

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., JULY 24, 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, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Keeley Boyer, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

Others: Tatiana Dennis, David Munger, Sara Moore, Gary Weatherford, Sam Magallan, Julia Willett-Weekly, Ryan Merritt, Chelsea Reyes, Amy Hosick, Jeff Russell, Jessica Gore, Sierra Searcy, Kevin Searcy, Michael Hawley, Mauricio Marquez, Dr. Melissa Skinner, Nat Armendarez, Tracey Borchardt, Priscilla Hernandez, Wesley Burnett, Mark Gabrylczyk, Jaime Miller, Amy Rhodes, Krista Vivian, Sarah Burton, Ruth Campbell, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

26371 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board Vice-President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26372 **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.

26373 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In his opening remarks, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri talked about the district's partnership with Acceleration Academies, a dropout recovery program. The Ector County Acceleration Academy held a celebration for recent graduates Monday afternoon, and those students will participate in Summer Graduation on Tuesday evening. The school district's goal is that every student in Ector County graduates from high school and the partnership with ECAA is one more way to pursue that goal.

26374 **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)*

In public comment, David Munger, Odessa High School counselor, asked Trustees to consider a bond option that would not build a stand-alone Career

& Technical Education Center but return all established CTE programs to Odessa High School and Permian High School. He also asked Trustees to

consider placing small high school programs at existing elementary schools that have space.

Sara Moore, spoke, saying she has been a member of the last two bond committees, enjoyed being part of them, and is proud of the work they have done. She expressed concern that there is no specific recommendation for a new high school, saying that OHS and PHS are overcrowded; it takes three years to build a high school; and asking how long will it be until the conditions are addressed?

26375 **Bond Discussion:** Trustees discussed the following recommendations made by the 2023 Bond Committee:

- Keep bond costs low enough that there will be no tax rate increase
- State-of-the-Art Career & Technical Education Center (\$80 million) – Dr. Muri reminded school board members that the Permian Strategic Partnership has pledged financial support for this project if approved by voters
- New middle school (\$120 million) – the location of this will be determined by the school board
- Priority 1 “Must do” within the next 1-2 years maintenance/repairs (\$48.4 million)
- Priority 2 “Should do” within the next 3-5 years maintenance/repairs (\$72.7 million)
- Address needs in these areas: Transportation (\$38 million), Technology (\$23.5 million), Fine Arts (\$18.5 million), Transition Learning Center (\$8 million), Athletics (\$11.1 million), and the Agriculture Farm (\$7.5 million)

All of these items totaled = \$427,155,000. Due to changes made recently by the Texas Legislature regarding property taxes, ***school district leaders anticipate ECISD now has enough bond capacity to absorb a bond package of \$427 million without increasing the tax rate for Ector County residents.***

Trustees asked where a new middle school would be located? *That is a decision that will ultimately be made by the school board.*

Trustees asked why is there no high school included in the recommendations? *The consensus of the bond committee was that the price of \$320 million would take most of the potential bond funds and would not leave room to add many more projects, and that the community just voted down the plan for a new high school in May 2022.*

In regard, to a new Career & Technical Education center, if it is passed, the existing CTE classes at New Tech Odessa will be moved to the new center,

making room for 400-500 middle school students to become part of a new middle school NTO program. The CTE center would also be home to approximately 400 high school students full-time plus an additional 2,000 per day moving in-and-out taking CTE classes throughout the day. In these ways, a new CTE center will help address the space issues at high schools and middle schools to a certain degree.

Several Trustees said West Odessa is their choice for the location for a new middle school, saying the kids who live in the west ride buses or drive a long way into the middle schools every day.

Trustees also expressed caution about picking apart the committee's work; work this group of more than 100 people spent months creating. Board members also discussed the possibility of holding meetings in the community to talk with more people about what they want to see in the next bond package.

If Trustees call for a bond election, their deadline to do so is August 21.

No action required.

26376 **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

26377 **Adjournment:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Tammy Hawkins