



IDEA Public Schools Texas

Minutes

IDEA Board Meeting - October

Date and Time

Tuesday October 20, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Directors Present

E. Holmsten (remote), E. Rivera, L. Matos (remote), N. Atkinson (remote), N. Cocero (remote), R. Green (remote), S. Eng (remote), T. Barrera-Shaw (remote)

Directors Absent

D. Dunn, G. Lindgren

Guests Present

A. Loya, A. Seidensticker (remote), B. Solis (remote), C. Stearns, D. Gonzalez, D. Lee (remote), D. Simunovic (remote), Dark, E. Valades, Emily Boney (remote), Erin Scire, Fidel Ozuna III (remote), H. Gattinger (remote), J. Cottrill (remote), J. Hess, Javier Campos (remote), Joe Hoffer (remote), K. McDermott (remote), L. Butler (remote), L. Fisher, Linda Parga (remote), Macy Torres (remote), Malka Borrego (remote), Mike Higgins (remote), Myrna Rodriguez (remote), R. Bennett, R. Birkla (remote), Sandra Sotelo (remote), T. Anderson, T. Kingman (remote), Taylor Perkins (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

E. Rivera called a meeting of the board of directors of IDEA Public Schools Texas to order on Tuesday Oct 20, 2026 at 5:02 PM.

Board Chair, Ed Rivera, welcomed the Board Members to the October 20, 2026, Board of Directors meeting and confirmed quorum was present for the meeting in addition to members of the management team. Board Chair 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.

C. General Comment

Board Chair Rivera stated that the public, employees, and staff have three (3) minutes each to comment if they wish to do so. April Seidensticker, Director of Board Services, stated that there were no public comment requests.

D. Agenda Item Comment

Board Chair 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.

II. Regular Agenda Items

A. Receive TEA Conservator Update

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

B. CEO & Superintendent Update

Dr. Jeffrey Cottrill, Superintendent and CEO, presented the CEO Update. This update included a Team and Family Spotlight highlighting IDEA Riverview Leadership for National Principal Appreciation Month. Dr. Cottrill then presented the 2026-2025 Org Wide Goals, and Dolores Gonzalez, Deputy Superintendent for Pre-k-16, continued by presenting the October Monthly Review.

C. Consider and approve 26-27 Org-Wide Goal Targets

Erin Scire, VP of Enterprise Data and Strategy, presented the 26-27 Org Wide Goal Targets. Based on board feedback, Dr. Cottrill suggested to defer action until Executive Session discussion.

D. Consider and recommend 26-27 Team and Family Recognition Payment

Agenda Item 7 contained a clerical error listing the school year as 2025-2026. The board discussed, considered, and voted upon the item, Team and Family Recognition Payment, for the 2026-2027 school year.

Ryan Bennett, Chief Talent Officer, presented on the 26-27 Team and Family Recognition Payment.

N. Cocero made a motion to approve the 26-27 Team and Family Recognition Payment at presented.

L. Matos seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Committee Updates

Dr. Nanette Cocero, Academic Committee Chair, presented the Academic Committee updates. The Academic Committee met on October 8, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding October Academic Updates, Transform Academics updates, District Emergent Bilingual Program Evaluation, and Graduation Requirements updates, with no action recommended for these items. The committee also received a presentation regarding several policy updates, which were recommended for board approval and are on tonight's consent agenda. The next Academic Committee meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2026.

Finance Committee Chair, Ryan Green, presented the Finance Committee updates. The Finance Committee met on October 2, 2026. The committee received presentations regarding CFO Updates, Liquidity Update, Variance Report, and Corporate Card Report. No action was recommended on these items. The committee also received presentations on financial statements, updates to the Public Funds Investment Act Q4 Report, a resolution for Payment during Closure, 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 November 6, 2026.

Ed Rivera, Executive Committee Chair, shared the Executive Committee updates. The Executive Committee met on October 13, 2026. The committee received presentations on 26-27 Org-Wide Goal Targets and 25-26 Team and Family Recognition Payment, which were recommended for approval and presented here earlier, as well as a presentation regarding several policy updates, which were recommended for approval and are on tonight's consent agenda.

The committee then moved into Executive Session before returning to Open Session, with no action taken. The next Executive Committee meeting is November 10, 2026.

F. Approve Consent Agenda

Dr. Nanette Cocero, requested to remove Consent Agenda Item 9q Emergent Bilingual Waiver Application from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

N. Cocero made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding item 9q Emergent Bilingual Waiver Application, in one board action.

T. Barrera-Shaw seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

N. Cocero made a motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Board Meeting - September on 09-30-26.

T. Barrera-Shaw seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

N. Cocero made a motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Finance Committee Meeting - October on 10-02-26.

T. Barrera-Shaw seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

N. Cocero made a motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Academic Committee Meeting - October on 10-08-26.

T. Barrera-Shaw seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

N. Cocero made a motion to approve the minutes from IDEA Executive Committee Meeting - October on 10-13-26.

T. Barrera-Shaw seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

N. Cocero made a motion to approve consent agenda item 9q Emergent Bilingual Waiver Application.

R. Green seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Discussion of Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report findings

Jorge Chipres, Managing Director of Safety and Security, presented the Districtwide Intruder Detection Audit Report.

H. Appendix

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 Rivera 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 Superintendent Performance Feedback

Tex. Govt. Code 551.076 Security Personnel and/or Security Audit

T. Barrera-Shaw made a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:05 PM CST.

L. Matos seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. Open Session

A. Open Session

T. Barrera-Shaw made a motion to reconvene in Open Session at 8:14 PM CST.

R. Green seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Open Session Votes on Executive Session Discussion

N. Atkinson made a motion to approve the settlement agreement as discussed in Executive Session.

T. Barrera-Shaw seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

T. Barrera-Shaw made a motion to approve the 26-27 Org Wide Goal Targets as presented in Open Session and further discussed in Executive Session.

N. Atkinson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Valades