

AT A REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION OF NACERO TX 1 LLC FOR APPRAISED VALUE LIMITATION ON QUALIFIED PROPERTY, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 313 OF THE TEXAS TAX CODE AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF 2021-2022 OFFICIAL BUDGET 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., JUNE 15, 2021, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

Delma Abalos
Dr. Steve Brown
Tammy Hawkins
Carol Gregg
Nelson Minyard
Dr. Donna C. Smith
Chris Stanley

Absent:

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Dr. Stephanie Howard, Dr. Lilia Náñez, Jason Osborne, Deborah Ottmers, Alicia Syverson,

Others: Mike Atkins, Dr. Cory Seymour, Cortney Smith, Staci Ashley, Lisa Wills, Scott Randolph, Dr. Aaron Hawley, Hilberto Ochoa, Albessa Chavez, Jennifer Moran, Nancy Vanley, Chad Crowson, Annette Macias, Alicia Press, Wes Burnett, Fred Stormer, Chris Grammer, Hal Bouknight, Chris Micklas, Ruth Campbell, Albert Anchondo, Mary Franco

25538 **Meeting Called to Order:** Tammy Hawkins, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

25539 **Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Tammy Hawkins, 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.

25540 **Pledge of Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Chris Stanley, Board Member.

25541 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Dr. Steve Brown, Board Vice-President.

Special Presentation

25542 **Recognition of Delma Abalos, Outgoing Board President:** Superintendent Dr. Scott R. Muri expressed his appreciation to Delma Abalos for her service as Board President over the past year and presented her with the Outgoing Board President Award.

25543 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri's opening remarks he reminded our community that learning does not stop just because the regular school year came to an end. He said more than 6,000 kids are taking part in Summer Learning Monday through Thursday, our staff members are in professional learning sessions, and even our Board of Trustees will be attending a conference to learn with other school boards.

25544 **Public Comment:** No public comment.

Board Policy

25545 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution of The Board Regarding ESSER III and Policy CB(LOCAL), State and Federal Revenue Sources:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Smith to approve Resolution of the Board Regarding ESSER III and Policy CB(LOCAL), State and Federal Revenue Sources as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25546 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of TASB Local Policy Update 117:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Stanley to approve TASB Local Policy Update 117 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

25547 **Public Hearing on Application of Nacero TX 1 LLC for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, Pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code:** Trustees held a public hearing on the application of Nacero TX 1 LLC for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, Pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code. Chapter 313 agreements were created by the 2001 Texas Legislature to allow communities to attract specifically defined companies/projects through limiting the school District's Maintenance & Operations (daily operations) taxable valuation for ten years. The agreement remains fully taxable for I&S (Debt Service) tax purposes at all times. The agreements stipulate the school district cannot be financially worse off by entering into the agreement. The Nacero TX 1 LLC project is valued at about \$7 billion. Nacero Chief Operating Officer Hal Bouknight told Trustees the company has 2,600 acres in Penwell on which to build this first-of-its kind (in the U.S.) plant that will convert natural gas into gasoline in a more environmentally friendly way; Sulphur-free and with a smaller carbon footprint. He said construction would require 3,500-4,000 workers over the next several years, and about 350 full time jobs once it is completed and functioning.

Immediately following the presentation, Board President Tammy Hawkins declared the Public Hearing on Application of Nacero TX 1 LLC for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, Pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code **open**.

There was no public comment.

Board President Tammy Hawkins declared the Public Hearing on the Application of Nacero TX 1 LLC for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, Pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code **closed**.

No action required.

24548 **Discussion and Possible Action on a Resolution Adopting Findings of Fact and Approving the Application of Nacero TX 1 LLC for Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, Pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, and other Action Incident Thereto:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard that the Board approve the Resolution Adopting Findings of Fact as presented relating to the Application of Nacero TX 1 LLC for an Appraised Value Limitation on Qualified Property, that such Resolution and Findings, as presented, be executed by the Board President Tammy Hawkins and made part of the Minutes of this meeting, and that the Application of Nacero TX 1 LLC be approved, all in accordance with Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

24549 **Discussion and Possible Action on an Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operations Taxes, Pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, with Nacero TX 1 LLC:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard that the Board approve the Agreement for Limitation on Appraised Value of Property for School District Maintenance and Operation Taxes, Pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code, with Nacero TX 1 LLC and Authorize the Board President Tammy Hawkins to Execute the Agreement on the District's behalf, and direct the Superintendent to take such other action as may be required under Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code or Comptroller's related rule as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

24550 **Public Hearing for Adoption of 2021-2022 Official Budget:** The Board of Trustees held a public hearing for the Adoption of 2021-22 Official Budget. A school board in Texas is legally required to approve three separate budgets: the General Fund budget which is projected to be \$314,485,610; the Debt Service budget projected at \$19,250,666; and the School Nutrition budget at \$18,705,494. Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers presented the highlights of the General Fund budget from the 2021-22 Compensation Plan which Trustees approved last month:

- Starting teacher salary raised to \$57,000 (NOTE: four years ago, 2017-18, ECISD's starting teacher salary was just \$44,500);
- Everyone on teacher pay scale will get \$1,800 with additional adjustments at Steps 1-10;
- 4% general pay increase at midpoint for hourly employees (increased hourly minimum to \$12.00);
- 3% general pay increase at midpoint for exempt (non-hourly) employees;

- A \$750 Invest in Talent Stipend for all those employed on the first day of instruction in August, utilizing General Fund-fund balance or ESSER funds as allowable;
- The pay increases come at a cost of approximately \$7.4 million to the District's budget.

Trustees are anticipating the overall tax rate will stay the same as it is right now \$1.17792 per \$100 valuation. *(Note: built into the Debt Service budget for next year is the early payment of \$5.5 million in bond payments which will ultimately save the District (and tax payers) about \$2.5 million in future interest payments)*

Immediately following the presentation, Board President Tammy Hawkins declared the Public Hearing on the proposed 2021-2022 Budget **open**.

There was no public comment.

Board President Tammy Hawkins declared the Public Hearing on the proposed 2021-2022 Budget **closed**.

No action required

24551 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Adoption of 2021-2022 Official Budget:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Minyard to approve the Adoption of the 2021-2022 Official Budget as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Action Items

25552 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution Committing Fund Balance in Accordance with GASB 54:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Stanley to approve the Resolution Committing Fund Balance in Accordance with GASB 54 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25553 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Abalos to approve the Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25554 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Year End Budget Amendment:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Gregg to approve the Year End Budget Amendment as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25555 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Bond Committee and Composition:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Gregg to approve the Bond Committee and Composition as presented. This committee will be made up of students (5), parents (46), community members (44), certified staff (11), principals/assistant principals (7) and central office administrators (17), and will serve in advisory capacity to the school board. These would be the maximum number of committee members. It will review the conditions and capacities of ECISD's existing facilities, projections for future enrollment and the future facility needs of the District. The committee will meet for the first time in July and will continue throughout the Fall Semester, offering its recommendation to the Board of Trustees in December 2021. The Board would then have until February to call a bond election for May 2022, if it chooses to do so.

Motion unanimously approved.

25556 **Discussion of and Request for Approval to Designate Hiring Authority to the Superintendent for Contractual Personnel Stipulated in Policy DC(LOCAL) through August 2021:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Minyard to approve to Designate the Hiring Authority to the Superintendent for Contractual Personnel Stipulated in Policy DC(LOCAL) through August 2021 as presented with the following stipulations. Dr. Muri will provide Trustees with candidates resume forty-eight hours prior to hiring for their review. Hiring will be paused if any Trustee has concerns in regards to a candidate. The Board of Trustees will retroactively approve candidates at the July 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion unanimously approved.

25557 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of UIL Exemption List for 2021-2022 School Year:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Smith to approve the UIL exemption List for the 2021-2022 School Year as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25558 **Discussion of and Request for Approval to Endorse Board of Trustee Dr. Steve Brown to Fill a Position on the TASB Board of Directors:** Moved by Minyard, seconded by Stanley to approve Endorsement of Board of Trustee Dr. Steve Brown to Fill a Position on the TASB Board of Directors as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

25559 **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Gregg, seconded by Minyard 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 Memorandum of Understanding between Ector County ISD and the University of Texas Permian Basin for Academic Dual Credit

- E. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding and Articulation Agreement between Ector County ISD and Odessa College - Continuing Education Class Offerings
- F. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Ector County ISD and Odessa College - Odessa Collegiate Academy
- G. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Ector County ISD and Odessa College - OCTECHS
- H. Request for Approval of Permian High School Orchestra Student Out-of-State Travel to Sacramento, NM

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

- 25560** **Legislative Update:** In his legislative update, Dr. Muri said in the next month or two legislative experts will come to a board meeting to talk with Trustees about the actions from this legislative session that impacted public education.

No action required.

- 25561** **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 Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary Principal.) 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 of Trustees will Discuss with their Attorney the Agreement between Ector County Independent School District and IDEA Public Schools, Inc.):**

Board President Tammy Hawkins convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 8:27 p.m.

Board President Tammy Hawkins reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 8:48 p.m.

- 25562** **Request for Approval of Personnel Recommendation for Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary Principal:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Smith to approve the recommendation to hire Dr. Zenovia Crier as the new Lyndon B. Johnson Elementary Principal as presented. Dr. Crier comes to ECISD from Houston ISD where she served as Dean of Instruction/Technologist for the past ten years. In that role she assisted principals in educating and training staff on implementing academic standards. Dr. Crier is also a professor at Concordia University where she works with teacher candidates. She has worked as an elementary school teacher, reading tutor and as a volunteer teacher providing English as a Second Language to adult immigrants. She holds a Doctor of Education (Education Administration) from Texas A&M Commerce.

Motion unanimously approved.

25563 **The Board of Trustees to Consider Taking Action on IDEA Public Schools, Inc. Agreement:** This item was pulled.

No action taken.

25564 **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Financials, Purchasing Report and the Routine Personnel Report.

25565 **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

25566 **Adjournment:** Board President Delma Abalos adjourned the Board meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Board President
Tammy Hawkins

Board Secretary
Carol Gregg