

AT A REGULAR 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., DECEMBER 15, 2020, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

Dr. Steve Brown
Carol Gregg (Virtually)
Tammy Hawkins
Nelson Minyard
Dr. Donna Smith
Christopher Stanley (Virtually)

Absent:

Delma Abalos

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Staci Ashley, Dr. Stephanie Howard, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Jason Osborne, Deborah Ottmers, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks, Patrick Young

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Johnathan Smith, Catherine Speer, Andrea Martin, Dr. Stacy Johnson, Donna Zirix, Leslie Wilson, Dr. Corey Seymour, Alicia Press, Robert Cedillo, Nancy Vanley, Albert Anchondo, Mary Franco

25316 Meeting Called to Order: Tammy Hawkins, Board Vice-President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

25317 Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law: Tammy Hawkins, Board Vice-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.

25318 Pledge of Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags: The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Dr. Donna Smith, Board Member.

25319 Invocation: The Invocation was led by Dr. Steve Brown, Board Secretary.

25320 Special Presentations:

School Board Holiday Card Design Winners: The Board of Trustees and Superintendent's Christmas card sent each year is designed by ECISD students. This effort is coordinated each year by the District's Fine Arts Department. The Board of Trustees voted on the following three as their favorites to be placed on this year's Christmas card.

Anali Sigala, Hays Elementary 4th Grader

Amery Ruiz, Nimitz Middle School 8th Grader

Alexa Saavedra, Permian High School Freshman

Presentation of 2019-2020 Employees of the Year (Video): The following District employees were recognized as the 2019-2020 Employees of the Year via Video due to the Covid-19 restrictions:

- Administrator – Kamy Smith, Pease Elementary Principal
- Counselor – Melanie Thayer, Austin Montessori
- Custodian – Christina Copeland, Bowie Middle School Head Custodian
- Elementary Teacher – D'on Paquette, Carver EEC Special Education
- Maintenance – David Flores, HVAC Mechanic
- Nurse – Joanna Muniz, West Elementary
- Paraprofessional – Starla Redwine, Goliad Elementary Library Clerk
- Police Officer – John Wayne "Skipper" Hunt
- Professional – Carla Byrne, Executive Director of Career & Technical Education
- School Nutrition – Margaret Rodriguez, Travis Elementary
- Secondary Teacher – Dr. Rebecca Joy, Permian High School Chemistry Teacher
- Transportation – Nora Flores, Special Education Bus Driver

25321 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri's opening comments, he offered condolences to school board president Delma Abalos for the loss her husband this past weekend. He asked the board to take a moment of silence to remember Richard Abalos, and his legacy of service to our community. Dr. Muri also expressed sorrow over the losses our school district family has felt in the past several weeks, and he hopes we will all remain vigilant in taking safety precautions as we head into this holiday break. Dr. Muri also highlighted some pieces of student data for Trustees. Using results from NAEP and MAP scores for reading and math, it shows Texas students' scores are in decline compared to 2011 and ECISD trails the state's results in every area. He reminded Trustees we have work to do as a school system to meet our students' needs. He stated funding for education must remain strong because this is a crisis of learning in Texas and the ramifications will be felt for years. He added, we must see this and address it as we design a system to meet the needs of our kids.

25322 **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 were no public comments.

Action Items

25323 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard to approve Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25324 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Annual Financial Report for 2019-2020:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Brown to approve the Annual Financial Report for 2019-2020 as presented. The District's auditor, Whitley Penn, issued an Unmodified Opinion meaning a clean report with no internal control findings related to financial report and no findings related to compliance.

Motion unanimously approved.

25325 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #6:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Minyard to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #6 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25326 **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Smith to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes
- B. Request for Approval of Bills for Payment
- C. Request for Approval of Acceptance of Donations Over \$10,000
- D. Request for Approval of 2021-2022 Dual Credit Matrix
- E. Request for Approval of Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle P.C. Special Education Legal Services Retainer Agreement for Ector County ISD
- F. Request for Approval of Odessa High School Band, Orchestra, and Harp Student Out-of-State Travel to Orlando, Florida
- G. Request for Approval of Permian High School Choir Student Out-of-State Travel to Branson, Missouri

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

25327 **Presentation of Special Services:** Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Dr. Lilia Náñez and Executive Director of Special Education presented this item. There are approximately 3,000 Special Education students in ECISD, with about 34% (1,055) being mainstreamed, meaning they are learning in general education classrooms. Currently, the Special Education program is rated over three measurements – graduation rate, dropout rate and total disciplinary removals rate (removals from the classroom for disciplinary reasons). Ratings range from a top rating of Level 1 to a low rating of Level 4. ECISD rates at Level 2 in all three of the measurements, however, has an overall District rating of 3. The Special Education Department determined improving the disciplinary removals is the key to improving students' performance, graduation rate, and the dropout rate and that work is the focus of the department's plans for teaching, learning, and professional development.

No action required.

25328 **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.]** (Hear recommendation of Superintendent to terminate the term contract to Jesus Martinez.)

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.]:

Board Vice-President Tammy Hawkins convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 8:01 p.m.

Board Vice-President Tammy Hawkins reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 8:08 p.m.

25329 **Take Action to Terminate the Term Contract of Jesus Martinez:** Motion made by Brown, based on the Affidavit of Mary Franco, the written notice of the proposed termination of Jesus Martinez was deposited in the U.S. mail in a properly addressed envelope, with postage prepaid, to Jesus Martinez on the 18th of November, 2020. The mail is presumed to have been received on the date it was deposited in the mail. As of today, December 15, 2020, the District has not received a copy of the request for a hearing from Mr. Martinez.

Since more than 15 days passed after Mr. Martinez’s presumptive receipt of the written notice of the proposed termination, and the teacher has failed to request a hearing, I move to terminate the employment of Jesus Martinez, motion seconded by Minyard.

Motion unanimously approved.

25330 **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** Dr. Muri reminded the Board of Trustees that our two-week holiday break would be starting this Friday. He wished everyone happy holidays.

25331 **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Financials, Purchasing Report and the Routine Personnel Report.

25332 **Adjournment:** Board Vice-President Tammy Hawkins adjourned the Board meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Board Vice-President
Tammy Hawkins

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown