

AT A BOARD WORKSHOP 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., JANUARY 9, 2024, 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. Keeley Boyer, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Betsabe Salcido, Aaron Hawley, Tracey Borchardt, Ryan Merritt, Jaime Miller, Jessica Gore, Jeff Daniels, Brian Stubbs, Staci Zavala, Ravi Shakamuri, Ruth Campbell, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

26561 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26562 **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.

26563 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri's opening remarks, he gave a quick reminder that the school district would be closed on Monday, January 15, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, and there will be a school board meeting the next evening on the 16th starting at 6:30 p.m.

26564 **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, Brian Stubbs, owner of Air Compressor Solutions, spoke about working with local education organizations to teach and train the next generation of our workforce. He said ACS hired Brizzia Guzman from Permian High School through ECISD's career placement initiative, immediately following her graduation and he also shared that she was promoted to lead welder within six months of her start date.

Staci Zavala, part of the talent acquisition team at Midland Memorial Hospital (MMH), talked of also working alongside ECISD in this initiative, and said MMH has now offered employment opportunities in several different positions to ECISD CTE graduates.

Board Policy

26565 **Discussion of TASB Board Policy Update 122**: Associate Superintendent of District Operations Dr. Anthony Sorola presented this item for discussion. The Texas Association of School Boards recommends revisions to this set of ten local board policies to keep them aligned to current law. These policies will be brought back for a second reading and vote on January 16, 2024.

No action required.

Report/Discussion Items

26566 **Presentation of the Career & Technical Education Program**: Executive Director of Career & Technical Education Ryan Merritt presented this item for discussion. Highlighting the following key initiatives currently in place:

- ❖ The Career Placement Initiative, a collaboration with the Workforce Board of the Permian Basin and ACCESS. Local employers visit students *on campus* to share information about career opportunities, conduct interviews, and then the school helps support students as they follow up on these visits. This project, connects students with employers in high-demand industries, has identified some barriers that can hinder students as they search for jobs after high school graduation; is continuously working to remove those barriers; and has already successfully placed students with local employers.
- ❖ The 8th grade High School Program Fair is coming up on January 30 at Odessa College. During this day, all 8th grade students will attend, one middle school at a time, to have the chance to talk with high school teachers, high school students and college faculty about courses that are available to them and making informed decisions about their graduation plan. This includes not only CTE programs, but athletics, fine arts and others offered in high school. That evening, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. parents and all other students are invited to do the same. Last year more than 2,200 8th graders attended. The parent session is new this year.
- ❖ The new Energy Program of Study is a regional partnership with the Education Partnership of the Permian Basin and the Permian Strategic Partnership. The program began this year with course #1 – Foundations of Energy. A new course will be added each year, creating a four-year program of study for ECISD students.

- ❖ The number of graduates earning a TEA Industry-based Certifications has grown annually since 2019 from 111 to 648 in 2023. More students are taking CTE Dual Credit through Odessa College, and that number is increasing each year. Data shows students in CTE courses have a higher graduation rate and perform better on STAAR End of Course exams (English I & II, Algebra and Biology) than those who are not.
- ❖ The final portion of the presentation offered some information about the new Career & Technical Education Center recently approved by voters through Bond 2023. The land for the CTE Center, in the industrial complex on East Murphy, was donated by Grow Odessa. The site is 37.9 acres and valued at \$2.8 million. The CTE Center will be the home campus for 400 high school students, with about 2,000 more transported to the center daily for CTE programs. It will see joint use with Odessa College. An advisory committee made up of industry professionals, representatives from OC and ECISD will begin meeting soon to build the timeline for design, construction, groundbreaking and, ultimately, the opening. In addition, a complete renovation of the Ag Farm on Dunn Street with expanded classroom and lab space, new barns, and ADA access will be coming.

No action required.

26567 **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.

26568 **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** In his closing remarks, Dr. Muri thanked the local employers – particularly those who attended this meeting – for working with the school district to develop students who are work force ready. Our students are the future and preparing them for careers in local industries is the key to building a thriving community.

26569 **Adjournment:** Christopher Stanley Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Tammy Hawkins