

**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., DECEMBER 10, 2024, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

**Present:**

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

**School Officials:** Dr. Keeley Boyer, Mike Adkins, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

**Others:** Alex Reynolds, Betsabe Salcido, Aaron Hawley, Tonya Kyser, Rose Thomas, Christy Thomas, Laura Styles, Tanya Galindo, Christy Kennedy, Christie Landrum, Scott Rudes, Jennie Chavez, Micah Pettigrew, Taylor Roy, Anthony Garcia, Maggie Aguilar, Ryan Merritt, Albessa Chavez, Cecilia Kellar, Mandy Hinojos, Andrea Hewitt, Lisa Wills, Dallas Kennedy, Joe Mansanales, Sam Magallan, Mauricio Marquez, Matt Spivey, Chris Bartlett, Ruth Campbell, Mary Franco

**26966** **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**26967** **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 Christopher Stanley, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

**26968** **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In her opening remarks, Interim Superintendent Dr. Keeley Boyer offered congratulations to the board and to all employees on ECISD being named the 2024 District of the Year by K-12 Dive. Dr. Boyer also announced, over the week, 7 teachers learned they had earned National Board Certification – more on this will be presented during next week's board meeting.

**26969** **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)*

There were no public comments.

**Report/Discussion Items**

*(The DLR Presentation was moved to be presented first during the meeting.)*

**26970** **DLR New Transition Learning Center Presentation:** Dr. Anthony Sorola, Associate Superintendent of District Operations along with DLR Representatives provided Trustees with an update on the work to create a new Transition Learning Center (TLC), a project approved as part of Bond 2023. The TLC houses the District's 18+ program that helps prepare students with special needs to achieve greater independence. The DLR Group is leading the design and is using the FINNS Framework – Flexibility (movement, space for learning activities), Individualization (personalized activity settings, right-sized furniture), Naturalness and Nature (connections to nature/natural light and comfort), and Stimulation (right size, appropriate colors). A local committee gave input on design needs and wants, looked at other similar facilities, and reviewed the proposed floor plan. The new TLC will be approximately 15,500 square feet and will face W. 12th Street at the Whitaker Avenue intersection, across the street from its current location. Construction could begin in Spring 2025.

No action required.

**26971** **Presentation of School Action Update at Noel Elementary, Pease Elementary and Zavala Elementary:** Alicia Syverson, Associate Superintendent of Student and School Support along with each respective principal presented this item for discussion. Trustees received an update on Noel, Pease, and Zavala elementary schools. Last spring, in an effort to bring families back together in kindergarten through 5th-grade (K-5) neighborhood schools and create a more efficient system, boundary changes were made that returned Noel and Pease to K-5 campuses, and combined boundaries of Zavala and Travis Elementary, resulting in the closure of Travis.

Pease Elementary has successfully implemented Blended Learning, has smoothly transitioned to the K-5 grade configuration, is ahead of schedule to file for International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program candidacy, and has expanded Opportunity Culture. Enrollment at Pease is up from 582 to 627.

At Noel Elementary, enrollment has increased slightly from 488 to 500. The school has fully implemented the House System for grades K-5, expanded Opportunity Culture, welcomed new families rezoned to Noel from the Burleson Elementary attendance area, and has added an Esports Lab.

By taking in the attendance zone for Travis, student enrollment has increased at Zavala from 425 to 728. Students and families in the attendance zone are now together on one campus and Opportunity Culture is in place in 5th grade.

All three principals felt the changes have been navigated well by their staff, and said families have expressed appreciation.

No action required.

**26972** **Board 2025-2026 Budget Priorities:** Deborah Ottmers, Chief Financial Officer presented this item for discussion. Trustees began the discussion of their budget priorities for the 2025-26 school year. In setting the context for these discussions, school board members were reminded that 2019-20 was the first year of Texas House Bill 3, a landmark school finance law. This 2024-25 school year is year six of essentially those same funding formulas. A new legislative session will open in January, and what will occur is still unknown and that makes budget planning very difficult. Increased enrollment along with improved attendance this year are casting a brighter outlook for the coming year.

Trustees' initial thoughts on items the new budget should prioritize included returning after-school Choice School programs; ensuring that compensation and incentives are maximized to retain our employees including looking at innovative ways to reward staff members financially; increasing coaching support for teachers; reviewing cuts made this year and evaluating ways to restore them next year; focus financial support on key achievement metrics; and hearing from departments on the resources they need to be successful.

All Trustees agreed a raise for all employees is a priority and would like to see it be as much as possible while keeping the district on solid financial footing.

No action required.

**26973** **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.] 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.]:**

There was no closed session.

**26974** **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

**26975** **Adjournment:** Christopher Stanley Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 7:15 p.m.

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**Board President**  
*Christopher Stanley*

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**Board Secretary**  
*Dr. Steve Brown*