

**AT A REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY 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., OCTOBER 17, 2023, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

**Present:**

Delma Abalos  
Dr. Steve Brown  
Christopher Stanley  
Robert Thayer  
Wayne Woodall

**Absent:**

Tammy Hawkins  
Dawn Miller

**School Officials:** Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Dr. Keeley Boyer, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks

**Others:** Tatiana Dennis, Kevin Searcy, Naomi Fuentes, Delores Ramirez, Sheena Salcido, Krista Vivian, Tracey Borchardt, Andrea Moreno-Hewitt, Abel Avila, Gary Weatherford, Daniela Hamilton, Albessa Chavez, Sara Moore, Betsabe Salcido, Martha Burrola, Bill Harlow, Melanie Sheehan, Jennie Chavez, Javier Ruiz, Annie Arredondo, Yeilen Sartorio, Yelena Cedeno, Sebastian Perez, Andrea Santiago Soto, Fabiola Soto, Toby Franco, Mollie Jones, Anika Gundlapalli, Marie Freeman, Nat Armendarez, Aaron Hawley, Lisa Wills, Jessica Gore, Sydney Garcia, Candice Rougeaux, Anthony Garcia, Debbie Bynum, Julia Willett-Weekly, Melissa Roth, Mary Franco

**26467** **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**26468** **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.

**26469** **Pledge Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Noel Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Eliana Chavez and Bailey Coronado.

**26470** **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Deacon Toby Franco, Immanuel Baptist Church.

**26471** **Special Presentations:**

**Recognition of National Merit Scholarship and College Board Honorees:** Anika Reddy Gundlapalli, Odessa High School – *National Merit Scholar Semifinalist* is one (1) of about 16,000 Semifinalists nationwide. Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), last fall. As a Semifinalist, Anika is in the top 1% of U.S. high school seniors. She now has

the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,000 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring.

**National Commended Scholars** are among 34,000 or the top 2.5% of the 1.3 million juniors who took the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last fall. These students receive Letters of Commendation, and although Commended Students will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some may be candidates for Special Scholarships offered by corporate sponsors.

Andrea Santiago Soto, Odessa Collegiate Academy – *National Commended Scholar* is currently ranked #1 in her class; wants to major in biomedical engineering, go to med school and become a neonatologist.

Sapna Yadalla, Permian High School – *National Commended Scholar* she plans to be a pre-med major.

Forrest Harlow, STEM Academy – *National Commended Scholar* he plans to major in computer science and become a cyber security specialist.

*In addition* to these students, another 46 representing all six ECISD high schools, earned College Board recognition with *National Hispanic Awards*, *National Indigenous Awards*, or *National African American Awards*. This is the most recipients we have ever had, and this is the first time every high school has had an honoree in the same year.

New Tech Odessa was also recognized for having earned a place on the College Board's AP School Honor Roll for the 2022-23 school year *and* is being recognized with the AP Access Award. New Tech Odessa Principal Abel Avila was presented with these to awards.

**AP School Honor Roll:** "The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose Advanced Placement (AP) programs are delivering results for students while encouraging more low-income and underrepresented minority students to take AP Courses. Schools can earn this recognition annually based on criteria that reflects a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

**The AP Access Award:** "Schools earn this additional award if the percentage of AP Exam takers who are underrepresented minority and/or low-income students mirrors the school's overall student demographics. For example, if 50% of a school's student body is low income, then 50% of the AP Exam takers must also be low income for a school to receive the AP Access Award. "

**Beacon Award for Excellence in Collaboration for Bookworms Literacy Program:** The Education Foundation of Odessa was recognized for receiving the Beacon Award for Excellence in Collaboration presented by the Nonprofit Management Center. The award is for the Education Foundation's Bookworms Literacy Program, which is designed to help increase literacy and foster a life-long love of reading. From October through March, students in grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade read along to a story in their class and then receive a copy of that book to take home and keep. This promotes at-home family reading and allows children to build their own home library. Bookworms has grown over recent years to include the introduction of Bookworms Vending Machines at 38 campuses across

ECISD, and a Bookworms Incentive Program at the elementary level. This is a great collaboration between the Education Foundation and ECISD.

**Presentation of MASBA Recognition of Excellence Awards:** During MASBA's Annual Conference 2023 held in San Antonio Ector County ISD won two Recognition of Excellence Awards from the Mexican American School Board Association (MASBA) for outstanding achievements and best practices as a leader in public education.

ECISD earned MASBA's Outstanding Workforce Development Initiative for the creation of a series of talent development pipelines for teachers and principals. Programs like Odessa Pathway to Teaching, Opportunity Culture with its teachers-leaders and paid teacher residencies, Para to Teacher, and Future Teachers of Odessa for high school students, ECISD has reduced teacher vacancies from more than 350 in 2019 to 40 now, and improved the district's accountability rating from a C to a B.

ECISD also won distinction for Outstanding English Language Learner Initiative for the Global Leadership Academy at Odessa High School. This program is intended to empower, support, and help our Emergent Bilingual Students connect and foster a strong sense of belonging. Students engaged and took ownership of the Global Leadership Academy, establishing a school organization with a student board that acts as advocates for Emergent Bilingual students. The Global Leadership Academy has positively impacted attendance, behavior, graduation rate and post-secondary achievement for those students participating in the organization.

In addition, artwork from ECISD students Genesis Carbajal and Flor Ayala was displayed at the conference.

**26472** **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In his opening comments, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Muri congratulated the students honored for their achievements during the special presentations. He also offered congratulations to their teachers and the work being done to improve student outcomes throughout the district. He also reminded those in attendance that Early Voting starts next Monday, October 23, and ECISD has three propositions on the ballot. He said there will be three Early Voting locations and all the information is available on ECISD's website, including a video describing the projects in the proposals.

**26473** **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, three students who are part of the Odessa High School Global Leadership Academy – Yeilen Sartorio, Sebastian Perez, and Yelena Cedeno – recognized during the MASBA special presentations – spoke about their experiences in the award-winning academy and of the program's positive impact on their knowledge, leadership skills, critical thinking and community involvement. They said they have benefited from the support they are receiving as they pursue higher education and their life goals.

**Public Hearing on Financial Accountability**

**26474** **Public Hearing of District's FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) Report:** Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers presented this item for discussion. For the fourth year in a row, Ector County ISD received a perfect score of 100 on the state's FIRST report which assesses how school districts spend their money annually. This FIRST report is for 2022-23, which is based on financial data from 2021-22. Our District earned a Superior Achievement rating, which is equivalent to a grade of A. This was the sixth time in the past seven years ECISD earned an A. In the 21 years since this report's inception, ECISD has earned an A in financial integrity 17 times. Created by the 76th Texas Legislature in 2001, FIRST is designed to encourage public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. The FIRST ratings are calculated using a series of financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures; the accuracy of a district or charter's financial information submitted to TEA; and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses in internal controls as determined by an external auditor. Congratulations to our ECISD Finance Department for their hard work in managing tax dollars responsibly.

There was no public comment.

**Action Items**

**26475** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Woodall to approve the Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

**26476** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #3:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Brown to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #3 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

**26477** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of the 2023 Certified Tax Roll:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Abalos to approve the 2023 Certified Tax Roll as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

**26478** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Appointment/Reappointment of School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Members:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Brown to approve the Appointment/Reappointment of School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Members as presented. Approved SHAC Members will serve for a two-year term.

**Parent Member Appointments – Three (3):**

Molly Vega  
Amy Marquez-Pando  
Stephanie Galindo

Additional Members – Two (2):  
Mellessa Brenem, Community  
Jennifer Weston, Community

Motion unanimously approved.

**26479** **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Brown 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 Nimitz Middle School Band Students Out-of-State Travel to Indianapolis, IN
- E. Request for Approval of Permian High School Band Students Out-of-State Travel to New York, NY
- F. Request for Approval of Permian High School Orchestra Students' Out-of-State Travel to Washington, D.C. and New York City
- G. Request for Approval of Master Interlocal Agreement between Ector County ISD and Region 11
- H. Request for Approval of Interlocal Agreement between Ector County ISD and Region 18 for Comprehensive Reading Academies
- I. Request for Approval of Interlocal Services Agreement between Ector County ISD and University of Texas at Austin for Engineer Your World
- J. Request for Approval of Additional 2023-2024 T-TESS Appraisers
- K. Request for Approval of the Services Agreement between National Board Teaching Standards and ECISD

Motion unanimously approved.

### **Report/ Discussion Items**

**26480** **District Administration will Present the Beginning of Year NWEA MAP Data:** Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Lilia Nández presented this item for discussion. MAP is Measure of Academic Progress and it is given three times per year – in September, January and April – to measure each student’s progress through the year. MAP assessments are given in Reading and Math in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade; in English I and II Reading & Language; English III and IV; Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II; Science 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Biology. In Math, Reading and Science the beginning-of-year scores are higher across the board than last year, meaning this year’s students are starting at a higher level than those a year ago. In addition, science hit growth targets at every grade level. There is still work to do but the trajectory of growth is consistently upward. The next round of MAP assessments will be given in January.

No action required.

**26481** **Presentation and Discussion of Senate Bill 1882 Partnership Renewal Process and Timeline:** Associate Superintendent of Student & School Support Alicia Syverson opened this item for discussion. SB 1882 was signed by the Texas Legislature in

2017 and provides benefits for districts to contract with education partners to promote innovation and improve student outcomes. ECISD has two 1882 partners in the final year of their contracts. Partners may, or may not, apply to renew their agreement; in the final year of contract term, partner performance is reviewed at a public meeting of the Board; and the school board reviews the information before making a renewal decision. The school district will notify parents of decisions and any next steps that may be involved.

No action required.

**26482** **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 hiring of Executive Director of Guidance, Counseling, and Wellness.) 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.

**26483** **Request for Approval of Recommendation to Hire the Executive Director of Guidance, Counseling, and Wellness:**

No action taken.

**26484** **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Acknowledgement of Donations, Financials, Purchasing Report, and Routine Personnel Report for September 2023.

**26485** **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent:** Dr. Muri reminded everyone of the upcoming bond election and to go vote.

**26486** **Adjournment:** Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 7:24 p.m.

---

**Board President**  
*Christopher Stanley*

---

**Board Secretary**  
*Tammy Hawkins*