

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its September 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 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Pledges of allegiance.
4. Invocation.
5. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Muri, reminded those in the audience that Phase IV (the final phase) of students returning to school hit last week. He said enrollment numbers are below the projection of about 34,000 and sits closer to 32,000. The largest drop is with Pre-kindergarten students, which is something being seen across Texas. It appears parents are keeping these little kids at home. Dr. Muri said next week the District will kick off a Pre-K blitz to encourage parents to send those kids to school. He said we really need the youngest kids in face-to-face environments for them to reap the benefits of early childhood education. Dr. Muri added he is pleased with how things are going so far this school year. He said we are changing 100 years or educational routines and our staff is working very hard to keep learning going. Dr. Muri reminded Trustees the ECISD Opening of Schools Plan last week as one of five plans nationally, held up as examples for other school districts to see. He said he is proud of the work done by the planning committee under the leadership of Deputy Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Howard. He closed by saying the work is far from finished, we will continue to work to improve as the year progresses.
6. There was no public comment.
7. Action Items
  - A. **Trustees voted 7-0 to prepay \$5,235,000 of its existing bonds (Series 2013) that are due in 2038. By making this early payment the District will save Ector County taxpayers more than \$3.2 million in future interest payments.**
  - B. **Trustees voted 7-0 to refinance certain bonds due between 2026-36. This refinancing will save Ector County taxpayers approximately \$13.6 million. ECISD is committed to being wise stewards of taxpayer dollars. Every year District officials look for these opportunities, and since 2007 ECISD has saved nearly \$20.9 million in future interest payments by refinancing or prepaying existing bonds.**

**C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the tax rate for the 2020-21 school year. The total tax rate adopted is \$1.17792, which is the same as last year. A school district's tax rate is broken down into two parts: Maintenance & Operations (M&O) which provides the funding for day-to-day operations; and Interest & Sinking (I&S), also called Debt Service, which provides the funding for debt (bond) payments. The rate adopted by the school board breaks down as follows:**

- **\$1.05470 for M&O**
- **\$0.12322 for I&S**  
**\$1.17792 total tax rate.**

D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve budget amendment #3.

E. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000.

F. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve local policy update 115. This is part of a regular update from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). TASB is recommending 11 policy changes and 4 policy deletions. The revisions can be found on our ECISD website - <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=377450>

G. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2020-21 campus improvement plans. District leaders explained the process schools use to develop thoughtful and relevant plans to drive student learning. An improvement plan is required for every school, each year. The campus plans align to the District plan and the overall strategic plan. The process starts with a needs assessment, then moves to problem statements, goals, performance objectives, and finally strategies to achieve the goals.

H. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve ECISD's Asynchronous Plan which will now be submitted to the Texas Education Agency. The plan established the manner through which the District provides support for teachers in bringing quality virtual instruction to students. The plan must meet standards established by the state. You can find the plan at <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=377450>, Item H.

8. 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; the annual concessions agreement with the Downtown Lions Clubs; additional T-TESS appraisers; a Memorandum of Understanding with the Education Foundation of Odessa; four annual agreement with Head Start of the Permian Basin; extracurricular status for 4-H; the annual Texas Virtual School Network agreement; class size waivers for the fall semester; and an agreement for data sharing with the University of Texas.

9. Reports/Discussion items

- A. Trustees heard a final update from the TRE Budget Advisory Committee. David Duree represented the community committee that oversaw how the District spent the money gained from the tax ratification election in 2018. The TRE promised raises for all employees, controlled access entrances and fencing for open wings of elementary schools, new buses, and roofing projects to repair hail damage.**
10. Trustees spent about 45 minutes in closed session in order to discuss the superintendent's appraisal and contract.
- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to modify the superintendent's contract in the following ways: extend it by one year to June 30, 2025; pursuant to the terms of his contract his salary be increased by 2% which is the same as full-time classroom teachers received; and the additional retirement contributions provided for in paragraph 3.16 of current contract be increased from 60% to 80%.**
11. Information items. You can find these items, as well as the descriptions of previous items, [in the Board Book](#).
12. There were no closing remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.