

AT A REGULAR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECTOR COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATION BOARD ROOM, 802 NORTH SAM HOUSTON, ODESSA, ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS, AT 6:00 P.M., JANUARY 21, 2025, 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, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Aaron Padilla, Estela Vejil, Maria Melendez, Brian Patterson, Shannon Wilkerson, Todd Blankenship, Toby Blankenship, Tracey Borchardt, Tyler Thompson, Albessa Chavez, Monica Olivas, Pablo Valenzuela, Martha Gomez, Hector Lemon, Lisa Wills, Andrea Moreno-Hewitt, Kyrsten Nall, Betsabe Salcido, Ale Gomez, Jesus Gomez, Nisi Gomez, Milan Mills, Brian Gwilliam, Ashton Daly, Tammy Belman, Declan Henderson, Brian Patterson, Maiya Morgan, Stephani Castillo, Aaron Padilla, Saeed Inman, Raquel Villegas, Michelle Villegas, Mandy Hinojos, Noah Ortiz, Jeanne Blankenship, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

27025 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

27026 **Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Christopher Stanley, 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.

27027 **Pledge Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Blackshear Elementary School Students Miguel Rodriguez and Genesis Saenz.

27028 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Spanish Pastor Daniel Perez, Odessa Bible Church.

27029 **Special Presentations:**

School Board Month Proclamation: Chief Communication Officer Mike Adkins presented this item. On January 14, Odessa Mayor Cal Hendrick and the City Council proclaimed January as Ector County ISD School Board Recognition Month. "While we won't read the proclamation now, it will be displayed here in the boardroom for those interested. Instead, we'd like to share our own message of appreciation for you, our

school board members.” Our Communications Department created a heartfelt video featuring messages from each of the Trustees’ families.

Presentation of Aetna Well-Being Award: Chief Communication Officer Mike Adkins presented this item. Aetna presented its Well-being Bronze Award to our Benefits Department to recognize the District’s strong commitment to providing workplace well-being resources, programs and support for employees.

That support comes in a broad range of resources for *total well-being*; financial well-being seminars, exercise times called Wellness Wednesdays, flu shot clinics, employee counseling sessions, stress management webinars, mammogram events, and, of course, ECISD’s own Health & Wellness Center for employees and eligible dependents with a spectrum of services. The ECISD Benefits Department also sends a quarterly newsletter to all employees, keeping us well-informed.

Announcement of Texas Association of School Boards Risk Management Fund Student Scholarship: Chief Communication Officer Mike Adkins presented this item. ECISD has been awarded a student scholarship sponsored by Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Risk Management Fund. TASB Representative Brian Patterson presented ECISD with a \$1,000 check, which will be awarded to a student or students later this spring through a selection process yet to be determined. This generous contribution supports ECISD’s mission in preparing students for high school graduation and beyond.

Presentation of Crockett MS Student Design for State Capitol Christmas Ornament: State representatives are invited each year to select one artist from their community to create an ornament that highlights the beauty of their Texas House District. With only 150 artists chosen annually for this holiday honor, Representative Brooks Landgraf selected Leon’s design to represent his West Texas district this year. Leon Apollo Valenzuela a 6th grader at Crockett Middle School, hand-painted his ornament featuring Santa and his reindeer flying over the Texas flag, a tree surrounded by falling snow, and a tribute to Crockett Middle School, completing the design.

Recognition of Permian High School Band State Qualifier: Chief Communication Officer Mike Adkins presented this item. The Permian High School Band was recognized for advancing to the UIL State Marching Contest for the fourth consecutive year, following their third consecutive area championship. Representing the band were Director Jeff Whitaker, Trey Burns, Tyler Serrato; Drum Majors Diego Campos, Sayuri Dominguez, Alexis Sanchez, and Cristian Velasco; and Band Captain Laney Cobb.

Introduction of Academic All-State Athletes from the Fall Semester: Chief Communication Officer Mike Adkins presented this item. The Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Teams honor senior student-athletes, trainers, and managers who excel in GPA, class rank, and ACT/SAT scores. The 19 student-athletes recognized tonight have earned this distinction based on their achievements in these areas.

This years, All-State Honorees:

Cross Country | Odessa High School

Toby Blankenship | Honorable Mention Boys
Jesse Valerio | Honorable Mention Boys
Jordan Flotte | Honorable Mention Boys
Jeremiah Manuel Casas | Honorable Mention Boys

Volleyball | Odessa High School

Clarissa Deleon | 2nd Team
Jocelynn Saenz | 2nd Team

Volleyball | Permian High School

Milan Mills | 2nd Team
Aubrey Gwilliam | 2nd Team
Nisi Gomez | 2nd Team
Maiya Morgan | 2nd Team

Football | Odessa High School

Benjamin Matthews | 2nd Team
Landon Wilkerson | Honorable Mention
Joel Vizcaino | Honorable Mention
Arath Benavides | Honorable Mention
Michelle Villegas | Honorable Mention

Football | Permian High School

Aaron Padilla | 2nd Team
Noah Casas | Honorable Mention
Declan Henderson | Honorable Mention
Ashton Daly | Honorable Mention

27030 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In her opening comments, Interim Superintendent Dr. Keeley Boyer acknowledged School Board Recognition Month, thanking the Trustees for their service and telling them how proud she is to be part of this Team of 8.

27031 **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.

Bond 2023

27032 **Bond 2023 Update:** Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers and Associate Superintendent of Operations Dr. Anthony Sorola provided the Board of Trustees with

an update on the progress of Bond 2023 projects. The update began with a look at the construction/renovation projects. About 50% of the construction documents have been received for the new Career & Technical Education high school. All should be in by the end of January, and it is still on track for groundbreaking in June.

The groundbreaking for West Odessa's new middle school took place on January 16, marking the start of construction. The school is set to open in the Fall of 2026.

Design plans are being finalized and permitting requirements being obtained for the Permian High School Auditorium renovation. Construction is expected to begin at the end of this school year.

There is a very similar report for the PHS JROTC facility. Design is complete and the project is going out for bid this month. Construction should begin by the end of this school year.

At Odessa High School, the design development phase is underway for the Transition Learning Center. Surveying and geotechnical drilling have been completed, and construction should begin soon.

The Ag Farm is currently in the design development phase and construction is expected to start at the end of this school year.

The Transportation Center is now under contract. The location is 8860 and 8866 NW Loop 338 on 35 acres of land with existing facilities.

Technology projects for Public Address/Bells/Alarms/Clocks are underway. Cabling is complete at Blackshear Elementary, Blanton Elementary, and Milam Elementary. Goliad, Gonzales and Ireland elementary schools are scheduled next. Hardware installation began at Burleson Elementary the week of January 13 (a reminder that Burleson will open as an early education center in August 2025). New surveillance cameras are being installed at OHS now and will begin at PHS next week.

The financial report shows quite a bit of movement taking place. About 5% of bond proceeds have been spent so far, with about 30% now encumbered (designated for specific projects) through purchase orders – that's nearly \$127 million – most of that for the new middle school build.

A color selection committee for the new middle school has met and is considering color combinations for the campus.

Design meetings for the TLC and Ag Farm took place earlier in January and will meet again in the coming weeks.

No action required.

Action Items

27033 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Brown to approve the Purchases over \$50,000 as presented. The one item on this list this month is approximately \$1.6 million to CDW-G for network equipment to connect four (4) new bond-project sites to ECISD's network.

Motion unanimously approved.

27034 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #4:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Woodall to approve the 2024-2025 Budget Amendment #4 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

27035 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2024-2025 Calendar Revision 1:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Brown to approve the 2024-2025 Calendar Revisions as presented. This change will remove the last two days of summer school (July 1 & 2), allowing payroll for summer learning for elementary and middle school to be completed by June 30, the final day of the District's fiscal year. High school continues until Summer Graduation in July.

Motion unanimously approved.

27036 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Election Order and Notice for May 3, 2025 Board of Trustees Election:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Election Order and Notice for the May 3, 2025 Board of Trustees Election as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

27037 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of ECISD Board of Trustees Naming Two Members to the Education Foundation Board by Way of Ballot:** By way of Ballot, Trustees elected Tammy Hawkins and Chris Stanley as Members of the Education Foundation Board.

Motion unanimously approved.

27038 **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Brown to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of Meetings
- B. Request for Approval of Bills for Payment
- C. Request for Approval of Acceptance of Donations Over \$10,000
- D. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Ector County ISD and Angelo State University – School Counseling Pathway
- E. Request for Approval to Submit Grant Resolutions to the Office of the Governor
- F. Request for Approval of Agreed Corrective Action Plan

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

27039 **Presentation of Career & Technical Education Program:** Executive Director of Career and Educational Ryan Merritt provided Trustees with a report on the Career & Technical Education (CTE) program, which is focused on preparing students for high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand occupations.

ECISD offers 30 CTE programs of study aligned to careers that meet criteria for in-demand and high wage occupations. Each program of study leads to postsecondary education, training opportunities and aligns with statewide graduation endorsements.

For 2024-25, 8,799 students are taking at least one CTE course. When you then consider students taking more than one CTE class, there are 15,549 seats filled across all CTE courses. About 2,260 CTE students travel every day from OHS, PHS and New Tech Odessa to one of five CTE satellite campuses to access their program of choice.

The 2023-24 Texas Academic Performance Report shows ECISD's 2023 graduates earning their state-required CCMR (College Career and Military Readiness) credit through CTE Dual Credit (which is a course that gives high school and college credit simultaneously) was 51.8% - more than 28% higher than the state number of 23.6%.

The new, bond-approved, CTE high school will consolidate many programs onto one campus, will be the full-time high school for 400 students, and will accommodate 2,000 traveling CTE students each day. The ten (10) programs of study offered at the new center were identified by a community advisory committee considering labor market information (regional and state), student interest and local wisdom.

Also approved by voters in the last bond, the new Ag facility is being designed with three focus areas – program visibility; student, staff and animal safety; and community engagement.

Speaking of community engagement, the CTE and Counseling teams are hosting the annual 8th grade high school programs fair, on January 23 at Odessa College, to give this year's 8th graders the chance to see the various high school programs and electives available to them in high school. Students will visit during the day, and it is open to parents and the community from 4:30-7:00 p.m. This knowledge will help students, and their families create their four-year plan to graduate high school.

The CTE Department continues to work with ACCESS, the Workforce Board and local employers to bridge the gap between education and employment by connecting the sides in career exploration and placement.

No action required.

27040 **Discussion of 2025 Legislative Priorities:** Trustees reviewed their legislative priorities for the upcoming Texas Legislative Session, categorized under three key areas: School Finance, Human Capital, and School Accountability. These priorities will be posted on the Trustees' webpage this week.

Amy Dodson from Raise Your Hand Texas briefed board members on the now-open legislative session, providing strategies for effective advocacy on issues impacting ECISD and public education.

To maximize impact, trustees should actively communicate their priorities to the community, monitor relevant legislation, and engage with lawmakers to share insights on how proposed bills affect staff, students, and families. Additionally, ECISD staff and parents are encouraged to advocate directly with elected officials in Austin.

Maintaining a clear focus on board priorities and defining what constitutes a legislative "win" will help guide efforts throughout the session.

No action required.

- 27041** **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.] (The Board of Trustees will deliberate on the hiring of a Principal for Burleson Early Education Center.) Security Personnel, Devices or Security Audits - Section 551.076 of the Texas Government Code (Intruder Detection Audit Finding for Discussion). Consultation with Attorney pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071, and Certain School Board Deliberations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.0821 (The Board will meet in consultation with school attorney regarding pending litigation and possible settlement of *Student v. Ector County Independent School District*, Before a Special Education Hearing Officer for the State of Texas; Docket No. 226-SE-0324, where personally identifiable information about the student will necessarily be revealed by the deliberation.) 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.]:**

Board President Christopher Stanley convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 8:07 p.m.

Board President Christopher Stanley reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 8:38 p.m.

- 27042** **Consideration and Possible Action Concerning Pending Litigation and Possible Settlement of *Student v. Ector County Independent School District*, Before a Special Education Hearing Officer for the State of Texas: Docket No. 226-SE-0324:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Brown to accept the recommendation of the superintendent and the school’s attorney and direct the superintendent and the school’s attorney to proceed as discussed in closed session concerning *Student v. Ector County Independent School District*, before a Special Education Hearing Officer for the State of Texas; Docket No. 226-SE-0324.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 27043** **Information Items**: The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Financials, Purchasing Over \$50,000 Informational Report, Quarterly Donations Informational Report, and Routine Personnel Report.
- 27044** **Closing Remarks by Superintendent**: In her closing remarks, Dr. Boyer announced that Tanya Galindo, currently the principal at Zavala Elementary School, will become the principal at Burleson EEC when it opens in August 2025.
- 27045** **Adjournment**: Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown