

AT A REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF 2023-2024 OFFICIAL BUDGET 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., AUGUST 15, 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. Keeley Boyer, Dr. Lilia Nájuez, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Patti Kappanf, Will Kappanf, Jeff Russell, Sonya Haynie, Candi Sikes, Karime Castro, Andrea Moreno-Hewitt, Kyle Van Syoc, A. Feliz Abalos, Jerry Mahana, Krista Vivian, Jessica Gore, Aaron Hawley, Sara Moore, Kevin Searcy, Katalyna, Scott Randolph, Heath Ford, Max Ford, Greg Ford, Wayne Byrd, Steve Ford, Clay Moore, Julie Marshall, Edward G. Gallegos, Gilbert Vasquez, Julia Willett-Weekly, Jieun Pando, Nat Armendarez, Shannon Davidson, Clayton Smith, Searcy, Sierra Searcy, Ruth Campbell, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

26388 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26389 **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.

26390 **Pledge Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Murry Fly Elementary Students Jorge Juarez and Jacob Miller.

26391 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Senior Pastor Jesus Gomez, New Hope Church.

26392 **Special Presentations:**

Recognition of Odessa HS Student Cooper Aranda Selected to Texas Crime Stoppers State Council: Chief Communications Officer Mike Adkins introduced Cooper Aranda for becoming the first-ever student named to the Texas Crime Stoppers State Council.

Introduction of SSEP Mission Patch Winners: Chief Communications Officer Mike Adkins recognized Downing Elementary Student Celeste Ortega and Crockett Middle School Student Vivian Hernandez for designing Mission Patches that were flown to the International Space Station last year. The patches are now certified as flown in space. This is made possible as part of the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP), coordinated by our ECISD Innovation Department.

Announcement of TAEA District of Distinction Award: ECISD Fine Arts Department was recognized as a District of Distinction by the Texas Art Educators Association for the third year in a row. This is an honor achieved by only the top 5.5% of eligible school districts in Texas. Districts receive this honor for providing an education that advocates and integrates visual arts curriculum to inspire creativity and build social emotional learning that connect learners to their community and beyond. For the 2023 award, over 1,200 districts were eligible to apply. Only 68 districts met the high standard. ECISD will be honored at the TAEA fall conference in November.

Announcement of NAMM Best Communities for Music Education: Ector County ISD was recognized for being named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) for the 9th year in a row. This designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. Dr. Aaron Hawley, Director of Fine Arts was present to accept the award.

26393 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In his opening comments, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Muri provided Trustees a quick look at the recently released STAAR End of Course exams. Passing rates improved in all five of the exams – Algebra I increased 11 points to 70%; Biology increased 6 points to 83%; English I increased 13 points to 60%; English II increased 4 points to 59%; and U.S. History increased 9 points to 89%.

Dr. Muri congratulated the students, their teachers and the principals for creating an environment of success. He pointed out to Trustees, a new accountability system is being implemented now so these improved scores are likely to come with a lower letter grade when those results are released in September.

Dr. Muri also gave a Back-to-School update with a few stats – 32,467 students today which is 239 more than the same day one year ago; 42 teacher vacancies on day 1, down from 58 on day 1 last year; and 9,222 kids riding buses. He added the district hired 306 teachers this year and has a 98% fill rate for teachers.

26394 **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)* The following seven citizens participated during this portion of the meeting.

In public comment, Patti Kappanf, a west Odessa representative, expressed gratitude from west Odessa for being included in so many facets of the bond propositions. She asked the board to vote yes to the propositions as presented from the committee.

Kevin Searcy, an ECISD parent who served on the bond committee, applauded the district for improvements in graduation rate, financial ratings and growing extra-curricular activities. He added, he feels opposition to this bond is opposition to the future prosperity of the community.

Sara Moore, a bond committee member, thanked Dr. Muri for the leadership he has provided through a difficult period of years (since being hired in 2019). She reminded Trustees this bond is just the first step in addressing districtwide needs and our community needs to know future bonds will be needed.

Collin Sewell, an ECISD parent, thanked Trustees for their leadership, and said he is 100% in support of improving our schools and our education in Odessa. He said great schools create great citizens and a bond impacts all residents, whether or not they have students in school now.

Mary Caywood, a bond committee member, thanked Trustees for the opportunity to serve in that role. She emphasized the need to take care of the Priority 1 and Priority 2 maintenance and repairs because they are basic needs that create safe, effective learning environments.

A. Feliz Abalos, also a bond committee member, applauded the entire committee for working so hard to review information and make tough decisions. She said, from the beginning, she voiced the need that Odessa students deserve better than the conditions they currently learn in. She encouraged everyone to vote yes for the bond.

Board Policy

26395 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of TASB Local Policy Update 121:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Abalos to approve TASB Local Policy Update 121 as presented. Updates to this series of policies come at the recommendation of the Texas Association of School Board which regularly reviews local policies to ensure they are in alignment with changes to legal policy set by the state.

Motion unanimously approved.

Action Items

26396 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of the Naming of Dowling Elementary School Playground:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Abalos to approve Naming of Dowling Elementary School Playground as presented. The playground was named for Max Ford, the PE coach at Dowling Elementary for 34 years (1957-1991).

Motion unanimously approved.

26397 **Discussion of and Request for Adoption of an Order Calling a Bond Election for November 7, 2023:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Adoption of Order Calling a Bond Election for November 7, 2023 as presented.

Trustees discussed adding the cost of land purchase to the bond proposal and is included in the final total of \$436,109,000, this will not require an increase in the district's total tax rate.

Prop A – \$424,263,000

New Career & Technical Education Center to be located in South Odessa/Ector County;

New middle school to be located in West Ector County;

Districtwide maintenance and repairs;

Transportation Department: bus purchases and a new Transportation Facility;

Technology Department: replacement of district phone system, PA/Bell/Clock/Fire Alarm system replacements; security camera refresh; classroom interactive flat panels; large group instruction area audio/visual equipment

Fine Arts Department: complete renovation of the Permian High School Auditorium; replace outdated instruments; performance risers for all middle school choirs; classroom instruments for elementary campuses; uniforms for middle school bands and mariachi; JROTC facility needs

Transition Learning Center: complete replacement of facility for students with special needs learning to transition from school to the workforce

Agriculture Farm: complete replacement of classroom buildings and barns

Athletics Department: LED lighting at the Odessa High School baseball and tennis stadiums; LED lighting at the Permian High School baseball stadium; Resurfacing of tennis stadiums at all middle schools; Replacement of indoor bleachers in main gyms of all middle schools

*Proposition A includes the cost of land purchase for new CTE Center and new middle school

Prop B – \$8,096,000

Ratliff Stadium items; concrete overlay of bleachers; update restrooms; LED lighting for stadium parking lot; LED lighting at track/field even venue; air conditioning/heating for south building locker rooms; replace one grass field with artificial turf; (also includes any major maintenance needs at the stadium complex identified in Facilities Assessment report)

Prop C – \$3,750,000

New Odessa High School indoor practice facility and Permian High School indoor turf replacement. (According to the law, these indoor practice facilities must be separate bond proposals for voters to consider.)

Motion unanimously approved.

26398

Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000: Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Woodall to approve the Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

For:
Abalos
Hawkins
Miller
Stanley
Thayer
Woodall

Against:

Abstained:
Brown

Motion passed.

26399 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #1:**
Moved by Abalos, seconded by Hawkins to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #1 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26400 **Discuss and Consider Board Approval of a Delegate and Alternate to the 2023 Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Delegate Assembly:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Brown to approve Tammy Hawkins as Delegate and Wayne Woodall as Alternate to the 2023 Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Delegate Assembly as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26401 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Initial Memorandum of Understanding for Region 18 Texas Strategic Staffing, University of Texas of the Permian Basin and ECISD to Participate in Strategic Staffing with Residents 2023-2026:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Miller to approve Initial Memorandum of Understanding for Region 18 Texas Strategic Staffing, University of Texas of the Permian Basin and ECISD to Participate in Strategic Staffing with Residents 2023-2026 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26402 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Application to Renew Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP):** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Miller to approve the the Application to Renew Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26403 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Data Transfer and Use Agreement between Stanford University and ECISD:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Abalos to approve the Data Transfer and Use Agreement between Stanford University and ECISD as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26404 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution to Declare a Good Cause Exception for House Bill 3-Armed Security Officer Requirement:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Thayer to approve Resolution to Declare a Good Cause Exception for House Bill 3-Armed Security Officer Requirement as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26405 **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Miller 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 Annual Investment Report
- E. Request for Approval of Amendments to the Student Code of Conduct
- F. Request for Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the Ector County Independent School District and Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin, Inc.
- G. Request for Approval of Data Sharing Agreement between the University of Texas Permian Basin and Ector County Independent School District 2023-2025
- H. Request for Approval of Board T-TESS and T-PESS Appraisers for 2023-2024
- I. Request for Approval of Board T-TESS and T-PESS Appraisal Calendar for 2023-2024
- J. Request for Approval of Initial Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Texas of the Permian Basin for Principal Fellow Masters Program 2023-2024
- K. Request for Approval of Annual Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Tech University for Principal Fellow Masters Program 2023-2024
- L. Request for Approval of the 2023-2024 Ector County ISD Professional Learning Plan

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/ Discussion Items

26406 **Strategic Plan Quarterly Update:** Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri opened this item for discussion. This presentation focused on three specific projects: 1) Cultivate Talent Pipelines, 2) Strengthen Professional Learning Community, and 3) Implement a Learning Management System.

First, Cultivating Talent Pipelines have been developed to a sustainable system for recruiting, developing, and retaining highly-qualified educators. Specifically, this item outlined the growing teacher residency program, Future Teachers of Odessa for high school students, and Principal Fellow programs with Texas Tech and the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Second, Professional Learning Community (PLCs) are groups of educators who meet together regularly to grow professionally, and enhance their effectiveness in improving student outcomes. PLCs strategically plan backward from the results they

want to achieve and then working backward to plan the steps to get there. Success is seen in dramatically improved school ratings.

Third, Learning Management System (LMS) are online platforms used by teachers to deliver instruction to students. The LMS offers interactive tools not available offline, and ECISD uses two, Schoology and Seesaw. This is the 4th year of use and focus is on providing professional learning to help staff use it effectively to benefit students' learning.

No action required.

26407 **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 the retroactive hiring of the Principal at Wilson & Young Middle School and Austin Montessori Elementary School.) Deliberation Regarding Real Property – Section 551.072 of the Texas Government Code [Board will deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property.] (The Board of Trustees will discuss the purchase of real property.) 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.] (Discussion of November 2023 Bond Election Rules.):**

Board President Christopher Stanley convened to closed session at 8:22 p.m.

Board President Christopher Stanley reconvened to open session at 9:33 p.m.

26408 **Request for Approval of Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Wilson & Young Middle School Principal:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Miller to approve the Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Megan Watts as the Wilson & Young Middle School Principal as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26409 **Request for Approval of Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Austin Montessori Elementary School Principal:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Retroactive Personnel Recommendation to Hire Michael Skinner as the Austin Montessori Elementary School Principal as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26410 **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Acknowledgement of Donations 2023 Fourth Quarter; Added, Reclassified, and Removed Administrative Professional and Supplemental Pay; Purchasing Report; and Routine Personnel Report.

26411 **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

26412 **Adjournment:** Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Tammy Hawkins