

**AT A BOARD WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECTOR COUNTY
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD ON MAY 13, 2025, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.
IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING BOARD ROOM, 802 NORTH SAM HOUSTON,
ODESSA, ECTOR COUNTY, TEXAS, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

Present:

Delma Abalos
Dr. Steve Brown
Tammy Hawkins
Dawn Miller
Christopher Stanley
Bob Thayer

Absent:

Wayne Woodall

School Officials: Dr. Keeley Boyer, Mike Adkins, Mauricio Marquez, Deborah Ottmers,
Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Lauren Tavaréz

Others: Tatiana Dennis, James Rush, Aaron Hawley, Ruth Baltazar, Maggie Corral, Maria Ramos, Jacob Kirksey, Jessica Gottlieb, Bay Kirby, Martha Cirrincione, Magdeline Cook, Jessica Santana, Nidia Soriano, Janet Bell, Melanie Thayer, Maggie Aguilar, Daniel Ramirez, Tracey Borchardt, Betsabe Salcido, Molly Castillo, Melinda Vega, Elizabeth Aranda, Albessa Chavez, Robert Trejo, Taylor Laing, Stacey Nunez, Matt Spivey, Ryan Merritt, Kristen Vesely, Jieun Pando, Ruth Campbell, Nory Leachon, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

27172 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

27173 **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.

27174 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In her opening remarks, Superintendent Dr. Keeley Boyer shared that last Friday was “Big Check Day,” with 412 ECISD teachers receiving a total of more than \$4.6 million through the Teacher Incentive Allotment Awards. She played a video highlighting the check deliveries for the audience. Dr. Boyer also noted that the district hosted an elementary school track meet earlier that day, an event inspired by a student’s idea.

27175 **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.

Report/Discussion Items

27176 Presentation and Discussion of the Gifted and Talented Plan for 2025-2026:

Dr. Kristen Vesely, Director of Advanced Academics presented this item for discussion. The Texas Education Agency aims for gifted and talented students to demonstrate self-directed learning, critical thinking, research, and communication skills through the creation of innovative, professionally crafted products and performances.

This year, 3,381 students, just over 10% of the total enrollment, are participating in the Gifted and Talented (G/T) program. The program is designed to ensure that the G/T student population closely mirrors the demographics of the District's overall enrollment. Efforts to achieve this include the use of universal screeners in kindergarten, third grade, and fifth grade, with second grade screening to be added next year. Additionally, increased access to information and testing for all students in ECISD has contributed to a rise in student referrals to the G/T program.

G/T services are delivered in a variety of ways across grade levels to best support student needs. In kindergarten through second grade, students receive services through clustered inclusion within the general education classroom. From third through sixth grade, G/T services are provided through a combination of clustered classes and a dedicated 120-minute weekly pull-out program. In middle school, G/T students are served through Honors classes or the Choice program's International Baccalaureate (IB) option. At the high school level, G/T services include International Honors, Honors, and Advanced Placement (AP) courses, as well as the Choice programs in Career & Technical Education (CTE) and IB.

In addition to core academic services, ECISD's G/T program offers a variety of enrichment opportunities such as Camp SIP, chess tournaments, and the Super Saturday Conference. This year, key focus areas included teacher support and professional learning, enhanced communication with parents and the community, and expanded programming at the secondary level. Looking ahead, the program will introduce additional student support through targeted training for teachers, counselors, and parents.

No action required.

27177 Presentation of Texas Tech Attendance Phase I: Alicia Syverson, Associate Superintendent of Student and School Support, opened the presentation for discussion. Dr. Jessica Gottlieb and Jacob Kirksey, researchers from Texas Tech University, then presented Trustees with an overview of an ongoing study focused on student attendance in the district. Funded through a grant at no cost to ECISD, the project aims to uncover the root causes of chronic absenteeism—defined as missing 10% or more of school days in a year.

During the 2024–25 school year, the Texas Tech team collaborated with 13 ECISD campuses, conducting interviews and focus groups with principals,

teachers, attendance clerks, and central office staff. Initial findings suggest that chronic absenteeism is influenced by both environmental and school-related factors. These include poverty, health challenges, transportation barriers, housing and food insecurity, school climate, discipline policies, curriculum engagement, and students' sense of belonging. Notably, teachers and principals emerged as key positive influences on attendance.

In ECISD, unique local dynamics also play a role. The transient workforce associated with the oil and gas industry, high family mobility, and the effectiveness of district supports—such as the Community Outreach Center (COC) affect school attendance patterns. Early data indicate that attendance trends often begin to emerge within the first six weeks of the school year. Additionally, classrooms led by strong teachers tend to have lower rates of absenteeism, raising important questions about what practices help keep students engaged and present.

So far, the research has found that school staff demonstrate consistent understanding of attendance reporting processes, and that the COC is widely valued by campuses. As the study progresses, researchers plan to incorporate parent and family perspectives to better understand the broader context of absenteeism in Ector County.

The insights gained from this multi-year initiative will equip the district to work collaboratively with families, identify underlying causes, and develop targeted strategies to improve student attendance.

No action required.

27178 **Update on 2024-2025 School Nutrition Services:** Sam Magallan, Executive Director of District Operations opened the presentation for discussion. Dr. Jieun Pando, Director of School Nutrition, then presented Trustees with an update on School Nutrition Services. ECISD's School Nutrition Services is committed to ensuring all students have access to nutritious meals in a welcoming environment. Through the Community Eligibility Provision, every student receives free breakfast and lunch each school day—no forms, no qualifications. The cost is primarily covered by the USDA, which funds 81% of meals served, with the School Nutrition department covering the remaining 19%.

On average, each month the department serves more than 266,000 breakfasts and nearly 350,000 lunches—both numbers continuing to rise. One reason for the increase is pizza. It is consistently one of the most popular menu items, and offering it daily has led to more students choosing to eat at school. A second entrée option is offered alongside pizza each day, providing variety. Additionally, à la carte items give students more choices while helping offset department costs.

All menu items meet strict federal nutrition standards. The department employs 235 staff members and supports employee retention through TASN Certification stipends and other incentives.

School Nutrition Services also maintains strong community engagement through its annual Food Show and ongoing digital media outreach. Behind the scenes, investments are being made in serving line upgrades, modernized kitchen interiors, enhanced security systems, and updated kitchen equipment—improvements already underway at several campuses, with more planned in the near future.

No action required.

Action Items

- 27179** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Order Canvassing the May 3, 2025 Board of Trustees Election Returns:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Order Canvassing the May 3, 2025, Board of Trustees Election Returns as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 27180** **Issuance of Board of Trustees Certificates of Election, Filing of Statements of Officer, and Administration of the Oath of Office:** The Honorable Judge James Rush Administered the Board of Trustees' Oath of Office to Steve Brown (SMD-Position 5), who was re-elected in the May 3, 2025, Election, as well as to Delma Abalos (SMD-Position 2), Christopher Stanley (SMD-Position 4), and Robert Thayer (SMD-Position 7), all of whom were certified as Unopposed Candidates and Declared "Elected" on March 25, 2025. Each Trustee was also issued a Certificate of Election and filed a Statement of Officer, as required by Texas law.

No action required.

- 27181** **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.]**
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.]:

There was no closed session.

- 27182** **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks by the Superintendent.

At the close, Trustee Dawn Miller offered congratulations to the 200 ECISD students who graduated from Odessa College this past weekend, a testament to the partnership between ECISD and OC to offer dual credit opportunities throughout high school.

27183 **Adjournment:** Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown