

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECTOR COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATION BOARD ROOM, 802 NORTH SAM HOUSTON, ODESSA, ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS, AT 6:00 P.M., AUGUST 20, 2024, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

Dr. Steve Brown
Tammy Hawkins
Dawn Miller
Christopher Stanley
Robert Thayer
Wayne Woodall

Absent:

Delma Abalos

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Dr. Keeley Boyer, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Barry Hill, Evalyn Mazone, Staci Walton, Taylor Roy, Jieun Pando, Dr. Matt Spivey, Dr. Scott Rudes, Crissy Medina, Paula Wilburn, Lisa Wills, Tracey Borchardt, Anthony Garcia, Mary Hinson, Mitch Davis, Joe Ellison, Ali Hernandez, Ryan Merritt, Aaron Hawley, Robert Trejo, Steve Paz, Albessa Chavez, Christopher Bartlett, Kyrsten Nall, Maggie Aguilar, Andrea Hewitt, Ruth Campbell, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

26811 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26812 **Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

26813 **Pledge Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by San Jacinto Elementary School 5th Grade Students Jase Ramos and Alexandria Lerma.

26814 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Pastor Ernest Florez, Casa De Mi Padre Odessa Church.

26815 **Special Presentations:**

Recognition of Ryan Merritt ATAT Area II Outstanding Administrator: Ryan Merritt, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education (CTE), was recognized as the Area II Outstanding Administrator at the Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas (ATAT) conference. ATAT promotes and advances agricultural education for Texas science teachers. Ryan earned this award for his leadership, advocacy for all CTE programs, and significant impact on the ECISD Agriculture program. As part of the 2023 bond package approved by voters, the ECISD Ag Farm will undergo a \$7.5 million renovation.

Announcement of Hays STEAM Academy and Reagan Elementary in ERP Honor Roll: Ector County ISD is proud to announce that Hays STEAM Academy and Reagan Elementary have been named to the Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll, which recognizes top public schools in Texas for closing achievement gaps, particularly among higher-poverty and historically disadvantaged students. This year, 835 schools—about 12% of all eligible schools in the state—made the Honor Roll. The results are based on STAAR outcomes from 2019 to 2023. The Honor Roll shines a positive light on districts that are driving a culture where students learn the fundamental skills valued by employers.

Hays STEAM Academy is led by Principal Paula Dannheim, and Reagan Elementary by Principal Jennifer Bizzell.

Presentation of NAMM Best Communities for Music Education Award: Ector County ISD was recognized for being named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) for the 10th consecutive year. This prestigious designation is awarded to districts that excel in providing music education and access to all students. The recognition reflects a comprehensive evaluation of the music program, including funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Dr. Aaron Hawley, Executive Director of Fine Arts, was present to accept the award.

Announcement of Texas Art Educators Association District of Distinction Award: ECISD has received the District of Distinction honor from the Texas Art Educators Association (TAEA) for the fourth consecutive year. Out of more than 1,200 eligible districts and learning institutions, only 96 met the rigorous criteria, placing ECISD among the top 5.5% of visual art programs in Texas. TAEA honors districts that advocate for creative learning opportunities, fostering individual growth and connecting students to their peers, schools, and society. Dr. Aaron Hawley, Executive Director of Fine Arts, was present to accept the award.

TLE Seal Application Update: ECISD has earned the CoSN Trusted Learning Environment (TLE) Seal, a national distinction awarded to school districts that implement rigorous privacy policies and practices to help protect student information.

The CoSN TLE Seal Program requires school systems to implement high standards for student data privacy protections around five core practice areas: Leadership, Business, Data Security, Professional Development, and Classroom. It is the only privacy framework specifically designed for school systems. Earning the TLE Seal requires that school systems have taken measurable steps to implement, maintain and improve organization-wide student data privacy practices. All TLE Seal recipients are required to demonstrate that improvement through a reapplication process every two years.

This achievement is the result of three years of work by a team of dedicated ECISD staff. Online safety and the security of our student and staff information is our priority, and this work establishes the standards that create a safe digital environment.

Dr. Kellie Wilks, Chief Technology, along with members of the Technology team, were present to accept the award.

26816 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri reflected on this being his last school board meeting as ECISD's Superintendent of Schools. He called it an honor of a lifetime to serve this district and this community. He thanked Trustees for the privilege of sitting in the superintendent's chair for ECISD.

26817 **Public Comment:** Individuals who wish to participate during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment shall sign up with the presiding officer or designee before the meeting begins as specified in the Board's procedures on public comment and shall indicate the agenda item on which they wish to address the Board. *BED(LOCAL)* The following seven citizens participated during this portion of the meeting.

In public comment,

New Tech Odessa teacher Staci Walton stated she has an older model of the Promethean interactive flat panel in her classroom and asked what the criteria was for a classroom to receive the new panels from the bond proceeds.

Barry Hill spoke on behalf of long-time ECISD teacher, the late Frizella Whitiker. He said he would like to have seen the board send a resolution to Ms. Whitiker's family at the time of her funeral.

Evalyn Mazone spoke, calling Ms. Whitiker an excellent English teacher and a strong advocate for others in the community. She asked the board to recognize Ms. Whitiker in some way.

Bond 2023

26818 **Bond 2023 Update:** Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers and Associate Superintendent of Operations Dr. Anthony Sorola provided the Board of Trustees with an update on the progress of Bond 2023 projects. In this month's progress update, Trustees learned the Career & Technical Education Center Advisory committee met with architects twice during the summer to look at design options for the new campus; the middle school Advisory committee also met with architects to discuss design options and ECISD's Operations Department met with the Ector County Planning Office; other projects in earlier stages of design discussions are the Ag Farm, Permian High School Auditorium, JROTC facilities, and the Transportation Center; new lights at the Odessa High School baseball field have been installed , and with the lights at the tennis center and the PHS baseball field nearly complete; a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to install Public Address/Bells/Alarm Clock systems will be ready to go out at the end of this month; installation of 2,035 surveillance cameras is beginning and the necessary hardware will be installed over the next few weeks; a check of finances shows about 2% of bond funds have been spent and about 6% has been encumbered

to pay for specific projects; the next steps to be taken will include recommendations for general construction, roofing, and electrical projects (see Item 8-B below); RFPs for HVAC, plumbing, asphalt, masonry, and fire protection are out; Operations hosted a pre-bid meeting for local companies and follow-up is being done with those interested in submitting bids; and community advisory committees are being formed for the Ag Farm, JROTC facilities, PHS Auditorium renovation, Transition Learning Center, the new middle school and new CTE Center.

No action required.

- 26819** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Bond 2023 Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Brown to approve the Bond Purchases over \$50,000 as presented. This month's list includes: \$30 million for eight companies providing general construction services, \$25 million for three companies handling roofing services, and \$3.7 million for three companies for electrical services. All funds will address Priority 1 and Priority 2 renovations and replacements.

Motion unanimously approved.

Action Items

- 26820** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Miller to approve the Purchases over \$50,000 as presented. This month's list includes: supplemental HVAC services to support the Facilities Department as needed; My Math Academy, a digital platform for special education and PreK-2 math students; point-of-sale hardware for School Nutrition cafeterias; and the renewal of ACCESS, a comprehensive platform connecting students with career experts and college advisors.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26821** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #1:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Woodall to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #1 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26822** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Amended Odessa Family YMCA Performance Agreement:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Woodall to approve the Amended Odessa Family YMCA Performance Agreement as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26823** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Application to Renew Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP):** Moved by Miller, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Application to Renew Optional Flexible School Day Program as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26824** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of the Architect-Owner Roof Design and Engineering Services Contract between ECISD and Bluefin, LLC:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Woodall to approve the Architect-Owner Roof Design and Engineering Services Contract between ECISD and Bluefin, LLC as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26825** **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Woodall to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of Meetings
- B. Request for Approval of Bills for Payment
- C. Request for Approval of Acceptance of Donations Over \$10,000
- D. Request for Approval of Annual Investment Report
- E. Request for Approval of Board T-TESS and T-PESS Appraisers for 2024-2025
- F. Request for Approval of Board T-TESS and T-PESS Appraisal Calendar 2024-2025
- G. Request for Approval of Interlocal Agreement between Ector County ISD and Region 18 for Reading Academies
- H. Request for Approval of Extracurricular Status of 4-H Organization Resolution and Adjunct Staff Members
- I. Request for Approval of Interlocal Agreement between Ector County Independent School District and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- J. Request for Approval of Interlocal Agreement between Ector County Independent School District and Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin, Inc.
- K. Request for Approval of Service Agreement between Ector County Independent School District and Right At School, LLC
- L. Request for Approval of UIL Exemption List for 2024-2025 School Year

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

- 26826** **Opening of Schools Update:** Dr. Scott Muri, Superintendent of Schools along with Dr. Keeley Boyer, Chief of Schools provided Trustees with an update on the opening of schools, which included a short video from the first day and a review of key early statistics:

- Enrollment stands at 33,603, up from 32,476 last year
- 31,147 were served today
- 5,954 Help Desk request have been processed, with special thanks to the Help Desk team for opening the past three Saturdays to assist staff
- 29 teacher vacancies remain, compared to 42 last year
- 216 new teachers hired, achieving a 98.4% fill rate

No action required.

26827 **Update on State Accountability System:** Dr. Scott Muri, Superintendent of Schools along with Robert Trejo, Executive Director of Accountability & School Improvement provided Trustees with an update on the State Accountability System. Dr. Muri informed the Trustees that the release of the 2024 A-F ratings has been delayed due to a recent lawsuit filed last week. Currently, the Texas Education Agency reports and downloads provided to school districts do not include A-F ratings, scale scores, or federal school improvement designations. He also highlighted several new aspects of the testing and accountability systems:

- Previously each campus weighed equally in the District's rating, now campuses with higher enrollment weigh more in the District's rating
- From 2018-2022 a College Career & Military Readiness (CCMR) raw score of 60 was an 'A' (and ECISD's score was a 65); now a score of 88 is needed for an 'A'; in 2023, ECISD improved from 65 to a 73 but that only earned a 'C' under the new guidelines despite the improvement
- STAAR End of Course (EOC) question types were consistent from 2018-2022, over the last two years STAAR EOC has introduced new question types: drag and drop questions, constructed responses, multi-select
- Previously, testing was done in combination of paper and online, now it is exclusively online
- Previously, writing responses were graded by humans, now it is grades by an Automatic Scoring Engine and human rescoring

The presentation highlighted five areas where ECISD students closed the achievement gap with state performance this year – 3rd grade Reading Language Arts (RLA) and Math, 7th grade RLA and Math, 8th grade Math, Biology and U.S. History. He closed with three specific areas of focus for ECISD – 5th grade Science, 8th grade Social Studies which historically has trailed the state averages, and English I EOC which saw the largest decline in performance at the district level.

No action required.

26828 **Discussion of Process to Begin Superintendent Search:** Trustees began discussions on the process to search for a new superintendent. Board members expressed a desire to use a professional search firm, and to begin the process as soon as possible.

No action required.

26829 **Discussion Regarding Memorial Resolutions for Employees:** Trustees discussed the idea of memorial resolutions for employees. They discussed the possibility of the school district creating resolutions to be read as part of funeral services of former

employees. The resolutions would be a way to remember the employees' service and are entered into the official record of the church and given to the deceased's family.

No action required.

- 26830** **Possible Request for Approval to Move to Closed Meeting - Personnel Matters - Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code [Board will deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of public employees of the District or hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.]** (The Board of Trustees will deliberate the retroactive hiring of Principal at Austin Elementary School, Principal at Milam Elementary School, Executive Director of Leadership and Executive Director of Talent Development.); and (The Board of Trustees will discuss the Employment Agreement with Interim Superintendent.)
Consultations with Attorney – Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act [The Board will meet in Closed Session in Consultation with the Board's Attorney Regarding all Matters as Authorized by Law.]:

Board President Christopher Stanley convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 8:08 p.m.

Board President Christopher Stanley reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 8:25 p.m.

- 26831** **Request for Approval of Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Austin Elementary School Principal:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Thayer to approve the retroactive personnel recommendation to hire Rebecca Ramirez as Principal at Austin Elementary School as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26832** **Request for Approval of Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Milam Elementary School Principal:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Miller to approve the retroactive personnel recommendation to hire Sydney Garcia as Principal at Milam Elementary School as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26833** **Request for Approval of Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Executive Director of Leadership:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Miller to approve the retroactive personnel recommendation to hire Dr. Maggie Aguilar as Executive Director of Leadership as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26834** **Request for Approval of Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Executive Director of Talent Development:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by

Woodall to approve the retroactive personnel recommendation to hire Dr. Scott Rudes as Executive Director of Talent Development as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26835 **Possible Action on Interim Superintendent's Employment Agreement:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Hawkins to approve Employment Agreement with Dr. Keeley S. Boyer to serve as Interim Superintendent as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26836 **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Added and Reclassified Administrative Professional and Stipend/Supplemental Pay Plan, Financials, Purchasing Over \$50,000 Informational Report, Quarterly Donations Informational Report, and Routine Personnel Report.

26837 **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent:** In his closing remarks, Dr. Muri again thanked the Board and congratulated Dr. Boyer on her appointment as interim superintendent.

26838 **Adjournment:** Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown