



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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2026

Board Members Present: Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten, Naj Atkinson, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Dr. Nanette Cocero, David Dunn, Stacy Eng, Ryan Green, Gary Lindgren, Lilya Matos, Connie Miner.

Board Members Not Present: None

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Jessica Hess, Dolores Gonzalez, Layne Fisher, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Ryan Bennett, Tony Kingman, Bethany Solis, Alejandra Loya, Yasmin Vasquez, Dr. David Lee, Christopher Ruszkowski, Joe Hoffer, Veronica Conforme, Malka Borrego, April Seidensticker, Fidel Ozuna III, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present: Geta Mitchell

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Sewell at 5:01 PM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the April 29, 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 Christopher Ruszkowski presented the monthly TEA Conservator Report. No action was taken on this item.

Organizational Updates

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent and CEO, presented the Org Wide Goals and progress and Layne Fisher, Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Chief Operating Officer, presented the enrollment and student recruitment updates. Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent, presented the persistence update with the focus for May and June. Dr. Cottrill closed with Team and Family Updates that included College Signing Day celebrations.

26-27 Planning and Budget

Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY27 Advanced Budget Requests, and the 26-27 Pay Scales and Compensation Program. The Board passed a motion to approve the 26-27 Pay Scales and Compensation Program as presented.

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

Ryan Bennett, Chief Talent Officer, presented the 26-27 Benefits Program and Annual Enrollment Updates. This presentation included medium-term and short-term strategies for 26-27 medical plans. The Board passed a motion to approve the 26-27 Benefits Program budget pre-approval and allow the CEO/Superintendent to execute on related contracts for future board ratification as presented.

Motion by: David Dunn
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Updates

Dr. Nanette Cocero, Academic Committee Chair, presented the Academic Committee Updates. The Academic Committee met on April 9, 2026, with David Dunn, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Gary Lindgren, Najuma Atkinson, Connie Miner, and Dr. Nanette Cocero present. The committee received presentations regarding Deputy Superintendent updates, IDEA Hardy TAP Milestone Progress and Campus Goals, and Interim Assessment Round 2 Data Results, with no action recommended on these items. The committee also received an overview of the 26-27 Grading Policy and the Math Instructional Materials Transition plan, both of which were recommended for board approval and are on tonight's consent agenda. The next Academic Committee meeting is June 4, 2026.

Lilya Matos, Audit Committee Chair presented the Audit Committee Updates. The Audit Committee met on April 14, 2026, with members Erich Holmsten, Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Ed Rivera, and Lilya Matos present. The committee received presentations regarding Internal Audit Updates, External Quality Assessment Review Report, Employee Compensation Audit, and Quarterly Corporate Card Report, with no action recommended on any these items. The next Audit Committee meeting is May 12, 2026.

Erich Holmsten, Finance Committee Chair, presented the Finance Committee Updates. The Finance Committee met on April 24, 2026, with Erich Holmsten as presiding officer, and committee members David Dunn, Lilya Matos, and Ed Rivera in attendance. The committee received presentations regarding CFO Updates, Enrollment and Registration Update, Liquidity Update, and February 2026 Variance Report. No action was recommended on these items. The committee received presentations on 26-27 Advanced Budget Requests: Compensation and Benefits, 26-27 Pay Scales and Compensation Program, and 26-27 Benefits Program and Annual Enrollment, all of which were presented earlier in tonight's meeting. No action was recommended for the Advanced Budget Requests item, while the 26-27 Pay Scales and Compensation Program was recommended for board approval. While the full benefits program was not ready for presentation, the committee did review the financial implications, with no action recommended. The committee also received presentations on several items that were all recommended for board approval and are on tonight's consent agenda, including a resolution for delegation of authority to Chief Financial Officer for Execution of Electricity Supply Contracts, February 2026 financial statements, budget amendments, revisions to banking signature authority resolution, travel policy exception related to Teach for America's 35th Anniversary Summit, and purchasing and travel exceptions to policy. The next Finance Committee meeting is May 29, 2026.

Collin Sewell, Executive Committee Chair, presented the Executive Committee Updates. The Executive Committee met on April 28, 2026, with Collin Sewell as the presiding officer and committee members Ed Rivera and Erich Holmsten present. The committee received the TEA Conservator Report and a Charter School Performance Framework update, with no action recommended on either item. The committee then moved into Executive Session to discuss updates to the Commitment to Leadership and Commitment to Excellence compensation programs and discuss with counsel next steps related to MISD/IDEA 1882 partnership and attached agreements. The committee subsequently reconvened in Open Session and recommended for board approval both items discussed in Executive Session, which are also on tonight's agenda. The next Executive Committee meeting is June 5, 2026.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by:	Erich Holmsten
Second by:	Ed Rivera
All in favor:	All
All opposed	None

Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings

Jorge Chipres, 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, 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 551.074 Superintendent Performance Feedback.

Executive Session

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: Dr. Nanette Cocero
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:19 PM CST.

Open Session

The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

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

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:25 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Votes on Executive Session Items

The Board passed a motion to approve updates to the Commitment to Leadership and Commitment to Excellence compensation programs as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: David Dunn
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously

The Board passed a motion to direct Superintendent as Legal Counsel on Midland ISD 1882 Operating Agreement and Lease Agreement as discussed in Executive Session up to and including authorization for litigation and pre-suit negotiation.

Motion by: Gary Lindgren
Second by: Theresa Barrera-Shaw
All in favor: All
All opposed: None
Motion passed unanimously

The Board passed a motion to approve next steps related to the stipend for IDEA Travis staff members as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Adjourn

Board Chair Sewell adjourned the meeting at 8:27 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 April 29, 2026.

Signed by:

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Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

6/17/2026

Date