

AT A SPECIAL 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., SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

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

Absent:

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Mitch Davis, Mary Franco

26413 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26414 **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.

26415 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri told Trustees the district hosted a press conference earlier in the day to announce the approval of a Registered Apprenticeship Program for Teachers that will partner with Odessa College and the University of Texas Permian Basin to provide a free or low-cost way for individuals to earn a teaching degree. It comes with an apprenticeship with a highly-qualified ECISD teacher.

26416 **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 was no public comment.

26417 **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.] (Discussion of pending or contemplated litigation to join other school districts in challenging the Texas Education Agency's A-F Accountability Rating system.):**

Board President Christopher Stanley convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 6:03 p.m.

Board President Christopher Stanley reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 6:36 p.m.

26418 **Request for Approval of Resolution Authorizing the District to Join Litigation Against the Texas Education Agency Challenging Lack of Transparency in Calculation of School District Accountability Ratings:**
Moved by Abalos, seconded by Miller to approve Resolution Authorizing the District to Join Litigation Against the Texas Education Agency Challenging Lack of Transparency in Calculation of School District Accountability Ratings as presented.

For:	Against:
Abalos	Thayer
Brown	
Hawkins	
Miller	
Stanley	
Woodall	

Motion passed.

The A–F Accountability System is a statewide rating system established by the Texas Education Agency that evaluates the academic performance of Texas public schools and assigns letter grades A–F to districts and schools. Despite the fact state assessments were taken last spring and a new school year is underway, TEA is still in the process of substantially changing the accountability ratings system.

26419 **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent:** In Dr. Scott Muri’s closing he made the following remark:

“We believe in high standards, and we want high standards. We believe in accountability,” “The challenge here is that the rules were not released in time; the 2022-23 school year started before the rules were released. Even now we don’t know all of the details. We didn’t know the rules of the game while we were playing the game. Now, we are being held accountable to a set of rules that we didn’t know, and that’s the real problem.”

One example, from the proposed new TEA accountability rules which have yet to be finalized, is the threshold for a school or a district to earn an “A” for College Career & Military Readiness (CCMR). That standard will be increased from 60% to 88% for the 2022-23 accountability year. The 88% threshold will be applied retroactively to the Class of 2022 graduates, well after they have graduated and left school.

ECISD contends, in violation of state law, TEA did not provide the District information regarding the changes to the A–F Accountability System prior to the start of the 2022–2023 school year and, indeed, still has not provided a full

explanation of the rules and methodologies that are being used to determine district and campus ratings. The lawsuit will seek to prohibit TEA from issuing performance ratings – the A-F letter grades – for the 2022-23 school year. Also, because ECISD does not know the expectations set by the State of Texas for school districts it has been unable to adjust to the TEA’s new accountability measures and allocate resources in a manner required to help students meet state standards.

“We’ve gotten better academically.” “Our STAAR scores, our End of Course exam scores, our CCMR score, all of these numbers are better for us but the letter grade is going to be lower and that just doesn’t make any sense. Again, we are happy for new, higher standards but let us know the rules before the game begins.”

26420 **Adjournment:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Tammy Hawkins