

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., May 11, 2021, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Present:

Delma Abalos
Dr. Steve Brown
Carol Gregg - Virtual
Tammy Hawkins
Nelson Minyard
Dr. Donna Smith
Christopher Stanley

Absent:

School Officials: Dr. Scott Muri, Mike Adkins, Staci Ashley, Dr. Stephanie Howard, Dr. Lilia Nández, Jason Osborne, Deborah Ottmers, Alicia Syverson, Dr. Kellie Wilks, Patrick Young

Others: Tatiana Dennis, James Rush, Ruth Campbell, Roger Cleere, Lisa Wills, Jaime Miller, Staci Ashley, Chad Crowson, Javier Ruiz, Teresa Willison, Annie Stanley, Kayla Hiles, Michelle Gibson, Albert Anchondo, Mary Franco

25481 **Meeting Called to Order:** Delma Abalos, Board President, called the Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

25482 **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 Delma Abalos, verified that the provisions of Section 551.001 of the Texas Government Code have been met in connection with public notice of this meeting.

25483 **Opening Remarks by Superintendent:** In Dr. Muri's opening remarks he provided Trustees with a brief update on some of the academic progress made this year. Looking at MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) assessments from the Spring Semester, District-wide scores show the median growth percentile to be a 52 Overall, a 57 in Math and a 47 in Reading. He explained that the 50th percentile represents average growth during an average school experience. Approaching 60 is remarkable. Of course, he added, this was anything but an average year. Broken down in more detail, data shows many ECISD students grew more in the second semester than they did in the first semester, which is the opposite of typical trends. He said in summary, there is much cause for celebration, yet, still a lot of work to do to ensure our students have an excellent educational experience every day.

(Nelson Minyard departed at 6:28 p.m. and was absent for the remainder of the meeting.)

25484 **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)*

Javier Ruiz, President of Ector County Texas State Teachers Association spoke to agenda item 5A. He congratulated Chris Stanley on his re-election to the school board. He also talked about the proposed raises for employees, federal stimulus money for public school districts and plans to use those federal dollars to improve student achievement.

Action Items

25485 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Order Canvassing May 1, 2021 Board of Trustees Election Returns:** Moved by Hawkins, seconded by Brown to approve Order Canvassing May 1, 2021 Board of Trustees Election Returns as presented. These are the final cumulative and precinct by precinct results from each polling place where a trustee position was contested.

Motion unanimously approved.

25486 **Administration of Board of Trustees' Oath of Office:** The Honorable Judge James Rush Administered the Board of Trustees' Oath of Office for Delma Abalos (SMD-Position 2), Steve Brown (SMD-Position 5), and Nelson Minyard (SMD-Position 7) all who were certified as Unopposed Candidates "Elected" on March 23, 2021. Christopher Stanley was re-elected (SMD-Position 4) in the May 1, 2021 Election. Mr. Stanley was appointed to fill the 2017-2021 term on August 18, 2020 replacing Doyle Woodall.

No action required.

25487 **Discussion of and Request for Approval of Standardized Uniforms for Burnet Elementary:** This item was tabled and will be revisited at the May 18, 2021 Regular Board meeting.

No action taken.

Report/Discussion Items

25488 **Transportation Presentation:** Transportation Director Roger Cleere presented this item for discussion. He opened the presentation by sharing that a staff of more than 150 operates and maintains a fleet of 185 buses and 10 SUVs used for student and staff travel. Using money approved by voters in the 2018 Tax Ratification Election (TRE), the department purchased 29 new buses and has leased-to-own another 30, putting 59 new buses in rotation since the TRE. ECISD buses travel more than 1.5 million miles each year just running routes to and from school (6,200 students); another 300,000 are covered for

extra-curricular activities; and the District spends about \$670,000 for fuel each year. This year, due to COVID, the number of passengers on buses has been limited, and the District increased bus sanitizing and hand sanitizing for all riders. ECISD's Transportation Department is recommending the addition of Live GPS on buses to help with routing and with safety. If adopted, the GPS app would allow parents to confirm their child is on the bus, and to be able to track the bus as it moves through town. Adding Wi-Fi to trip buses is another project the department would like to pursue in the future.

No action required.

25489 **Presentation and Discussion of Nimitz Middle School Plans for Improvement:** Nimitz Middle School Principal Teresa Willison presented this item for discussion. Ms. Willison provided a report on the improvement plans for Nimitz. Nimitz was rated "Met Standard" by the state until receiving a "D" rating in 2018-19. Because of the pandemic, accountability ratings have been suspended since then. Showing end-of-year MAP data (student benchmark tests given three times per year), Nimitz students showed growth beyond expectations in both math and English Language Arts in all three grades (6th, 7th, 8th). The use of Professional Learning Communities (PLC), professional development for school leaders, and the use of the Opportunity Culture model are ways Nimitz is growing professionally and improving its work for students.

No action required.

25490 **Discussion of Revisions to Policy FNCA(LOCAL): Student Conduct Dress Code:** Deputy Superintendent Dr. Howard presented this item for discussion. Proposed revisions would move some aspects of the policy to Administrative Regulations.

No action required.

25491 **Legislative Update:** In his legislative update, Dr. Muri shared with Trustees that there is a process involved in applying for ESSER 3 funds (\$55.9 million for ECISD) and our District has started that process. He added there is still no word on ESSER 2 money, though it is evident that some of the money is being built into proposed bills. Dr. Muri said he would not be surprised if a final decision is not made during this legislative session. He added, HB 4545 was voted down, and he felt that was good because it contained a lot of restrictions on local decision-making, and new accountability discussions could mean "look back" consequences for schools who were rated a D or F as far back as 2015.

No action required.

25492 **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 a 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 Executive Director of Leadership.) Consultation 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 Delma Abalos convened the Board of Trustees to closed session at 7:20 p.m.

Board President Delma Abalos reconvened the Board of Trustees to open session at 7:29 p.m.

25493 Request for Approval of Personnel Recommendation for Executive Director of Leadership: Moved by Brown, seconded by Hawkins to approve Erin Bueno as an Executive Director of Leadership - Principal Supervisor as presented. Mrs. Bueno has spent the past three years as the principal of San Jacinto Elementary School, and prior she was the assistant principal there for four years. She helped lead San Jacinto from an Improvement Required campus that was reconstituted to a grade of “B” from the Texas Education Agency. She also served five years in instructional coaching.

Motion unanimously approved.

25494 Closing Remarks by Superintendent: In his closing remarks, Dr. Muri announced the Administrative Team is beginning the process of nominating this board for the school board of the year.

25495 Adjournment: Delma Abalos, Board President, adjourned the Board meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Board President
Delma Abalos

Board Secretary
Dr. Steve Brown