

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECTOR COUNTY
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD ON MARCH 26, 2024, 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
Tammy Hawkins
Dawn Miller
Christopher Stanley
Robert Thayer
Wayne Woodall

Absent:

Dr. Steve Brown

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Dr. Lilia Nanez, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Keeley Boyer, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Ali Hernandez, Rohan Reed, Georgina Figueroa, Alexandra Becerra-Nieto, Betsy Rhodes, Melissa Roth, Adrian Rodriguez, Kevin Enriquez, Ashley Nevarez, Anthony Reed, Rebecca Tolbert, Mitchel Davis, Stacey Nunez, Joel Ramos, Jessica Gore, Rayce Wright, Kristen Vesely, Rev. Michael K. Shelton, Martha Cirrincione, Rebecca Rhodes, Ashton Lujan, Rexana Hughes, Abigail Agdipa, Damian Gaytan, Mikal Crowder, Todd Cason, Vanessa Green, Betsabe Salcido, Lisa Wills, Caitlin Couch, Baden Seigman, Glauben Assante, Lydia Roundtree, Samantha Anchondo, Jennifer Valencia, Xiara DeLeon, Amy Russell, Sheena Salcido, Mark Gabrylczyk, Ruth Campbell, Nory Leachon, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

26649 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26650 **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.

26651 **Pledge of Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Sam Houston Elementary School Students Spencer Dugie (3rd Grade) and Noah Natividad (5th Grade).

26652 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Reverend Michael K. Shelton, Sr., Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

26653 **Special Presentations:**

Recognition of New Tech Odessa and Odessa Collegiate Academy State Decathlon Qualifiers: The Academic Decathlon Teams from New Tech Odessa and Odessa Collegiate Academy were recognized for competing for a state title at the Thomas E. Mosley Academic Decathlon Meet in February 2024.

New Tech Odessa finished 3rd at the State Meet after winning the Regional Championship.

Student/Team Members:

- Adrian Rodriguez
- Joel Ramos
- Alexandra Becerra-Nieto
- Kevin Enriquez
- Eva Herrera
- Yadiel Hernandez Rodriguez
- Michael Nunez
- Christopher Salcido
- Quinn Hernandez
- Rohan Reed (won the Scholastic Gold Medal at State)

Coaches:

- Damian Gaytan
- Georgina Figueroa

Odessa Collegiate Academy finished 6th at the State Meet after a 2nd Place finish at the Regional Meet.

Student/Team Members:

- Betanya Hailu
- Daniel Oyebanji
- Baden Seigman
- Priscilla Carlile
- Samantha Anchondo
- Ashton Lujan
- Esmeralda Martinez
- Glauben Assante
- Rayce Wright (won the Varsity Gold Medal at State; won the Gold in all 10 Competitions and won the Regional's Individual Championship)

Coaches:

- Mikal Crowder
- Lydia Roundtree
- Brandon Cook
- Travis Cooper
- Annelise Espinoza

Announcement of Small School Decathlon Coach of the Year: Mr. Damian Gaytan, who serves as the Algebra 2 Facilitator at New Tech Odessa was recognized for being named the Small School Decathlon Coach of the Year. Mr. Gaytan has served as the decathlon coach for seven years.

Announcement of Appointment to Southwest Board for College Board: ECISD's Advanced Academic Services Director Dr. Kristen Vesely has been elected to a three-year term to serve as a member of the College Board Southwestern Regional Council. Her term began this month. This is an important advisory role for the Southwest Region in which Dr. Vesely serves as the

communication link between the College Board and member institutions, bringing suggestions, issues and concerns about College Board programs to the council.

Recognition of 2 Bowie Middle School Qualifiers for State Science Fair: Bowie Middle School 8th Graders Abigail Agdipa and Ashley Nevarez were recognized for placing 2nd in their respective divisions at the Regional Science Fair at UTPB, and qualifying for the Texas Science & Engineering Fair in College Station.

Abigail's Physics project focused on audio deep fakes, attempting to distinguish the difference between synthetic voice and authentic voice.

Ashley's Life Science project focused on the effects of various drinks on seed development.

Announcement of Odessa High School's Anika Gunlapalli as National Merit Finalist: Odessa High School's Anika Gunlapalli was recognized for being named a National Merit Finalist – meaning she ranks among the top ½ percent of the more than 1.3 million high school seniors who entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), last fall.

26654 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In his opening remarks, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri reminded everyone that we would be off on Friday and Monday. Dr. Muri also shared that he had participated recently in the UTPB Press Conference, during which the establishment of a direct enrollment program was announced. A total of 795 ECISD students have been identified. Students with a 2.75 GPA will be granted automatic admission, while those with a 3.0 GPA will be eligible for additional merit scholarship funds.

26655 **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, Michael Nunez from New Tech Odessa and Baden Seigman from Odessa Collegiate Academy, both State Decathlon Qualifiers shared their experiences as Decathlon competitors. Michael expressed gratitude to the District for supporting Academic Decathlon and to his teammates and coaches. He said Decathlon taught him hard work, perseverance, and the power of unity. Baden echoed those sentiments about hard work and dedication. She said Decathlon challenged her in ways athletics and other classes have not, adding it made her a better student and a better person.

Action Items

26656 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Woodall to approve Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26657** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #7:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Abalos to approve to 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #7 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26658** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Science K-12 Textbook Adoption:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Woodall to approve the Science K-12 Textbook Adoption as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26659** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Educational Specifications, Method of Compliance, and Level of Flexibility in Facility Design:** Moved by Thayer, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Educational Specifications, Method of Compliance, and Level of Flexibility in Facility Design as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26660** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution to Nominate Dr. Scott Muri for 2024 Superintendent of the Year:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Miller to approve Resolution to Nominate Dr. Scott Muri for 2024 Superintendent of the Year as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26661** **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Hawkins to approve 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 Permian High School Theatre Students Out-of-State Travel to London and Paris

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26662** **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.]:** (The Board will receive its Attorney's advice regarding the negotiated contracts with architect firms for Bond Program Construction projects.)

Board President Christopher Stanley convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 7:07 p.m.

Board President Christopher Stanley reconvened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 7:34 p.m.

- 26663** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Architect-Owner Contracts for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and Parkhill:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Hawkins to approve the Architect-Owner Contracts for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and Parkhill as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26664** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Architect-Owner Contracts for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and PBK:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Woodall to approve the Architect-Owner Contracts for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and PBK as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Bond 2023

- 26665** **Bond 2023 Update:** Deborah Ottmers, Chief Financial Officer and Dr. Anthony Sorola, Associate Superintendent of Operations provided the Board of Trustees with a Bond 2023 update. Trustees were provided with an overview of the updated budget spreadsheet showing encumbrances and dollars spent so far. The District is still finalizing land purchases and has not closed on those properties yet; some fine arts instruments have already been ordered and received; installation of interactive flat panels is continuing; and the Athletics Department is working quickly to get quotes and vetting vendors for its bond projects. ECISD will issue Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) Geotechnical & Special Testing for the land purchases, and for Construction Manager at Risk for the several projects utilizing that method of construction.

No action required.

- 26666** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of School District Facilities Construction Delivery Method by Bond 2023 Project and Delegate to the Superintendent Authority to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement with Gordian:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Woodall to approve the School District Facilities Construction Delivery Method by Bond 2023 Project and Delegate to the Superintendent Authority to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement with Gordian as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26667** **Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Bond 2023 Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Woodall to approve Bond 2023 Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26668** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Updated Bond Financial Advisory Services Agreement:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Woodall to approve the Updated Bond Financial Advisory Services Agreement as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26669** **Discussion of Preliminary 2023 Bonds Financing Plan:** Deborah Ottmers, Chief Financial Officer and Josh McLaughlin, Financial Advisor, from BOK Financial Securities, Inc. presented this item for discussion. The Board was provided with a look at the preliminary Bond 2023 financing plan with guidance from the District's financial advisors, BOK Financial Securities. BOK lauded ECISD's active management of its outstanding debt; since 2007 more than \$50 million of direct savings for tax payers has been achieved with prepayments and refinancing. ECISD maintains independent bond ratings of "Aa3" by Moody's Investors Service and "A+" by S&P Global Ratings both very attractive to investors. An initial sale is planned for May 2024 using fixed interest rates (Series 2024-A), with a second sale in June 2024 using variable interest rates (Series 2024-B) and then a third in August 2025 (Series 2025). This work is part of a plan for long-term financial stability for ECISD and the community. A sales announcement will be put together to be publicized for opportunity for local investors to purchase them first.

No action required.

- 26670** **Discuss and Consider Adoption of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$196,230,000 Ector County Independent School District Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2024-A; Establishing Sale Parameters; Authorizing the Execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; Approving an Official Statement; Levying Annual Ad Valorem Taxes in Payment of Said Bonds; and Enacting other Provisions Relating to the Subject:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Abalos to approve the Adoption of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$196,230,000 Ector County Independent School District Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2024-A; Establishing Sale Parameters; Authorizing the Execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement and a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement; Approving an Official Statement; Levying Annual Ad Valorem Taxes in Payment of Said Bonds; and Enacting other Provisions Relating to the Subject as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26671** **Discuss and Consider Adoption of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$100,000,000 Ector County Independent School District Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2024-B; Establishing Sale Parameters; Authorizing the Execution of Agreements with a Paying Agent/Registrar, a Remarketing Agent and a Tender Agent with Respect to the Bonds; Approving a Remarketing Memorandum; Levying Annual Ad Valorem Taxes in Payment of Said Bonds; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating to the Subject:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Abalos to approve the

Adoption of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$100,000,000 Ector County Independent School District Variable Rate Unlimited Tax School Building Bonds, Series 2024-B; Establishing Sale Parameters; Authorizing the Execution of Agreements with a Paying Agent/Registrar, a Remarketing Agent and a Tender Agent with Respect to the Bonds; Approving a Remarketing Memorandum; Levying Annual Ad Valorem Taxes in Payment of Said Bonds; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating to the Subject as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

26672 **Budget Update Discussion:** Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers presented this item. The Board of Trustees continued their discussion of budget priorities for the 2024-25 school year. ECISD is in the same position as school district across Texas, cutting budgets due to the Texas Legislature's inaction regarding school funding during the last legislative session. The state has not increased the basic allotment for public education since 2019 while costs have risen dramatically. Money is available and set aside for public education but it has not been distributed. Legislators will not meet again until January 2025, so Trustees must consider that it looks like schools will wait until next summer to learn if public education will receive new funding. The District is anticipating a budget deficit of about \$24 million for next year, that is with mostly the same expenses without any additional revenue expected. Operational costs continue to rise, and fund balance must be kept at recommended guidelines so significant cuts will need to be made. District leaders and Trustees will continue these discussions through June, when a new budget is adopted.

No action required.

26673 **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Financials, Purchasing Report, February 2024 Routine Personnel Report, and Added Administrative Memorandum March 2024.

26674 **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent:** In his closing remarks, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri

26675 **Adjournment:** Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Tammy Hawkins