

**AT A BOARD WORKSHOP 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., FEBRUARY 11, 2025, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

**Present:**

Dr. Steve Brown  
Tammy Hawkins  
Christopher Stanley  
Robert Thayer  
Wayne Woodall

**Absent:**

Delma Abalos  
Dawn Miller

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

**Others:** Tatiana Dennis, Angelina Hilton, Adonica Galindo, Nora Gonzalez, Betsabe Salcido, Amy Russell, Jeff Russell, Lisa Wills, Taylor Lang, Tracey Borchardt, Scott Rudes, Andrea Hewitt, Ryan Merritt, Anthony Garcia, Maggie Aguilar, Albessa Chavez, Juan Correa, Mitchel Davis, Magaly Nieto, Matt Spivey, Mauricio Marquez, Robert Trejo, Sam Magallan, Rose E. Wang, Nancy Waymack, Ruth Campbell, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

**27068** **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**27069** **Verification of Compliance with Open Meeting Law – this is to certify that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with the public notice of this meeting:** Board President Christopher Stanley, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

**27070** **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In her opening remarks, Interim Superintendent Dr. Keeley Boyer informed Trustees that this morning a national report recognized ECISD as a 'District Success Story' for its recovery from pandemic-related learning loss. The recognition was featured in *The New York Times* and other publications.

**27071** **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.

## Board Policy

- 27072**     **Discussion of TASB Board Policy Update 124:** Dr. Anthony Sorola, Associate Superintendent of District Operations, presented this item for discussion. The Board of Trustees reviewed TASB Board Policy Update 124, which included recommendations from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) to align local policies with recent changes to state law. This update addressed eight (8) specific policies, which will be presented for a second reading and vote at the Regular Board Meeting on February 18, 2025.

No action required.

## Report/Discussion Items

- 27073**     **Presentation of the National Student Support Accelerator Research on AI Tutor Copilot with Virtual Math Tutoring:** Dr. Lilia Náñez, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, opened the presentation for discussion. Trustees were presented with a report on a research project conducted in ECISD schools, which examined the use of an AI Tutor Copilot in virtual math tutoring. Researchers Rose Wang and Nancy Waymack from the National Student Support Accelerator presented their findings to Trustees on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) for real-time support of virtual math tutors working with ECISD students. A total of nine (9) ECISD schools participated in this study; 1,787 students in grades 3-8 received tutoring from 874 tutors (429 tutors were in the treatment group, 450 tutors were in the control group).

The purpose of the research was to answer the following question: could an AI-based expert-informed aid provide tutors real-time suggestions for tutors and raise tutoring quality?

The study started by acknowledging that scaling high-quality tutoring is hard, and growing demand for virtual tutoring often results in employing novice tutors who may struggle to address student mistakes and, thus, miss prime learning opportunities. The AI Tutor Copilot was designed to support the tutor (not the student) by evaluating the student's answer to a math question, then providing a question or an explanation of a concept or a hint for the tutor to use in their interaction with the student, guiding the student more effectively than they may have been able to, based on their own expertise. The tutor can use the AI Tutor Copilot prompts or not. A key takeaway from the study: lower quality tutors, particularly, benefit from the AI Tutor Copilot. Tutors clicking on the AI prompts saw students scoring 14 percentage points higher than those whose tutors were not using the prompts. Its use shifted a tutor's language toward stronger pedagogy, explaining, guiding a student's thinking, or affirming a correct answer rather than just giving the student the correct answer. It is the first Human AI large scale study done and is open source available for any vendor to use now. *This research project was included in the Economic Report of the President transmitted to Congress in January.*

In looking ahead, this was a two-month project and only focused on exit ticket assessments in class, ongoing is a longer study with a focus on both exit ticket assessments and end-of-year test scores. The possibilities to expand this technology into other aspects of teaching are numerous.

No action required.

- 27074**     **Discussion of the 2024-2025 Targeted Improvement Plans:** Dr. Robert Trejo, Executive Director of Accountability and School Improvement led this presentation and discussion. The Texas Education Agency requires TIPs (Targeted Improvement Plans) for schools who perform in the bottom 5% of Domain III-Closing the Gaps in the Accountability system. This year the campuses that fall under that qualifier are West Elementary, Burnet Elementary, Dowling Elementary, EK Downing Elementary, and Gonzalez Elementary. The principals from each of the five (5) schools presented their plans which focus on developing Effective Instruction, one of the 5 Essential Levers of the Effective School's Framework.

No action required.

- 27075**     **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.]:**

There was no closed session.

- 27076**     **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** In her closing remarks, Interim Superintendent Dr. Keeley Boyer reminded Trustees that Monday is a district holiday unless there is inclement weather between now and Friday.
- 27077**     **Adjournment:** Christopher Stanley Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 7:17 p.m.

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**Board President**  
*Christopher Stanley*

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**Board Secretary**  
*Dr. Steve Brown*