



Ector County Independent School District

Action Page

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Lilia Nanez and Dr. Gregory C. Nelson

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RECOMMENDATION TO ADD ADDITIONAL PROXIMITY LEARNING COURSE SECTIONS AT PHS AND OHS

DATE: January 15, 2019

With 231 teacher positions currently unfilled, it is incumbent upon ECISD to deploy existing as well as innovative strategies, in the effort to improve our recruitment and retention success. No singular program or approach alone will eliminate this deficit.

Therefore, the HR and C&I departments recommend approval from the Board of Trustees to add six additional classes, including up to 31 course sections, at our comprehensive high schools to positively support or students despite this critical teacher shortage. The proposed agreement with Proximity Learning would supplant a little over five currently unfilled teaching positions with Texas certified teachers who would deliver ECISD curriculum to our students four days each week. A fulltime paraprofessional facilitator, substitute teacher, or current teacher receiving a stipend would support each virtual classroom including classroom management and instruction. Proximity will provide training and support for the facilitators.

The estimated cost of \$154,225 is for a full semester and therefore would be billed monthly and prorated. This compares to a cost of \$163,809.25 for five fulltime teachers for a full semester. Additional funds will be required to compensate the facilitators. Funding would come from unused teacher salaries.

Administrative Recommendation:

Approval of a Recommendation to Add Additional Proximity Learning Course Sections at PHS and OHS