connie Miner
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:14 PM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: Ed Rivera
Second by: Lilya Matos
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:20 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve the next steps related to the TPIA litigation matters as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren
Second by: Lily Matos
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board did not discuss the 25-26 Superintendent Evaluation Goals. No action was taken on this item.

The Board passed a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment and resolution for the 26-27 Organization Chart as discussed in Executive Session

Motion by: Najuma Atkinson
Second by: Connie Miner
All in favor: All
All opposed: None

Motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Board Chair Sewell adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM CST.

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 March 31, 2026.

Signed by:

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

5/4/2026

Date