

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its June Board Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Pledges of allegiance.
4. Invocation.
5. The single special presentation saw outgoing school board president, Delma Abalos, receive the Split Gavel award for her service leading the board over the past year.



6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri took just a few minutes to remind our community that learning does not stop just because the regular school year came to an end. He said more than 6,000 kids are taking part in Summer Learning Monday through Thursday, our staff members are in professional learning sessions, and even our Board of Trustees will be attending a conference to learn with other school boards.
7. There was no public comment.
8. Board Policy
  - A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution regarding ESSER III funding and policy CB(Local): State and Federal Revenue Sources. Due to the number of public notice requirements in federal grant statutes, TEA recommends that school districts develop local board policy to address how the district will provide required public notice regarding federal grants and awards for consistency.

- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve three policy recommendations from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Update 117. You can find the three proposed policies in the [Board Book online](#).

9. Public Hearing

- A. Trustees held a public hearing on the application of Nacero TX 1 LLC for appraised value limitation on qualified property, pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code. Chapter 313 agreements were created by the 2001 Texas Legislature to allow communities to attract specifically defined companies/projects through limiting the school district's Maintenance & Operations (daily operations) taxable valuation for ten years. The agreement remains fully taxable for I&S (Debt Service) tax purposes at all times. The agreements stipulate the school district cannot be financially worse off by entering into the agreement. [The Nacero TX 1 LLC project](#) is valued at about \$7 billion. Nacero Chief Operating Officer Hal Bouknight told Trustees the company has 2,600 acres in Penwell on which to build this first-of-its kind (in the U.S.) plant that will convert natural gas into gasoline in a more environmentally friendly way; Sulphur-free and with a smaller carbon footprint. He said construction would require 3,500-4,000 workers over the next several years, and about 350 full time jobs once it is completed and functioning.
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution adopting finding of facts and approving the Nacero TX 1 LLC application for appraised value limitation on qualified property pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code.
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve an agreement with Nacero TX 1 LLC for limitation on appraised value of property for school district maintenance & operation taxes, pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code.

10. Public Hearing

- A. Trustees held a public hearing for the adoption of 2021-22 official budget. A school board in Texas is legally required to approve three separate budgets: the General Fund budget which is projected to be \$314,485,610; the Debt Service budget projected at \$19,250,666; and the School Nutrition budget at \$18,705,494. The highlights of the General Fund budget come from the 2021-22 Compensation Plan which Trustees approved last month:
- Starting teacher salary raised to \$57,000 (NOTE: four years ago, 2017-18, ECISD's starting teacher salary was just \$44,500);
  - Everyone on teacher pay scale will get \$1,800 with additional adjustments at Steps 1-10;

- **4% general pay increase at midpoint for hourly employees (increased hourly minimum to \$12.00);**
- **3% general pay increase at midpoint for exempt (non-hourly) employees;**
- **A \$750 Invest in Talent Stipend for all those employed on the first day of instruction in August, utilizing General Fund-fund balance or ESSER funds as allowable;**
- **The pay increases come at a cost of approximately \$7.4 million to the District's budget.**

**Trustees are anticipating the overall tax rate will stay the same as it is right now - \$1.17792 per \$100 valuation.** \*Budget Note: built into the Debt Service budget for next year is the early payment of \$5.5 million in bond payments which will ultimately save the District (and tax payers) about \$2.5 million in future interest payments. \*

**B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2021-22 official budget.**

11. Action items.

- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution committing fund balance in accordance with GASB 54. According to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) the school board must approve categories for fund balance commitment or assignment for the coming year.
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. Included on this list are two professional services agreements to provide Social/Emotional Learning curriculum and professional development; the renovation and modernization of nine elevators; and six School Nutrition contracts regarding food and supplies for next year.
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve an end of year budget amendment.
- D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the formation of a Bond Committee. This committee will be made up of students (5), parents (46), community members (44), certified staff (11), principals/assistant principals (7) and central office administrators (17), and will serve in advisory capacity to the school board. These would be the maximum number of committee members. It will review the conditions and capacities of ECISD's existing facilities, projections for future enrollment and the future facility needs of the District. The committee will meet for the first time in July and will continue throughout the Fall Semester, offering its recommendation to the Board of Trustees in December 2021. The Board would then have until February to call a bond election for May 2022, if it chooses to do so.**

- E. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve designating hiring approval to the superintendent through August 2021.
  - F. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the UIL Exemption List for the 2021-22 school year.
  - G. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Trustee Dr. Steve Brown to fill a position on the TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) Board of Directors.
12. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. This month's Consent Agenda included minutes of previous meetings; bills for payments; acceptance of donations over \$10,000\*; a memorandum of understanding with the University of Texas Permian Basin for dual credit; three agreements with Odessa College in relation to Continuing Education Class Offerings, Odessa Collegiate Academy, and OCTECHS; and out of state travel for the Permian High School Satin Strings Orchestra to Sacramento, New Mexico for a camp.
13. Reports/Discussion items
- A. In a legislative update, Dr. Muri said in the next month or two legislative experts will come to a board meeting to talk with Trustees about the actions from this legislative session that impacted public education.
14. Trustees adjourned to closed session to discuss hiring, and an agreement with IDEA Public Schools.
- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the hiring of Dr. Zenovia Crier as the new principal for LBJ Elementary School. Dr. Crier comes to ECISD from Houston ISD where she served as Dean of Instruction/Technologist for the past ten years. In that role she assisted principals in educating and training staff on implementing academic standards. Dr. Crier is also a professor at Concordia University where she works with teacher candidates. She has worked as an elementary school teacher, reading tutor and as a volunteer teacher providing English as a Second Language to adult immigrants. She holds a Doctor of Education (Education Administration) from Texas A&M Commerce.**
  - B. This item was pulled from the agenda.
15. Information items. You can find these items, as well as the descriptions of previous items, here - <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=468840>
16. There were no closing remarks.

17. The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

\* Interstate Treating, Inc., donated antigen tests, KN 95 masks, and blue surgical masks to ECISD valued at \$248,800.