

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ECTOR COUNTY
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT HELD ON MAY 21, 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
Dr. Steve Brown
Tammy Hawkins
Dawn Miller
Christopher Stanley
Robert Thayer
Wayne Woodall

Absent:

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

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Kevin Enriquez, Michael Nunez, Christopher Salcido, Anthony Reed, Pat Jones, Alexandra Becerra Nieto, Stephanie wright, Christina Salinas, Yadiel Hernandez, Giselle Rodriguez, Karl Miller, Kristen Vesely, Liz Garcia, Aaron Hawley, Shannon Davidson, Mary Jane Hutchins, Kasey Gullett, Anika Gundlapalli, Oscar Saenz, Vanessa Brower, Betsabe Salcido, Tommy & Betsy Rhodes, Joel Ramos, Rohan reed, Georgina Figueroa, Kubra Kook, Adrian Rodriguez, Eva Herrera, Sara Moore, Sophia Robles, Lexie Arroyo, Martha Burrola, Steve Moss, Jamie Hubbard, Albessa Chavez, Eliseo Gomez, Sandra Talavera, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

26716 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26717 **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.

26718 **Pledge of Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Lamar Early Education Center Students Juliana Gonzales and Rafael Guerrero.

26719 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Reverend Steve Moss, First Methodist Church.

26720 **Special Presentations:**

Mike Adkins announced a change to the Special Presentations to include an Announcement of NTO's 3rd Place finish in National Academic Decathlon.

Announcement of NTO's 3rd Place Finish in National Academic Decathlon:
We are excited to update you on the progress of our outstanding team from New Tech Odessa.

In March, we proudly announced that these bright young men and women had advanced to the State Academic Decathlon meet, finishing third in the state and earning an invitation to the national competition. Tonight, we are thrilled to share that they have finished third in the nation! Individually, Rohan Reed won two silver medals and one bronze; Kevin Enriquez won two golds; Eva Herrera won a bronze; and Yadiel Hernandez earned a silver medal. Congratulations to the NTO Academic Decathlon team!

Coaches: Damian Gaytan and Georgina Figueroa...team members: Adrian Rodriguez, Joel Ramos, Alexandra Becerra-Nieto, Rohan Reed, Kevin Enriquez, Eva Herrera, Yadiel Hernandez Rodriguez, Michael Nunez, and Christopher Salcido.

Announcement of ECISD Memorial Scholarship Recipients: Following the tragic shootings in August 2019, our school district established the Memorial Scholarship Fund as a vehicle to receive memorial or honorary donations from community members that would then be awarded as scholarships to graduating seniors. Students apply for the scholarship and each campus has a committee to review then select the recipients.

Memorial Scholarship Fund Recipients – 2024

G.H.W.B. New Tech Odessa, Kubra Kocak – University of Texas, Pharmacy

OCTECHS, Arlynn Villarreal – Texas Tech University, Business

Odessa Collegiate Academy, Giselle Rodriguez – UTPB, Business Management

Odessa High School, Sydney Dutchover – UTPB, Mechanical Engineering

Odessa High School, Jacqueline Marquez – Baylor University, Pre-med Pediatrics

Odessa High School, Tate Stell – Texas A&M University, Civil Engineering

Permian High School, Giancarlo Garcia – University of Texas San Antonio, Kinesiology

Permian High School, Edith Lopez Gutierrez – UTPB, Biology

Permian High School, Ivania Montesino Rios – UTPB, Psychology

Recognition of a Variety of State Qualifiers: Chief Communications Officer Mike Adkins introduced the State Qualifiers in VASE, Gymnastics, Track, Athletic Training, Speech & Debate, Powerlifting, Student Council, UIL Academics, and Culinary Arts through a video presentation.

State VASE: [17 qualified; 7 scored a 4 (33,127 total entries statewide), 2,342 pieces qualified for State; 1,418 earned a medal at State]

PHS | Kylee Folk

NTO | Maya Galvan

OCTECHS | Alexa Rangel and Katarina Nunez

OCA | Danielle Elnar, Brianna Acuna, Bianca Ojeda, Lyndee Benavidez, Seth Borgman, Nathaniel Carrasco, Alexis Knight, Alejandra Nunez, Erva Ozturk, Darianna Pando, Jimena Villalba Dominguez, Bailey Wimberly, and Zadi Zapata.

Permian HS Boys' Gymnastics Team: (7) 7th in the State

Permian HS Track: (1) Alivia Rivera Norman, 100m hurdles & 300m hurdles

Odessa HS Athletic Trainers: (5) Arianna Avalos, Deandra Garcia Bass, Jesse Valerio, Khloe Mendoza, and Michelle Villegas

Permian HS Athletic Trainers: (6) Amaya Burns, Presley Kennedy, Addison Sheehan, Madison Franco, Zianna Venzor, Gabriella Rodarte, and Gideon Hook

Permian HS Speech & Debate: (2) Sinitha Cope and Ashley Sisneros, National Speech/Debate in June

OHS Girls' Powerlifting: (3) Nohemi Acosta Nave - 242lb weight class 8th place, Celina Lugo - 97lb weight class 16th, Nana Ampen - 165 lb. weight Class, They all PR'd.

PHS Girls' Powerlifting: (4) Rochely Banuelos 132 lb. weight class, Jaizlynn Kuhlmann 198 lb., Jocelyn Sandoval 123 lb., Serenity Gildon 220 lb.

PHS Boys' Powerlifting: (1) Andre Quiroz 123 lb. class

Odessa HS Student Council: (12) Mikayla Rodriguez, Yaralih Mariscal, Yazmine Mariscal, Natalie Ramos, Sydney Dutchover, Anahi Franco, Yamilet Flotte, Xavier Bustillos, Jesus Dominguez, Santiago Garcia, Joel Avitia, and Rafael Robles

UIL Academics: (1) PHS Kate Pursley, Headline Writing 4th place in state (second year in a row)

Culinary Arts BBQ Teams: (13) BBQ Barbarians and Meat the Flintstones
Mikal Kahm, Adam Lopez, James Skiles, Brandon Lopez, Kayden Freeman, Manual Ponce, Adriel Samaniego, Alexa Soto, Juanita Russell, Brenda Roman, Marilyn Aguilar, Sariaha Cooper, Madosyn Campbell, and Chef Christina Acosta

Beans: BBQ Barbarians 14th, Chicken: Meat the Flintstones 3rd, BBQ Barbarians 15th, Ribs: BBQ Barbarians 1st, Brisket: BBQ Barbarians 20th, Overall: BBQ Barbarians 8th

Introduction of High School Valedictorians and Salutatorians: Introduction of the High School Class of 2024 Valedictorians and Salutatorians by respective principal from G.H.W.B. New Tech Odessa, OCTECHS, Odessa Collegiate Academy, STEM Academy, Odessa High School, and Permian High School:

G.H.W.B. New Tech Odessa

Kubra Kocak, *Valedictorian*

Sophia Robles, *Salutatorian*

OCTECHS

Lexie Arroyo, *Valedictorian*

Arlynn Villareal, *Salutatorian*

Odessa Collegiate Academy

Pranay Patel, *Valedictorian*
Sarah Hubbard, *Salutarian*

STEM Academy

Abigail Paredes, *Valedictorian*
Forrest Harlow, *Salutarian*

Odessa High School

Anika Gundlapalli, *Valedictorian*
Lesly Pallares Gardea, *Salutarian*

Permian High School

Sapna Yadalla, *Valedictorian*
Cristian Rodriguez, *Salutarian*

26721 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In his opening remarks, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri reminded the Trustees that only two days remain until the end of the school year. He showcased a recent USA Today article highlighting Pease Elementary's innovative use of technology to advance student learning. As a bonus, the article included a picture of one of our students. Lastly, he announced that ECISD has been named one of 25 semi-finalists for H-E-B's Excellence in Education Award, selected from 1,900 entries, and awarded a \$1,000 prize.

26722 **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 was no public comment.

Bond 2023

26723 **Bond 2023 Update:** Deborah Ottmers, Chief Financial Officer and Dr. Anthony Sorola, Associate Superintendent of Operations provided the Board of Trustees with an update on the progress of Bond 2023 projects. Last week, the school district took possession of the land that will become the site of the new Career & Technical Education High School. The 37-acre parcel valued at more than \$2.8 million was donated by Grow Odessa. The CTE high school planning committee has now met four times, the most recent on April 23, 2024 and has made site visits to CTE Centers in Abilene and Hobbs, New Mexico. Trustees then received a report on the site visit made by our middle school planning committee. A group of 10 traveled to Lewisville to see Griffin Middle School, designed by PBK, the same architecture firm that will be designing ECISD's new middle school. On April 19, representatives from Parkhill visited Odessa to see the Transportation Center (both the existing bus barn and the property for the new facility) and the auditorium at Permian High School which will be completely renovated.

In the first completed portion of the bond, all of the middle school tennis courts have been resurfaced and are ready for the fall tennis season. Looking at the budget, a little more than \$4.3 million has been spent (1% of the total bond) and about \$22.7 million is encumbered (meaning purchase orders have been issued; 5% of the total bond). The first round of bonds was offered to investors on May 14, 2024. All bonds were sold with an average interest rate of 3.77% which is below the estimated (3.84) rate presented to the board in the preliminary financing plan in March. Due to the lower interest rate than anticipated, the payments are expected to be nearly \$3 million less over the life of the bonds. Good news for local taxpayers. A second bond sale will take place on June 5, 2024. A Request for Qualifications for a Third-Party Oversight firm has now closed and a recommendation is expected in June. ECISD Operations is also working with Gordian on contract language for Priority I and Priority II items, with Gordian performing a skilled trade vendor outreach.

No action required.

- 26724** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Bond 2023 Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Woodall to approve the Bond Purchases over \$50,000 as presented. The three items on this list are \$4.8 million for geotechnical and materials testing services for the current and future builds ECISD may have for Bond 2023 projects, and \$800,000 for the purchase of property on South Tripp Avenue for the new middle school. The district is purchasing two additional acres for the middle school project, and, \$5.9 million for Construction Manager at Risk to manage the construction projects, and to act as consultant during the design and planning phase.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26725** **Discuss and Consider Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Replacement of the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Paying Agent/Registrar for the Ector County Independent School District's Outstanding Debt Obligations and the Appointment of a Successor Paying Agent/Registrar for Such Debt Obligations:** Moved by Thayer, seconded by Woodall to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Replacement of the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as Paying Agent/Registrar for the Ector County Independent School District's Outstanding Debt Obligations and the Appointment of a Successor Paying Agent/Registrar for Such Debt Obligations as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26726** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Architect-Owner Contract for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and JSA Architects:** This item was pulled from the agenda due to the contract not being completed.

No action taken.

- 26727** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Architect-Owner Contract for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and DLR Group:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Hawkins to approve Architect-Owner Contract for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and DLR Group as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

Action Items

- 26728** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Thayer to approve Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26729** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #8:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Woodall to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #8 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26730** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2024-2025 Compensation Plan:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Miller to approve the 2024-2025 Compensation Plan as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26731** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Economics/Personal Financial Literacy Textbook Adoption:** Moved by Abalos, seconded by Thayer to approve the Economics/Personal Financial Literacy Textbook Adoption as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26732** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2023-2024 Academic Calendars Revision 2:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Miller to approve the 2023-2024 Academic Calendars Revision 2 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26733** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2024-2025 Gifted and Talented Plan and Presentation Update of Advanced Academic Services:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Woodall to approve the 2024-2025 Gifted and Talented Plan and Presentation Update of Advanced Academic Services as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26734** **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 Abalos, seconded by Thayer to Endorse Board of Trustee Dr. Steve Brown to Fill a Position on the TASB Board of Directors as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26735** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Non-Renewal of Multi-Year Contracts Due to Lack of Funding:** Moved by Thayer, seconded by Woodall to approve the Non-Renewal of Multi-Year Contracts Due to Lack of Funding as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26736** **Consent Agenda:** Moved by Brown seconded by Miller 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 Quarterly Investment Report
- E. Request for Approval of Permian HS Debate Students Out-of-State Travel to Des Moines, Iowa
- F. Request for Approval of Culinary Arts High School Students Out-of-State Travel to Italy, France & Spain

Motion unanimously approved.

Report/Discussion Items

- 26737** **Strategic Plan Quarterly Board Update:** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott Muri along with Associate Superintendent of C & I Dr. Lilia Nández, Executive Director of Human Resources Dr. Matthew Spivey, and Director of Federal & State Programs Manuel Escajeda presented this item for discussion. This presentation focused on two specific projects: (1) Strategic Staffing, (2) and Professional Learning Communities.

First, *Strategic Staffing* which is creating the best ways to utilize our people and our resources to serve our students. ECISD has many first-of-its-kind talent development pipelines (for teachers, principals, counselors, and diagnosticians) to go along with stackable incentives that help recruit, retain, and reward our staff.

Second, *Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)* are teachers deeply discussing students and their data to learn strategies from each other to reach students, support their learning gaps, and increase achievement. PLCs are how ECISD does business. Third, *High Dosage Tutoring* gives identified students access to a personal, online tutor throughout the year. The partnerships use outcomes-based contracts, meaning the tutoring companies earn more when students achieve more.

No action required.

- 26738** **Budget Update Discussion:** Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers presented this item for discussion.

Trustees continued their discussion of the budget for the 2024-25 school year. ECISD is in the same position as school districts 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. At this time, the proposed revenues for 2024-25 are some \$337,050,000. The district is estimating the same student enrollment and the same tax rate (\$1.014). Leaders have anticipated a deficit of \$12 million and have been reviewing all aspects of district operations to reduce the expenses for next year. The required budgets will be adopted next month.

No action required.

- 26739** **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 the Principal at Murry Fly Elementary and the Principal at Odessa High School.)
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 President Christopher Stanley convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 8:42 p.m.

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

- 26740** **Request for Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal at Murry Fly Elementary School:** Moved by Woodall, seconded by Brown to approve the hiring of Christina Salinas as the Principal at Murry Fly Elementary School as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26741** **Request for Approval of Recommendation to Hire Principal at Odessa High School:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Woodall to approve the hiring of Hector Limon as the Principal at Odessa High School as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26742** **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items: Financials, Purchases over \$50,000 Informational Report and Routine Personnel Report.

26743 **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

26744 **Adjournment:** Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Tammy Hawkins