

AT A BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE 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 11, 2020, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

Delma Abalos
Dr. Steve Brown
Carol Gregg
Tammy Hawkins
Nelson Minyard
Dr. Donna Smith

Absent:

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Staci Ashley, Dr. Stephanie Howard, Dr. Lilia Nández, Jason Osborne, Deborah Ottmers

Others: Mike Atkins, Cortney Smith, Ray Dominguez, Robert Cedillo, Dr. Stacy Johnson, Andrea Martin, Dr. Corey Seymour, Ruth Campbell, Jesse Christesson, Barbara Hirst, Kristina Carrasco, Albert Anchondo, Mary Franco

25183 **Meeting Called to Order:** Delma Abalos, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

25184 **Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law – this is to certify that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with the public notice of this meeting:** Board President Delma Abalos, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

25185 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri’s opening remarks he reminded the board that tomorrow August 12 is the first day of school and that he would be talking more about the plans later in this evenings meeting.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Action Items

25186 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Plans for Early Childhood and College, Career and Military Readiness:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Brown to approve the Plans for Early Childhood and College, Career and Military Readiness as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25187 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 40% Campus Hybrid Instruction for 9th – 12th Grade Students Waiver:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Brown to approve the 40% Campus Hybrid Instruction for 9th – 12th Grade Students Waiver as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 25188** **Discussion of and Request for Approval to Submit a Waiver to Texas Education Agency to Extend the Start of the 2020-2021 School Year Beyond the Four-Week Limit:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard to approve to submit a Waiver to Texas Education Agency to Extend the Start of the 2020-2021 School Year Beyond the Four-Week Limit as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 25189** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution to Delegate to the Superintendent the Authority to Submit Waiver Requests on Behalf of the District:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Brown to approve the Resolution to Delegate to the Superintendent the Authority to Submit Waiver Requests on Behalf of the District as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 25190** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of the Revised 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard to approve the Revised 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 25191** **Discussion of and Request for Approval to Enter into the Operation Connectivity Interlocal Acquisition Agreement with Region 4 and to Ratify the Superintendent's Signing of the Agreement:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Hawkins to approve to enter into the Operation Connectivity Interlocal Acquisition Agreement with Region 4 and to Ratify the Superintendent's Signing of the Agreement as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

- 25192** **Presentation of Broadband Update:** Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri and Chief Technology Officer Dr. Kellie Wilks presented an update on the work to expand broadband to all of Ector County. Noting that our school district is working on a plan to help find a long-term solution to provide broadband (high speed) internet access to all students and families throughout the county. A cross section of community leaders were brought into the study and agreed internet access for all should be a priority project for Ector County. ECISD is leading that work. Research shows many gaps in coverage exist locally; the most rural areas typically have the slowest and least reliable internet options; and the District's goal is for all residents to have affordable access to speeds of 100 megabits/second downloads and 10 megabit/second uploads. Trustees saw maps of cell phone towers, data of coverage areas, and learned that 1 in 5 ECISD students rarely or never has reliable internet access at home.

Superintendent Muri told Trustees a panel of national connectivity experts are already working with us to study the situation and help find a long-term solution for Odessa and Ector County.

No action required.

- 25193** **Discussion of ECISD's Opening of School Plans:** Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri walked the Trustees through a brief recap of the plan for starting school – the next day (August 12). By the numbers: it is about a 50-50 split between parents choosing remote learning or in-person learning for their student; 2,851 students are registered to ride buses, about half of the normal number of riders; and the number of teacher vacancies is down dramatically from one year ago (currently there are 91 vacancies in elementary schools and 31 in secondary schools). A total of 407 teachers have been hired this year. He reminded board members school starts with a limited number of students on campus. Groups of students will be phased-in over a period of weeks.

No action required.

- 25194** **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 a public officer or employee of the District; or hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.]:**

There was no closed session.

- 25195** **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** No closing remarks by the Superintendent. Trustee Tammy Hawkins thanked all ECISD employees for the incredible amount of work they have done to prepare for this school year and how proud the Trustees are of everyone. The Trustees stood and gave the team a standing ovation.

- 25196** **Adjournment:** Delma Abalos, Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Board President
Delma Abalos

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown