

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 8, 2022, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

Delma Abalos
Carol Gregg
Tammy Hawkins
Dr. Donna Smith
Christopher Stanley

Absent:

Dr. Steve Brown

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

Others: Mike Atkins, Ellen Smith, Darrell Pearson, Sheena Salcido, Elisha Vega, Staci Ashley, Tracey Borchardt, Dr. Corey Seymour, Jason Osborne, Cortney Smith, Robert Cedillo, Jaime Miller, Annette Macias, Cindy Retana, Erin Bueno, Daryton Ramsey, Devin Benavides, Mary Franco

25779 **Meeting Called to Order:** Tammy Hawkins, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

25780 **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 Tammy Hawkins, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

25781 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri's opening remarks he congratulated the Permian High School football team for being named a State Finalist for the National High School Academic Excellence Award sponsored by the National Football Foundation. He visited the team earlier this afternoon to congratulate the players, coaches, and teachers on this incredible accomplishment.

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)*

David Munger, a counselor from Odessa High School, offered five observations he feels are reasons why smaller high school campuses are better for student success than the large, comprehensive campuses that have been traditional to ECISD.

Report/Discussion Items

25782 **Curriculum & Instruction Report - Humanities**: The Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction Jaime Miller along with ELAR Elementary Coordinator Ellen Smith and ELAR Secondary Coordinator Elisha Vega presented a Humanities program overview. Humanities includes Elementary English Language Arts (ELAR), Secondary ELAR, and Social Studies. It encompasses courses that cover human culture. Students in grades pre-kindergarten through 8th take a monthly reading assessment through iStation, an online reading diagnostic tool that provides a personalized pathway for each student's improvement. Currently, data shows the highest numbers of students fall into the lowest performance groups, however those students are showing the most reading growth. The District goal, and work, is to continue that improvement while ensuring the highest performers are also showing higher growth. The ECISD percentages very closely follow the state averages.

No action required.

25783 **Strategic Plan Quarterly Board Update**: Assistant Superintendent of Student & School Support Alicia Syverson opened this item for discussion. This quarterly presentation focused on three specific projects (1) Systematize Equity Based Funding, (2) Implement a Learning Management System (3) and High Impact Tutoring.

First, they provided the Trustees with an update on two of the Indicators of Success that are tracked regularly. The first, Attendance Rate, is down (90.7%) which is attributable to the high number of COVID absences to start this spring semester. Positive cases have been declining rapidly over the past two weeks and that is good news. The District's attendance goal for this school year is 94%.

Second, Kindergarten Readiness is a key factor in a student's academic success, and that number is up considerably (13 percentage points), rising from 33% meeting kindergarten-ready thresholds in October 2020 to 46% meeting those thresholds in October 2021. The 46% hitting kindergarten readiness standards also exceeds the District's goal for the 2021-22 school year. This improvement coming during the pandemic reflects the strong work being done by our pre-kindergarten teachers and ECISD's investment in PK services. In 2020-21, ECISD changed four-year-old PK from half-day to full-day and, this year, greatly expanded three-year-old PK to include many more children.

Third, This presentation also highlighted the implementation of equity-based funding which provides more dollars to schools with higher percentages of economically disadvantaged, Special Education, and Bilingual students; the utilization of Learning Management Systems, Schoology for 3-12 and Seesaw for PK-2, for providing online access to assignments, activities, and discussions; and high-impact tutoring which shows strong evidence of being one of the most effective ways to increase learning gains for students.

ECISD has designated \$6 million in federal ESSER funding this year to support approximately 6,000 students with weekly virtual tutors who personalize their learning and help them recover the COVID learning losses.

No action required.

25784 **Discussion of Appointment Process and Timeline for Filling the Ector County ISD Single-Member District 7 Board of Trustee Vacancy:** Trustees discussed the process and timeline they plan to use to fill the vacancy in Single-Member District 7. They discussed taking a slow approach at this time, being that the school board voting districts along with all local voting districts are currently under review, and could potentially be altered through redistricting. They will put this item on a March meeting agenda to get more information from the local redistricting committee, then look at it further. By law, the Trustees have 180 days to fill the vacant position on the school board.

No action required.

25785 **Bond Discussion:** Trustees discussed their plan for a spring bond proposal. The recommendation from the Community Bond Committee is for four immediate priority projects (in the committee's presentation Priority 1 and Priority 2 needs were proposed as one item; they are separated here to show the difference in potential costs):

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|---|-----------------|
| • A New High School | \$183 million |
| • A New Career & Technical Education Center | \$ 70 million |
| • Technology Upgrades | \$ 15 million |
| • Priority 1 Life-cycle Needs | \$ 52.8 million |
| • Priority 2 Life cycle Needs | \$122.3 million |

For clarity, Priority 1 and Priority 2 are definitions from the firm evaluating the conditions of all facilities. Priority 1 are projects that should be addressed immediately in the next 1-2 years. Priority 2 are projects that should be addressed in the next 3-5 years. The Committee also recommended that the bond proposal not exceed \$400 million dollars; the full recommendations from the Committees exceed that amount. With District leaders and architect, Trustees reviewed three different options for reducing the cost of the life-cycle needs and the overall cost of the bond package.

Option 1 would remove athletic items, Frost/Greenhouse and miscellaneous paving and sidewalk items, roofing HVAC, electrical, plumbing in ancillary facilities; bond cost would be reduced to \$420.4 million.

Option 2 is Option 1 plus removal of all Priority 2 scopes of work except mechanical, electrical and plumbing; things like roofing/waterproofing, paving, signage; bond cost would be reduced to \$398.2 million.

Option 3 is Options 1 & 2 plus removal of Priority 1 architectural and civil items like paving repairs, and millwork plus all Priority 2 scopes of work in Option 2 above; bond cost would be reduced to \$397.6 million.

Trustees will place another bond item on the agenda for their February 15th meeting. If Trustees choose to call a bond election that must be done by February 18.

No action required.

25786 **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.] (Consider Superintendent’s Recommendation to Terminate Probationary Contract of Jovan Jacob Lopez Pando):**

Board President Tammy Hawkins convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 8:00 p.m.

Board President Tammy Hawkins reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 8:15 p.m.

25787 **Request for Approval to take Action on Superintendent’s Recommendation to Terminate Probationary Contract of Jovan Jacob Lopez Pando:** Moved by Smith, seconded by Stanley to Accept the Superintendent’s Recommendation and Terminate the Probationary Contract of Jovan Jacob Lopez Pando effective immediately.

Motion unanimously approved.

25788 **Closing Remarks by Superintendent:** There were no closing remarks.

25789 **Adjournment:** Tammy Hawkins, Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Board President
Tammy Hawkins

Board Secretary
Carol Gregg