

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its August Board Meeting on the 17th. 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. Special presentations included recognition of Travis Elementary Science Lab Teacher Sarah Hawkins as the [Region 18 Elementary Teacher of the Year](#), and the Odessa High School Mariachi Broncho Superior UIL State Performance.



6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri reminded Trustees and the audience that ECISD's 100th birthday is tomorrow (August 18) and we will be celebrating with a small event but said there will be a number of events and activities throughout the year. He also lamented the fact that COVID continues to spread rapidly through our community, and is impacting our schools already. He encouraged everyone to get vaccinated, to wear masks indoors, and said he hopes the District does not reach a point where we have to close a school due to the spread of the virus.
7. In public comment, Julio Hernandez told Trustees he did not agree with changes being made to the Gifted/Talented program this year. He said his daughter, who is in G/T at Reagan Elementary, has enjoyed the previous structure that set aside one day to pull kids from their regular classroom to a G/T

class. The new plan is based on an inclusion model that provides G/T services every day in the regular classroom setting. *Note: See item #E.*

8. Board Policy

A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve revisions to policy CFB(Local): Accounting Inventories. This revision updates the language in the policy to current terminology and standards.

9. Action items.

A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. The two items on the list are for coaching and professional development. One is embedded coaching for 3rd through 12th grade science teachers; the other is to support the District's instructional leaders, those whose roles include coaching teachers, as they increase their skills and build their capacity for coaching. Investing in our talented team members is a strategic priority and these two projects will utilize federal ESSER grant funds earmarked to help public schools overcome the learning losses sustained by students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve budget amendment #2, which includes purchase orders that rolled over from the 2020-21 school year.

C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the extension of the time period for considering 1PointFive P1, LLC application for a Chapter 313 agreement.

D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve ECISD's application for an Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP). This is an annual renewal. The goal of the OFSDP is to allow students an opportunity to have flexible hours in order to be successful and receive a high school diploma by offering courses needed for graduation while the district receives funding for students in attendance. The program has two main objectives. The first is to allow a student who has dropped out of school, or is in danger of dropping out of school, an option other than the regular classroom setting or school day. The second objective is to enable a student the opportunity to recover credits lost due to lack of attendance.

E. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2021-22 Gifted and Talented Plan. In this annual report to the board, District leaders outlined a series of changes being made to the Gifted/Talented program at elementary schools. In order to grow the G/T program and provide more students in Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade the opportunity to engage in depth and complexity, G/T services will use an inclusion model – meaning students will receive G/T instruction each day in their classroom rather than be pulled out of that class for a dedicated G/T class one day per week (as is the current model). For Buice, Hays, and Reagan elementary schools the inclusion model will be put in place for all grade levels K-5. The purpose of moving to an inclusion model, which is the generally accepted model among schools today, is to provide students with rigor and depth five days per week rather than just one.

F. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve an interlocal agreement for a joint task force committee. The law requires that after each census, governmental bodies shall review the census data and determine if they need to redraw boundary lines for their various election precincts. In the past, all of the local governing entities have joined together to coordinate the process and save expenses. This Interlocal Agreement for the Joint Task Force Committee provides for the formation of the committee comprised of all of the entities to address the redistricting issues and share the costs. Each of the other entities either have considered or will be considering this same resolution.

G. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution regarding extended sick leave during COVID-19. With this action, the Board dissolved the 2020 Resolution pertaining to Employee leave during an epidemic and adopted this new Resolution to provide additional paid leave for all regular employees – contractual and noncontractual, salaried and non-salaried – who test positive or are required to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 virus. All available state and local leave days must be exhausted first. This Resolution is effective July 1, 2021 and ends on June 30, 2022. The authority granted by this Resolution provides paid leave one time for a maximum duration of ten (10) calendar days. The leave can only be used by the ECISD employee for self-care and is not intended to be used for care of any other person.

10. 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 list of T-TESS/T-PESS appraisers; the T-TESS/T-PESS appraisal calendar; the annual investment report; out-of-state travel for Permian High School dance students to go to Orlando, Florida (based on conditions and health/safety restrictions in place at the time of the trip); a renewal of the memorandum of understanding with the University of Texas Permian Basin for counseling practicum/internships; renewal of a memorandum of understanding with Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA); and a renewal of a memorandum of understanding with the Education Foundation of Odessa.

11. Reports/Discussion items

A. Trustees received an opening of school update. Dr. Muri told Trustees enrollment is currently 32,031 (in person again) which is quickly approaching our projected enrollment of 32,730. We have 70 teacher vacancies (vs. 150 a year ago at this time); 423 new teachers which represents a 95%. He reminded the board that the first two days of school saw 6th graders only at middle schools, and 9th graders only at the high schools, giving those students a chance to smoothly transition to a new campus. Our District also welcomed three-year-old kindergartners, too. Dr. Muri said he saw lots of engaging lessons and learning taking place on those first days. In regard to safety, we have 1.5 million masks available for staff and students; 1,200 gallons of hand sanitizer; 60 electrostatic sprayers used to disinfect buses and buildings; additional sneeze guards in cafeterias; and frequent daily cleaning by our custodians. We have about 5,800 registered bus riders, and our School Nutrition staff is serving 23,190 meals per day. Dr. Muri closed his presentation with [this video](#).

12. There was no closed session.

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=474419>

14. There were no closing remarks.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

*\$75,000 from Reagan Elementary PTA and \$15,000 from the Education Foundation of Odessa to help build two outdoor classrooms at the school.