

AT A REGULAR 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., OCTOBER 20, 2020, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

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

Absent:

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Dr. Stephanie Howard, Dr. Lilia Nanez, Jason Osborne, Deborah Ottmers, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Dr. Corey Seymour, Dr. Stacy Johnson, Stacy Ashley, Robert Cedillo, Alicia Press, Jed Duesler, Elaine Smith, Donna Zirix, Ashley Osborne, Sandra Banda, Mauricio Marquez, Kayme Smith, Robin Fawcett, Lani Munguia, Albert Valencia, Clinton Gill, Krista Vivian, Javier Ruiz, Melanie Salado, Ruth Campbell, Marcos Montes, Albert Anchondo, Mary Franco

25257 **Meeting Called to Order:** Delma Abalos, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

25258 **Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Delma Abalos, 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.

25259 **Pledge of Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Tammy Hawkins, ECISD Board Member.

25260 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Dr. Steve Brown, ECISD Board Secretary.

25261 **Special Presentations:**

Dr. Stacy Johnson, Dr. Lilia Nanez and Dr. Corey Seymour were accepted to the National Superintendents Academy: Executive Director of Leadership Dr. Stacy Johnson, Associate Superintendent of C&I Dr. Lilia Nanez, and Executive Director of Leadership Dr. Corey Seymour were recognized on their acceptance into the National Superintendent's Academy.

Governor's Proclamation of Education Human Resources Day: Communications Officer Mike Adkins read the governor's proclamation regarding Education Human Resources Day.

Principal Appreciation Month: Pease Elementary Principal Kamy Smith (2019-20 ECISD Principal of the Year) and Odessa High School Principal Mauricio Marquez (2020-21 Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Regional Principal of the Year) were recognized.

25262 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri's opening remarks, he provided Trustees with an update on the percentage of students returning to face-to-face instruction this week during Phase V of our return-to-school plan. He said as of this week 71% of our elementary students are back in school for face-to-face instruction, up 3% from one week ago. He also reminded Trustees that this morning we announced an agreement that makes ECISD the first school district in the United States to utilize the SpaceX Starlink satellite constellation to provide high-speed, low-latency Internet to students. Dr. Muri called it the continuation of our commitment to provide equity and an excellent educational experience for all of our students. He thanked our partners in this project, Chiefs for Change and the Permian Strategic Partnership.

25263 **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.

Javier Ruiz addresses two agenda items 9A – TASB Policy ELA(Local) Campus or Program Charters: Partnership Charters and 10C – Approval from Requirement of Medical Certification of the Need for Leave Due to COVID-19. He spoke against the possibility of the school district partnering with a charter school. He also said he thinks staff members are not being notified soon enough when a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19.

Melanie Sheehan addressed agenda item 10C – Approval from Requirement of Medical Certification of the Need for Leave Due to COVID-19. She spoke about concerns she is hearing from elementary teachers about teaching in small groups, the number of kids in classrooms, being required to wear both a mask and shield while teaching, and feeling overwhelmed and tired. She asked for teachers to be appreciated and shown grace.

Sheena Salcido addressed agenda item 10C – Approval from Requirement of Medical Certification of the Need for Leave Due to COVID-19. She said individual schools are handling the COVID process differently and feels it should be standardized throughout the District. She added the District is leaning on distancing guidelines from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) which differ from those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Public Hearing on Financial Accountability

25264 **Public Hearing of District's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) Report:** Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers presented the FIRST report for 2019-20 (which is based on financial data from 2018-19). Our District earned a Superior Rating, which is equivalent to a grade of A. Created by the 76th Texas Legislature in 2001, FIRST is designed to encourage public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. The FIRST ratings are calculated using 15 financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures; the accuracy of

a district or charter's financial information submitted to TEA; and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses in internal controls as determined by an external auditor. Congratulations to our ECISD Finance Department for their hard work in managing tax dollars responsibly.

Board Policy

- 25265** **Discussion of Revisions to TASB Policy ELA(LOCAL) Campus or Program Charters: Partnership Charters:** Deputy Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Howard presented this item for discussion. No major changes are being made to this policy. The revisions are in accordance with the most recent updates from the Texas Association of Schools Boards (TASB).

Action Items

- 25266** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #4:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Hawkins to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #4 as presented. This amendment reflects a loss of revenue from lower student enrollment but that is offset by the closing of vacant positions that are not going to be filled this year.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 25267** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Brown to approve the Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 25268** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of a Waiver From the Requirement of Medical Certification of the Need for Leave Due to COVID-19:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard to approve a Waiver from the Requirement of Medical Certification of the need for Leave due to COVID-19 as presented. Board Policy DEC(LOCAL) requires that an Employee shall submit medical certification of the need for leave if the Employee is absent more than five (5) consecutive workdays because of personal illness. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is requested that ECISD not require medical certification of the need for leave if the Employee is absent for more than five (5) consecutive workdays because of personal illness if the absence is due to any of the following conditions: Employee is out due to COVID-19 illness; Employee is out due to COVID-19 symptoms until a negative test or alternative diagnosis is received; Employee is out due to COVID-19 exposure.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 25269** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Teacher Certification Waiver for 2020-2021 School Year:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Brown to approve the Teacher Certification Waiver 2020-2021 School Year as presented. The Teacher Certification Waiver can be used for an individual to teach in an area he or she is not certified to teach. It can also be used for individuals who are not certified but

have qualifications to teach and are carefully vetted. The Teacher Certification Waiver must be approved by the Board and the Commissioner of Education. The waiver does not apply to Special Education, Bilingual, or ESL assignments. Approval must be granted each year.

Motion unanimously approved.

25270 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Revised District Board Goals:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Revised District Board Goals as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25271 **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Gregg, seconded by Hawkins to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes
- B. Request for Approval of Bills for Payment
- C. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding and Articulation Agreement between Ector County ISD and Odessa College – Continuing Education Class Offerings
- D. Request for Approval of Data Sharing Agreement by and Between ECISD and Imagine Learning, Inc.
- E. Request for Approval of Odessa High School Choir Student Out-of-State Travel to Colorado Springs, Colorado
- F. Request for Approval of Additional 2020-2021 T-TESS Appraisers

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

25272 **Human Capital Presentation:** Deputy Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Howard along with Executive Director for Human Resources and Ashley Osborne Executive Director of Talent Development presented this item for discussion. The presentation began with the announcement that ECISD has been selected as one of just two school districts (Dallas ISD being the other) chosen to take part in the Urban Schools Human Capital Academy which will be funded by the Texas Education Agency. ECISD's Human Capital Department has two arms: Human Resources that hires and establishes policies and processes; and Talent Development that is responsible for professional growth and developing pipelines to grow our employees' capacity. Just a few of the highlights from the presentation: Odessa Pathway to Teaching, ECISD's own teacher certification program, is taking applications right now. This program provides rigorous course work plus hands-on classroom training and coaching before a candidate takes over their own classroom; Opportunity Culture which gives teachers a chance to be campus leaders and earn more money without leaving the classroom; Teacher Incentive Allotment which provides additional pay for highly effective teachers whose students show measurable improvement in academic growth; and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards which will begin accepting applications next week.

National Board Certification is a very strenuous process and brings with it the chance to earn substantially more money because of the certification.

No action required.

25273 **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 officer or employee of the District; or hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee.]**:

There was no closed session held.

25274 **Information Items**: The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Acknowledgement of Donations, Financials, Purchasing Report and Routine Personnel Report.

25275 **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent**: There were no closing.

25276 **Adjournment**: Board President Delma Abalos adjourned the Board meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Board President
Delma Abalos

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown