

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its March Board Meeting on the 23rd. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Pledges of allegiance.
4. Invocation.
5. Special presentations included recognition of ECISD Nursing Director Becky Rhodes for her leadership through the pandemic, honoring of Sewell Family of Companies for receiving Employer for Educational Excellence Gold Award from the State Board of Education, introduction of the United Way Campaign's top fundraisers, and recognition of BuyBoard cooperative rebate to ECISD.
6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri congratulated Trustee Carol Gregg on her recent retirement as a judge. He thanked her for her years as an attorney and a judge, serving the people of Odessa and Ector County. He presented her with a bouquet of flowers to honor her work.
7. In public comment, Becca Myers spoke in support of the proposal to partner with IDEA, making it possible for the campus to offer Pre-kindergarten services at its new campus on Yukon Road.
8. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the deletion of board policy GNC (Local): Relations with Educational Entities College and Universities. This comes at the recommendation of the Texas Association of School Board (TASB) and will be moved to administrative regulation rather than school board policy.
9. Reports/Discussion items
 - A. Trustees discussed budget preparations for next year. School district leaders are well into the work of building the budget for the 2021-22 school year. This presentation focused on the estimated revenues for the coming year. Based on General Fund revenues, the cost to education one student in ECISD is about \$54 per day. The District is anticipating an increase in student enrollment of 850 for next year; is projecting an average daily attendance rate of 93% attendance, with 55% economically disadvantaged, 10% Bilingual, and 10% Special Education populations as a basis for funding. The district does not anticipate a change in the tax rate which is currently \$1.17729 (\$1.05470 for maintenance & operations and \$.12322 for debt service). Gross revenue per penny of tax is \$1,478,008. Total estimated revenues

amount to a little more than \$318 million of which 53% comes from local property tax revenue and 40% comes from state funding formulas. Guidance can change as the Texas Legislative session continues.

- B. Trustees received a legislative update. Dr. Muri talked about his visit to Austin and his conversations with a variety of Texas Legislators in regard to federal CARES Act funding designated for public schools. He said he and several superintendents talked with a number of legislators about the cost of making up the learning loss created by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that the federal designations would mean up to \$100 million for ECISD to use over the next few years, however, Dr. Muri said the talks he had in Austin lead him to believe state leaders plan to use much of that money to plug other gaps in the budget, not for public education. He and the Trustees talked about different ways to make their wishes known, that they want the Texas Legislature to use the federal money for its intended purpose and that is for funding public education. ECISD is targeting Additional Days School Year (during the summer), high dosage tutoring, professional development and coaching, and personalized learning as the key strategies for recovery of learning loss. The federal dollars would go a long way to paying for it; that money is not part of the regular ECISD budget.

10. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda is a group of routine or previously reviewed items that are approved all together. This month's Consent Agenda included minutes of previous meetings; bills for payment; acceptance of donations over \$10,000*, a waiver for the Graduation Requirement for Instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), a shared service agreement adding Buena Vista ISD to the Ector County Regional Day School Program for the Deaf, and a waiver for Hybrid Instruction during District-Scheduled Testing Days for K-8 Students.

11. Action items

- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. The four items on this list this month include installation of wireless access points in all classrooms that do not currently have them; a new system (Ascender) to replace teacher gradebook and parent portal; district internet connectivity; and roof removal and replacement for Permian High School.
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to cancel the three unopposed school board elections scheduled for May. The Ector County Elections office has certified Delma Abalos (Position 2), Steve Brown (Position 5), and Nelson Minyard (Position 7) as unopposed for election on May 1, 2021.**
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the expansion of Austin Montessori elementary to include 6th grade. ECISD is committed to improving education for children and creating choices designed to meet the needs of students and interests**

expressed by students, families and the community. Austin Montessori is a Choice School serving students from 3-year-old prekindergarten through 5th grade. Adding 6th grade to the model would allow students to have a culminating year of Montessori and provide students an opportunity to complete the final three-year Montessori cycle (currently PK-3, PK-4, PK/ 1st, 2nd, 3rd / 4th & 5th). As it is a Choice School, Austin receives students from throughout the community and sends students to all six middle schools. A survey of Austin families revealed 80% of 5th-grade families would prefer to have their children attend 6th grade at Austin in the Montessori program.

- D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution regarding CARES Act funding designated for ECISD. See the draft of the resolution here – <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=451895>. The formal resolution will be signed by Trustees and posted immediately.**

 - E. Trustees voted 6-1 to approve a performance agreement with IDEA. Trustee Delma Abalos voted against the motion. ECISD and IDEA Public Schools have completed the contract negotiations allowing IDEA Public Schools to partner with ECISD as an Innovation Partner to serve Kindergarten through 2nd grades, and 6th grade in ECISD beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The new IDEA campus is located at 7300 E. Yukon Road. A couple of points in the agreement: students enrolled at the IDEA location will be ECISD students; students at current ‘F’ campuses will be prioritized for the IDEA lottery selection next year; and ECISD will provide transportation, something IDEA would not be able to do on its own.**

 - F. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a performance agreement with Third Future Schools. ECISD and Third Future Schools-Texas have completed the contract negotiations allowing Third Future Schools-Texas to partner with ECISD as the Operating Partner of Ector College Prep Success Academy beginning July 1, 2021.**

 - G. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a performance agreement with Odessa Family YMCA. ECISD and Odessa Family YMCA have completed the contract negotiations allowing Odessa Family YMCA to partner with ECISD as an Innovation Partner to serve PK3 year old students in ECISD beginning July 1, 2021.**
12. Trustees spent more than one hour in closed session discussing performance agreements (the votes described above came after this closed session) and the hiring an executive director of athletics.

A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Tracy Borchardt as the executive director of athletics. Tracey Borchardt began her career in ECISD in 1989 as a physical education teacher and head coach at Crockett Middle School. Little did she know it would lead her to become the first female executive director of athletics in the school district's history. Coach Borchardt's hiring was approved unanimously by the Ector County ISD Board of Trustees Tuesday night. After six years at Crockett MS, Coach Borchardt moved to Odessa High School in 1996 and spent 21 years there teaching PE, Health, and AVID and coaching the Lady Bronchos cross country and track & field teams. In addition to being the Head Cross County and Track & Field coach, she led the girls' athletic programs as the campus athletic coordinator for 16 years. Coach Borchardt is a product of ECISD schools having attended Gonzales Elementary, Nimitz Middle School and Permian High School. She earned her degree from the University of Texas Permian Basin. She will officially start as the executive director of athletics on July 1.

13. Information items. You can find these items, as well as the descriptions of previous items, here - <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=451895>

14. There were no closing remarks.

15. At 9:00, Trustees moved to closed session for a Level III grievance hearing.

* \$29,600 from the Education Foundation for the Sally Anne Powell Memorial Art Scholarship.

\$10,000 from Chevron, through the Education Foundation, to support Project Lead the Way for Teaching Materials and Fees.

\$10,000 from Chevron, through the Education Foundation, to support Project Lead the Way for General Supplies.

\$10,000 from All-Brite LLC/Red8 Marketing for Awards for Excellence Sponsorship.

\$10,000 from Investment Corp of America for \$1,000 for Awards for Excellence Sponsorship and \$9,000 for the ECISD Memorial Scholarship Fund.