

AT A REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF 2024-2025 OFFICIAL BUDGET 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., June 18, 2024, 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. Keeley Boyer, Deborah Ottmers, Dr. Anthony Sorola, Dr. Kellie Wilks

Others: Tatiana Dennis, Aaron Hawley, Senyda Huertas, Sara Moore, Jieun Pando, David Hernandez, Teri Michael, Rico Enriquez, Taylor Roy, Ryan Merritt, Matthew Spivey, Sam Magallan, Albessa Chavez, Jerry Mahana, Margarita Acosta, Raquel Rodriguez, Andrea Berndt, Tracey Borchardt, Krystan Nall, Andrea Hewitt, Max Hewitt, Lisa Wills, Abigail Trejo, Robert Trejo, Ruth Campbell, Rita Lopez, Mary Franco

26756 **Meeting Called to Order:** Christopher Stanley, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

26757 **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.

26758 **Pledge Allegiance to United States and Texas Flags:** The United States and Texas flag pledges were led by Camp SIP Students Ava Loera and Hailey Vesely.

26759 **Invocation:** The Invocation was led by Deacon Alfonso Moreno, St. Joseph Catholic Church.

26760 **Special Presentations:**

Recognition of Teacher Incentive Allotment Level Up Teachers: Chief Communications Officer Mike Adkins introduced the TIA “Level Up” Teachers. The Teacher Incentive Allotment was created by the Texas Legislature in 2019 to help attract and retain highly effective teachers. Allotment amounts are based on the level of academic growth these teachers’ students attain, the teacher’s performance and the school’s percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students. ECISD teachers earned an incredible \$3.1 million TIA money this year.

There are 3 levels of designations – Recognized, Exemplary and Master. The group introduced “Leveled Up” (improved) their designation from a year ago. There are 28 in the group, with more than \$345,000 in TIA awards.

Austin Montessori

Amy Richter

Nimitz Middle School

Melodi Rivera

Cameron Elementary

Jennifer Hernandez

Chon Lee

Karina Ligon

Ramona Mata

Teri McLeod

Griselda Muniz

Noel Elementary

Laura Roman

Sheila Wilson

Odessa Collegiate Academy

Lydia Roundtree

Dowling Elementary

Whittney Neemar

Odessa High School

Amy Pena

Fly Elementary

Jacqueline Hernandez Garcia

Pease Elementary

Maria Gonzales

Selena Baeza

Hays Elementary

Erika Pocaterra

Ashley Rojo

Reagan Elementary

Maria Fierro

Johana Gonzales

Brittany Looney

LBJ Elementary

Madison Ross

Ross Elementary

Andrea Berndt

Maddison Jones

Milam Elementary

Laura Coello

West Elementary

Sara Burton

Victor Galvan Guzman

Elizabeth McNabb

Nine (9) ECISD teachers earned more than \$100,000 this year. Fifteen (15) others earned between \$90,000 - \$100,000. This is due to TIA awards, Opportunity Culture incentives or other ‘stackable’ stipends like those given for master’s degrees or bilingual/science/math certifications.

When you consider ECISD has the highest starting teacher salary in this region, stackable incentives like the ones mentioned here, and the partnership-funded opportunity to embark on National Board Certification, Ector County ISD has shown to be a school district where teachers can challenge themselves, sharpen their skills, take on leadership roles, grow their professional careers, and earn significant money.

26761

Opening Remarks by Superintendent: In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri congratulated the teachers recognized during the special presentation, calling it a proud moment for our district. He also congratulated the Board of Trustees who had just returned from San Antonio having been honored by the Texas Education

Agency's System of Great Schools Network for the Innovative, Strategic Human Capital work.

26762 **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.

There was no public comment.

Bond 2023

26763 **Bond 2023 Update:** Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers and Associate Superintendent of Operations Dr. Anthony Sorola provided the Board of Trustees with an update on the progress of Bond 2023 projects.

The CTE Center Advisory Committee met most recently on May 30 and after having reviewed a number of different design possibilities ultimately settled on a recommendation of a plan that would cover approximately half of the 37-acre site with career and technical programs of study on the ground floor, and the second floor being primarily for general education classes for the 400 high school students attending the campus full-time.

In May, ECISD officially took ownership of the property where the CTE Center will be located and a "Future Site of New CTE Center" sign is now visible on E. Murphy Street near the intersection at Meadow. The design of the new middle school is also progressing quickly. PBK architects presented several design options to the middle school committee and to school district departments like School Nutrition and Fine Arts. At the school board's workshop on June 11, Trustees weighed in on the design, offering more feedback. "Future Site of New Middle School" signs are up on S. Tripp Avenue designating the land now owned by ECISD where the school will sit.

Trustees learned a second project is now complete – more than 840 interactive flat panels have been installed in classrooms across 38 campuses replacing traditional mounted projectors and touch screens.

ECISD's Operations Department met with Gordian on June 10 to review job order contracting in preparation to begin Priority 1 & 2 projects. The first meeting between DLR architects and a local planning committee took place on June 12 to begin work on the new Transition Learning Center. An overview of bond financials showed about 1% of bond proceeds have been spent (approximately \$4.4 million), with about 5% having now been designated for specific work (about \$22.6 million).

The second round of bond sales occurred on June 5 with high investor interest. Nearly \$216 million in orders were placed for the \$99.5 million of variable rate bonds to be sold. All were successfully sold with an initial interest rate of 3.62%, about .12% above the estimated rate presented to the board in the preliminary finance plan in March.

Looking ahead, ECISD Fine Arts will be ordering instruments for mariachi, elementary and middle school bands. To date, Fine Arts has ordered 286 instruments to benefit all high school and middle school band and orchestra programs plus the harp program and middle school choirs.

ECISD Athletics is planning for the installation of lights at Odessa High and Permian High.

Finally, a series of eight Requests for Proposals will go out next week for projects such as roofing, plumbing, weatherproofing and more.

No action required.

- 26764** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Bond 2023 Purchases over \$50,000:** Moved by Brown, seconded by Woodall to approve the Bond Purchases over \$50,000 as presented. The single item on this list is \$4,891,322 to CDW-G for the refresh of surveillance cameras on campuses and in other district facilities.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26765** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Architect-Owner Contract for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and Parkhill for a new Agricultural Farm Facility:** Moved by Thayer, seconded by Woodall to approve the Architect-Owner Contract for Bond Program Construction between ECISD and Parkhill for a new Agricultural Farm Facility as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26766** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Construction Manager at Risk Contract and General Conditions of the Contract for Construction between ECISD and Teinert Construction for a Middle School:** Moved by Thayer, seconded by Woodall to approve the Construction Manager at Risk Contract and General Conditions of the Contract for Construction between ECISD and Teinert Construction for a Middle School as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26767** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Construction Manager at Risk Contract and General Conditions of the Contract for Construction between ECISD and Teinert Construction for a CTE High School:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Brown to approve the Construction Manager at Risk Contract and General Conditions of the Contract for Construction between ECISD and Teinert Construction for a CTE High School as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26768** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Construction Manager at Risk Contract between ECISD and Teinert Construction for Permian High School Auditorium Renovation:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Brown to approve the Construction Manager at Risk Contract and General Conditions of the Contract for Construction between ECISD and Teinert Construction for Permian High School Auditorium Renovation as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26769** **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Master Agreement for Program Management Services for Bond Program Construction Projects between ECISD and Gallagher Construction Company, LP:** Moved by Thayer, seconded by Woodall to approve the Master Agreement for Program Management Services for Bond Program Construction Projects between ECISD and Gallagher Construction Company, LP as presented.

For:	Against:
Brown	Abalos
Hawkins	Miller
Stanley	
Thayer	
Woodall	

Motion carried.

Public Hearing

- 26770** **Public Hearing for Adoption of 2024-2025 Official Budget:** Trustees held a public hearing for the adoption of the 2024-25 budget. A school board in Texas is legally required to approve three separate budgets: General Fund revenue budget which is projected to be \$337,248,000; Debt Service revenue budget projected at \$46,249,195; and School Nutrition balanced revenue and expenditure budget at \$20,277,315.

The General Fund budget was built around the school board's budget goals: retain high quality programs, retain high quality employees, a maximum of a \$12 million General Fund deficit budget, while keeping 90 days of available fund balance, school safety and facility improvements, equity weighted strategic campus staffing and funding allocations to support special education, economically disadvantaged and English language learners, and compensation increase or one-time incentive.

The General Fund is based on current appraisal district estimates for Ector County, current school finance laws, expected enrollment of 33,500 students, and a projected attendance rate of 88%. Projected expenses are slightly more than \$349 million, creating a deficit of almost \$12 million. The largest expense by object is employee payroll (78%). The largest expenditure by function is Instruction (57%).

As discussed in previous meetings, concern over funding for public education for this year and next year made Trustees hesitant to add raises to an already tight budget. Instead, Trustees approved a one-time retention incentive of approximately 3% for full-time employees who return to ECISD for the 2024-25 school year. It will come at a cost of about \$6 million. Remaining ESSER 3 federal funds will help allow ECISD to do this for its employees by freeing up fund balance for this incentive. The incentive will be about the size of a typical raise – the average teacher will see about \$1,950 and the average hourly employee will see about \$930; the minimum any employee would get is \$500. This incentive will be paid in the fall, and some part-time employees are not eligible for it.

There is no change anticipated for the tax rate, which is proposed to remain the same: \$.75960 for Maintenance & Operations + \$.25440 for Debt Service = \$1.01400 total tax rate.

- The total tax rate is the same as the prior year
- The M&O tax rate is the same
- The I&S tax rate is the same
- The total tax rate is at or below the voter approval rate
- The total tax rate is at or under the maximum tax rate allowed without a tax rate election
- The M&O tax rate is at or below the voter approval/rollback/no new revenue tax rate
- The I&S tax rate is at or below the allowable to cover bond cost

The Board of Trustees will officially adopt the tax rate in September.

Immediately following the presentation, Board President Christopher Stanley declared the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 Budget **open**.

There was no public comment.

Board President Christopher Stanley declared the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 Budget **closed**.

No action required.

Action Items

26771 **Adoption of 2024-2025 Official Budget**: Moved by Abalos, seconded by Miller that the Board of Trustees approve the Adoption of the 2024-2025 Official Budget as presented in accordance with The Texas Education Code Section 44 and the Texas Tax Code Chapter 26. The Official Budget includes the General Fund, the School Nutrition Fund, and the Debt Service Fund.

Motion unanimously approved.

26772 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution to Calculate the Property**

Tax Rates: Moved by Thayer, seconded by Woodall to approve Resolution to Calculate the Property Tax Rates as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26773 Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #9: Moved by Woodall, seconded by Hawkins to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #9 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26774 Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution Committing Fund Balance in Accordance with GASB 54: Moved by Abalos, seconded by Woodall to approve the Resolution Committing Fund Balance in Accordance to GASB 54 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26775 Discussion of and Request for Approval of Purchases over \$50,000: Moved by Abalos, seconded by Miller to approve the Purchases over \$50,000 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26776 Discuss and Consider Board Approval of a Delegate and Alternate to the 2024 Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Delegate Assembly: Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Woodall to approve Dawn Miller as Delegate and Robert Thayer as Alternate to the 2024 Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Delegate Assembly as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26777 Discussion of and Request for Approval of the 2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct and Revisions to the Student Handbook Fees: Moved by Miller, seconded by Woodall to approve the 2024-2025 Student Code of Conduct with no revisions as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26778 Discussion of and Request for Approval to Delegate Hiring Authority to the Superintendent for Contractual Personnel Stipulated in Policy DC(LOCAL) through the End of August 2024: Moved by Abalos, seconded by Miller to Delegate Hiring Authority to the Superintendent for Contractual Personnel Stipulated in Policy DC(LOCAL) through the end of August 2024 as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26779 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Resolution to Lease or Allow for a Purpose other than a District Purpose of any Unused or Underused District Facility**: Moved by Abalos, seconded by Woodall to approve the Resolution to Lease or Allow for a Purpose other than a District Purpose of any Unused or Underused District Facility as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26780 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of School District Facilities Construction Delivery Method for Insurance Related Construction at Austin Elementary School**: Moved by Miller, seconded by Hawkins to approve the School District Facilities Construction Delivery Method of Insurance Related Construction at Austin Elementary School as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26781 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Architect-Owner Contract for Insurance Related Construction between ECISD and Parkhill at Austin Elementary**: Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Miller to approve the Architect-Owner Contract for Insurance Related Construction between ECISD and Parkhill at Austin Elementary as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26782 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan**: Moved by Abalos, seconded by Woodall to approve the 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

26783 **Consent Agenda**: Moved by Brown, seconded by Miller 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 Memorandum of Understanding between Ector County ISD and Odessa College – Odessa Collegiate Academy
- E. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Ector County ISD and Odessa College - OCTECHS
- F. Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Ector County ISD and the University of Texas Permian Basin for Academic Dual Credit
- G. Request for Approval of Permian High School Choir Student Out-of-State Travel to London
- H. Request for Approval of Data Sharing Agreement between Ector County ISD and Texas Tech University (TTU)
- I. Request for Approval of 2024-2025 Ector County ISD Professional Learning Plan

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26784** **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 on the hiring of an Executive Director of Accountability and School Improvement and Executive Director of Leadership.)
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 7:50 p.m.

Board President Christopher Stanley reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 8:01 p.m.

- 26785** **Request for Approval of Personnel Recommendation for the Executive Director of Accountability and School Improvement:** Moved by Miller, seconded by Thayer to approve the personnel recommendation to hire Robert Trejo as Executive Director of Accountability and School Improvement as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26786** **Request for Approval of Recommendation to Hire Executive Director of Leadership:** Moved by Thayer, seconded by Miller to approve the recommendation to hire Veronica Reyes as Executive Director of Leadership as presented.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 26787** **Information Items:** The Board of Trustees were provided with the following information items Financials, Purchasing Report, Routine Personnel Report and Added Administrative Memorandum June 2024.

- 26788** **Closing Remarks by the Superintendent:** In his closing remarks, Dr. Muri reminded Trustees that there will be no regular meetings in July. However, a special meeting may be called. The next regular meeting will be in August.

- 26789** **Adjournment:** Board President Christopher Stanley adjourned the Board meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Board President
Christopher Stanley

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown