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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026

Board Members Present: Collin Sewell, Ed Rivera, Erich Holmsten, David Dunn, Stacy Eng, Connie Miner, Naj Atkinson, Ryan Green, and Gary Lindgren.

Gary Lindgren joined the meeting at 5:17 PM CST.

Board Members Not Present: Theresa Barrera-Shaw, Dr. Nanette Cocero, and Lilya Matos.

Legal Counsel, Staff, and Consultants Present: Abe Barela, Alejandra Loya, April Seidensticker, Bethany Solis, Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Jessica Hess, Brandy Mayo, Dr. Colleen Stearns, Christopher Ruszkowski, Dr. David Lee, Dolores Gonzalez, Fidel Ozuna III, Kaitlin McDermott, Keawe Liu, Layne Fisher, Linda Parga, Macy Torres, Mary Kendall, Mike Higgins, Myrna Rodriguez, Natalie Kaharick, Paola Alaniz Cantu, Raquel Sanchez, Robyn Birkla, Ryan Bennett, Sandra Sotelo, Thomas Anderson, Tony Kingman, Veronica Conforme, Elizabeth Valades.

Audience Present:

The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Ed Rivera at 5:04 PM CST.

Welcome and Call to Order
Presiding Officer Rivera welcomed the Board Members to the August 18, 2026, Board of Directors meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Presiding Officer Rivera 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
April Seidensticker, Director of Board Services, stated that were no prior requests.

Agenda Item Comment
Presiding Officer Rivera 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 Update
TEA conservator Dr. David Lee presented the monthly TEA Conservator Update. No action was taken on this item.

Texas Public Charter Schools Association Updates
Natalie Kaharick, Chief Executive Officer at Texas Public Charter Schools Association, presented several updates. No action was taken on this item.

Organizational Updates
Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent and CEO, presented the CEO Update. This update included the progress to goal for Org Wide Goals and highlights on the First Days of School. Layne Fisher, Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Chief Operating Officer, continued by presenting an update on enrollment and registration.

SB 12 Annual Certification of Compliance
Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill shared a presentation on the Senate Bill 12 Certification Requirements. The Board passed a motion approve the board resolution for compliance with Texas Education Code 11.005 (Prohibition on DEI Duties) and Section 28.0022 (Certain Instructional Requirements and Prohibitions) as presented.

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

Committee Updates
Academic Committee Member, David Dunn, presented the Academic Workshop Update. The Board held an Academic Workshop on August 6, 2026. The committee received a presentation regarding August school updates and then moved into an overview of the 26-27 STAAR Strategic Plan. No action was recommended on these items, and the Strategic Plan materials are in tonight's board binder appendix. The next Academic Committee meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

Erich Holmsten, Committee Chair, presented the Finance Committee Updates. The Finance Committee met on August 7, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding CFO Update, Liquidity Update, and Enrollment and Persistence Update. No action was recommended on these items. The committee also received presentations on the Public Funds Investment Act Q4 Report, June 2026 financial statements, Bond Refunding Series 2014 and 2016, Q1 Sponsorships, and purchasing and travel policy exceptions. These items were all recommended for board approval and are on tonight’s consent agenda. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2026.

Collin Sewell, Committee Chair, presented the Executive Committee Updates. The Executive Committee met on

August 11, 2026. The committee received the TEA Conservator Update, with no action recommended, and a presentation on policy updates and revisions, which were recommended for approval and are on tonight's consent agenda. The committee also received presentations regarding a board resolution for compliance with Texas Education Code 11.005 (Prohibition on DEI Duties) and Section 28.0022 (Certain Instructional Requirements and Prohibitions), which was recommended for approval and presented again earlier tonight, and the formation of the IDEA Promise Scholarship Granting Organization 501(c)(3) as an additional supporting organization of IDEA, which was recommended for approval and will be presented again shortly. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2026.

Ed Rivera presented the Audit Committee and Governance Committee Updates. The Audit Committee met on August 4, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding Internal Audit Updates, Whistleblower and Investigations Report, Student Persistence Audit, and Accounting Month-End Closing and Financial Statements Audit, with no action recommended for these items. The committee also received an overview of the delegation of the FY26 Annual External Audit Review to the IDEA Finance Committee, which was recommended for approval and is on tonight's consent agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2026.

The Governance Committee met on August 6, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding Governance Updates, including the TPCSA Charter Conference, as well as Board Member Training Updates. No action was recommended on these items. The committee also received a presentation regarding a non-expansion amendment related to updating Charter Contract Language, which was recommended for board approval. The committee entered Executive Session to discuss Board Succession planning, with no action recommended upon returning to open session. This item is also on tonight's Executive Session agenda. Our next Governance Committee meeting is September 17, 2026.

Consent Agenda

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

Motion by:	David Dunn
Second by:	Naj Atkinson
All in favor:	All
All opposed	None

IDEA Promise Scholarship Granting Organization

Keawe Liu, National Executive Director for the IDEA Promise Foundation, presented an overview on the IDEA Promise Scholarship Granting Organization.

Executive Session

Considering the nature of the rest of the content of the IDEA Promise Scholarship Granting Organization item, as well as other items on the agenda, Presiding Officer Rivera recommended to move the meeting into executive session pursuant to:

- Texas Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters
- Texas Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney regarding confidential legal matters
- Texas Govt. Code 551.072 Deliberations over Property Sale regarding revisions to previously approved Purchase and Sale Agreement and Resolution Related to Same, Deliberation on Execution of All Documents including revised PSA and resolution
- Texas Govt. Code 2252.092 Disclosures regarding Trust Parties and Trust Agreement, Deliberation on Execution of Trust Agreement for new Trust Parties

- Texas Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel 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 2252.092, Texas Govt. Code 551.074, Texas Govt. Code 551.071 and Texas Govt. Code 551.082, and Texas Govt. Code 551.072.

Motion by: Ryan Green
Second by: Erich Holmsten
All in favor: All
All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board moved into Executive Session at 6:32 PM CST.

<u>Open Session</u>
The Board passed a motion to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion by: David Dunn
Second by: Collin Sewell
All in favor: All
All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 8:41 PM CST. No action was taken during Executive Session.

<u>Votes on Executive Session Items</u>
The Board passed a motion to approve the formation of the IDEA Promise Scholarship Granting Organization 501(c3) as an additional supporting organization of IDEA as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by: Ryan Green
Second by: David Dunn
All in favor: All
All opposed None
Motion passed unanimously.

The Board passed a motion to approve the resolution regarding the sale of real estate as discussed in Executive Session.

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

<u>Adjourn</u>

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:42 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 August 18, 2026.

Ed Rivera, Board Secretary

Date