APPROVED

IDEA Public Schools Texas

Minutes

IDEA Board Meeting - September

Date and Time
Wednesday September 30, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Directors Present
C. Sewell, D. Dunn, E. Holmsten, E. Rivera, G. Lindgren (remote), N. Atkinson (remote), N. Cocero (remote), R. Green (remote), S. Eng (remote), T. Barrera-Shaw (remote)

Directors Absent
C. Miner, L. Matos

Guests Present
A. Loya, A. Seidensticker, B. Solis (remote), C. Ruszkowski (remote), C. Stearns, D. Gonzalez, E. Valades, Erin Scire (remote), Fidel Ozuna III, J. Cottrill, J. Hess, Javier Campos (remote), Joe Hoffer (remote), K. McDermott (remote), L. Butler, L. Fisher, Linda Parga (remote), Macy Torres (remote), Marco Carbajal (remote), R. Bennett, R. Birkla (remote), Sandra Sotelo (remote), T. Anderson, T. Kingman

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Sewell called a meeting of the board of directors of IDEA Public Schools Texas to order on Wednesday Sep 30, 2026 at 5:01 PM.

Signed by: Naj Atkinson (10/25/2026)

Board Chair Sewell welcomed the Board Members to the September 30, 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.

C. General Comment

April Seidensticker, Director of Board Services, stated that were three public comment requests. Brent Beasley began by sharing a public comment, and was followed by Melissa Ware and Imelda Garcia.

D. Agenda Item Comment

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.

II. Regular Agenda Items

A. Receive TEA Conservator Update

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

B. CEO Update

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent and CEO, presented the CEO Update. This update included progress to goal for Org Wide Goals and the 26-27 Org Priorities.

C. Consider and approve 26-27 District Improvement Plan

Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent of Pre-k-16, presented the 26-27 District Improvement Plan.
E. Rivera made a motion to approve the 26-27 District Improvement Plan as presented.
E. Holmsten seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Committee Updates

Dr. Nanette Cocero, Academic Committee Chair, presented the Academic Committee updates. The Academic Committee met on September 17, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding September Academic Updates, 25-26 AP Results, and 25-26 District Improvement Plan Summative Review, with no action recommended for these items. The committee also received presentations regarding HB3 Early Literacy, Math and CCMR Goals, which was recommended for board approval and on tonight's consent agenda, and the 26-27 District Improvement Plan, which was recommended for approval

and presented earlier this evening. The next Academic Committee meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2026.

Erich Holmsten, Finance Committee Chair, presented the Finance Committee updates. The Finance Committee met on September 18, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding CFO Updates, Enrollment and Persistence, Liquidity Update, Variance Report, and Semi-Annual Debt Review. No action was recommended on these items.
The committee also received presentations on financial statements, corporate card, purchasing and travel policy exceptions, and signature resolutions updating authorized officers for taxable revolving lines of credit from Regions Commercial Equipment Finance, LLC as master debt for working capital needs, from Regions Commercial Equipment Finance LLC as master debt for capital need, and from Texas Capital Bank as master debt for working capital needs. These items were all recommended for board approval and are on tonight's consent agenda. Our next Finance Committee meeting is October 2, 2026.

Ed Rivera, Audit Committee Member and Governance Committee Chair, presented the Audit and Governance Committee updates. The Audit Committee met on September 15, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding Internal Audit Updates, Title III Grant Audit Report, Employee Retention and Staffing FY24 Follow-Up, Student Discipline Audit FY24 Follow-Up, Child Nutrition Program Audit FY24 Follow-Up, and Accounting Month-End Closing and Financial Statements Audit. No action was recommended on these items.
The committee also received a presentation on the FY27 Internal Audit Department Budget Proposal, which was recommended for board approval and is on tonight's consent agenda. The next Audit Committee meeting is October 6, 2026.
The Governance Committee met on September 17, 2026. The committee received a presentation regarding Governance Updates, including board training updates, with no action recommended. The committee also received a presentation regarding IDEA Yellowstone College Preparatory policy and handbook exceptions, which was recommended for board approval and is on tonight's consent agenda. The Committee then moved into Executive Session, and after subsequently reconvening in Open Session, with no action taken in Executive Session, passed a motion to recommend for board approval three items as presented in Executive Session: board officer elections, renewal of board terms, and 25-26 CEO & Superintendent Evaluation. These items are all on tonight's agenda for Executive Session. The next Governance Committee meeting is November 5, 2026.

E. Approve Consent Agenda

D. Dunn made a motion to approve the consent agenda in one board action.

N. Atkinson seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the June 16, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the August 18, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Audit Committee Meeting - September on 09-15-26.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Academic Committee Meeting - September on 09-17-26.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Governance Committee Meeting - September on 09-17-26.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Finance Committee Meeting - September on 09-18-26.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Executive Committee Meeting - September on 09-22-26.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Review and discuss 26-27 Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan

Jorge Chipres, Managing Director of Safety and Security, presented the 26-27 Multi-hazard Emergency Operations Plan and certification cycle. No action was taken on this item.

G. Discussion of Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report findings

Jorge Chipres continued by presenting the District Intruder Detection Audit Report findings. No action was taken on this item.

III. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

Given the nature of the rest of the content of this item as well as other items on the agenda, Board Chair Sewell proposed to move the meeting into executive session pursuant to:
Tex. Govt. Code 551.071 Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters
Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 Personnel Matters
Tex. Govt. Code 551.074 CEO & Superintendent Contract
Tex. Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit
E. Holmsten made a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:33 PM.

D. Dunn seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Open Session

A. Open Session

E. Rivera made a motion to reconvene in open session at 9:57 PM.
D. Dunn seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Open Session Votes on Executive Session Discussion

E. Holmsten made a motion to approve the settlement agreement as discussed in Executive Session.
N. Cocero seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
T. Barrera-Shaw made a motion to approve the board officer elections as discussed in Executive Session. Ed Rivera as Board Chair, Erich Holmsten as Vice-Chair, Lilya Matos as Treasurer, and Naj Atkinson as Secretary.
N. Cocero seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
E. Rivera made a motion to approve the renewal of board terms as discussed in Executive Session.
S. Eng seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
D. Dunn made a motion to approve the 25-26 CEO & Superintendent Evaluation as discussed in Executive Session.
E. Rivera seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
N. Atkinson made a motion to approve the amendment to the CEO & Superintendent Employment Contract and Compensation as discussed in Executive Session.
E. Holmsten seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
N. Cocero made a motion to to confer the title of Board Member Emeritus upon Collin Sewell in recognition of his distinguished service and lasting contributions to IDEA. .
T. Barrera-Shaw seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:33 PM CST.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 PM.

Signed by: Naj Atkinson (10/25/2026)

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Valades

Signed by: Naj Atkinson (10/25/2026)