

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 8, 2020, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

Dr. Steve Brown
Carol Gregg (Virtually)
Tammy Hawkins
Nelson Minyard
Dr. Donna Smith
Christopher Stanley (Virtually)

Absent:

Delma Abalos

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Staci Ashley, Dr. Stephanie Howard, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Deborah Ottmers, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks, Patrick Young

Others: Mike Atkins, Edith Sanchez, Dr. Stacy Johnson, Robert Cedillo, Andrea Martin, Dr. Corey Seymour, Robin Garcia, Jaime Miller, Ray Dominguez, Albert Anchondo, Mary Franco

25305 **Meeting Called to Order:** Tammy Hawkins, Board Vice-President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

25306 **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 Vice-President Tammy Hawkins, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

25307 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri's opening remarks he thanked the Ector County Commissioners and the Odessa City Council for their approval of funds to help reimburse the school district for the purchase of Chromebooks, iPads and WiFi hotspots this fall. Dr. Muri attended the Commissioners' Court today to thank them in person and he said he would do the same with the City Council. He held this up as a remarkable example of three government entities working together to improve options for their local students.

25308 **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.

Action Items

- 25309** **Discussion and Board Approval of ECISD’s Amendment to the Academic Calendar for 2020-2021 and OCA/OCTECHS Early College High School Academic Calendar for 2020-2021**: Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard to approve ECISD’s Amendment to the Academic Calendar for 2020-2021 and OCA/OCTECHS Early College High School Academic Calendar for 2020-2021 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

- 25310** **Presentation of ECISD Choice Schools**: Assistant Superintendent of Student and School Support Alicia Syverson and Executive Director of Student & School Support Robin Garcia presented this item for discussion. For many years Choice Schools went by the name of Magnet Schools. The application period is now open and will remain open through January 17, 2021. ECISD currently offers 9 Choice options for elementary students, one Choice option for middle schools and three for high schools. Information about the application process and links to information about each of those Choice Schools can be found on our website – <https://www.ectorcountiyisd.org/choice>. Student choice is a key provision of our District’s Strategic Plan. Trustees began a discussion about a Choice School plan to create a broader vision for student success; engage community, workforce and district stakeholders for input; identify interests and needs of students and external stakeholders to develop potential future Choice School options; create additional choices where our students can demonstrate their interest and strengths, and parents are partners.

No action required.

- 25311** **Presentation of Early Childhood**: Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Lilia Náñez along with Executive Director Curriculum & Instruction Jaime Miller and Director of Early Childhood Beatris Mata presented this item for discussion. The Early Childhood team provided Trustees with a look into its work and what it means to be Kindergarten Ready. Pre-K focuses on pre-reading and writing skills, gross and fine motor skills, language and communication, concepts and thinking. Kindergarten Readiness is a strategic priority for our District. This school year, ECISD expanded Full Day Pre-K to a total of 20 schools (up from 12). Pre-K enrollment stands at 1,264 students down about 300 from a year ago due to COVID concerns. The State of Texas defines criteria for eligibility for free Pre-K, if a student does not meet those eligibility requirements he/she may still attend Pre-K with a tuition of \$2,000 per year. As of this meeting, 83% of ECISD Pre-K students are attending school face-to-face, with 17% learning online. The team pointed out this year’s Kindergarten reading data show 67% of the students who attended ECISD Pre-K last year are scoring higher than students who did not attend ECISD Pre-K last year, and even scoring higher than national averages – highlighting the

strong work done by ECISD Pre-K teachers last year despite the pandemic interruption. Coming next year (2021-22 school year) ECISD is committed to finding a partner to create 3-year-old Pre-K for 1,000 students.

No action required.

25312 **Board 2021-2022 Budget Priorities:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Muri and Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers presented this item for discussion. The Board discussed its 2020-21 Budget Priorities. A budget shortfall at the state level is expected to be precipitous, and because education (PK-12 and higher education) makes up 52% of the state's bi-annual budget, that shortfall is likely to impact school districts in a significant way. This is something ECISD leaders are watching daily and will continue to do so as the Texas Legislative session begins in January. The Trustees' discussion focused on prioritizing employees and compensation; not losing ground on the recent work done to recover from severe staffing shortages of the last several years and boosting morale; and keeping resources necessary to provide a quality educational experience for all students, paying particular attention to areas of need.

No action required.

25313 **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.] Consultation 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.

25314 **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

25315 **Adjournment:** Tammy Hawkins, Board Vice-President, adjourned the Board meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Board Vice-President
Tammy Hawkins

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown