

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its October Board Meeting on the 20th. 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 – recognition of Dr. Lilia Nanez, Dr. Stacy Johnson and Dr. Corey Seymour on their acceptance into the National Superintendent’s Academy; reading of the governor’s proclamation regarding Education Human Resources Day; and Principals Month recognitions of Kamyé Smith (2019-20 ECISD Principal of the Year) and Mauricio Marquez (2020-21 Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Regional Principal of the Year).
6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Muri gave Trustees an update on the percentage of students returning to face-to-face instruction this week during Phase V of our return-to-school plan. He said as of this week 71% of our elementary students are back in school for face-to-face instruction, up 3% from one week ago. He also reminded Trustees that this morning we announced an agreement that makes ECISD the first school district in the United States to utilize the SpaceX Starlink satellite constellation to provide high-speed, low-latency Internet to students. Dr. Muri called it the continuation of our commitment to provide equity and an excellent educational experience for all of our students. He thanked our partners in this project, Chiefs for Change and the Permian Strategic Partnership.
7. Three teachers requested to speak to the Board of Trustees. Javier Ruiz spoke against the possibility of the school district partnering with a charter school. He also said he thinks staff members are not being notified soon enough when a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19. Melanie Sheehan spoke about concerns she is hearing from elementary teachers about teaching in small groups, the number of kids in classrooms, being required to wear both a mask and shield while teaching, and feeling overwhelmed and tired. She asked for teachers to be appreciated and shown grace. Sheena Salcido said individual schools are handling the COVID process differently and feels it should be standardized from the District. She added the District is leaning on distancing guidelines from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) which differ from those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

8. **Public Hearing on Financial Accountability – FIRST report. Chief Financial Officer Deborah Ottmers presented the FIRST report for 2019-20 (which is based on financial data from 2018-19). FIRST stands for Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas. Our District earned a Superior rating, which is equivalent to a grade of A. Our score was a 100 out of 100. Created by the 76th Texas Legislature in 2001, FIRST is designed to encourage public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide the maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes. The FIRST ratings are calculated using 15 financial indicators, such as administrative cost expenditures; the accuracy of a district or charter’s financial information submitted to TEA; and any financial vulnerabilities or material weaknesses in internal controls as determined by an external auditor. Congratulations to our ECISD Finance Department for their hard work in managing tax dollars responsibly.**

9. Trustees reviewed revisions to TASB Policy ELA (Local) Campus or Program Charters: Partnership Charters. No major changes are being made to this policy. The revisions are in accordance with the most recent updates from the Texas Association of Schools Boards (TASB).

10. Action items
 - A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve budget amendment #4. This amendment reflects a loss of revenue from lower student enrollment but that is offset by the closing of vacant positions that are not going to be filled this year.

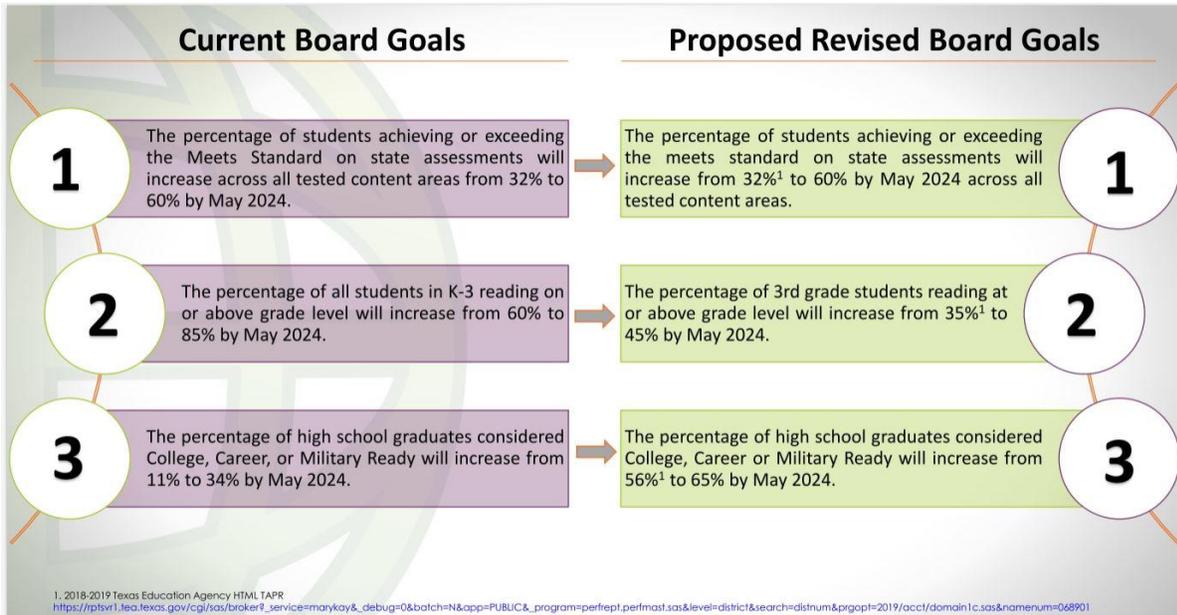
 - B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. Items on this list are electronic signs for campuses, additional janitorial services (the custodial department is fully staffed right now), and the external auditor contract.

 - C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a waiver of the requirement of medical certification need for COVID-19 leave. Board Policy DEC(LOCAL) requires that an Employee shall submit medical certification of the need for leave if the Employee is absent more than five (5) consecutive workdays because of personal illness. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is requested that ECISD not require medical certification of the need for leave if the Employee is absent for more than five (5) consecutive workdays because of personal illness if the absence is due to any of the following conditions: Employee is out due to COVID-19 illness; Employee is out due to COVID-19 symptoms until a negative test or alternative diagnosis is received; Employee is out due to COVID-19 exposure

 - D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a waiver of teacher certification. The Teacher Certification Waiver can be used for an individual to teach in an area he or she is not certified to teach. It can also be used for individuals who are not certified but have qualifications to teach and are carefully vetted. The Teacher Certification Waiver must be approved by the Board and the Commissioner of Education. The waiver

does not apply to Special Education, Bilingual, or ESL assignments. Approval must be granted each year.

E. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve revised board goals.



11. 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; a Memorandum of Understanding with Odessa College for continuing education course offerings, a data sharing agreement with Imagine Learning, Inc., out-of-state travel for the Odessa High School choir next June (if permissible at that time), and additional T-TESS appraisers.

12. Reports/Discussion items

A. Trustees heard a presentation from the Human Capital Department. The presentation began with the announcement that ECISD has been selected as one of just two school districts (Dallas ISD being the other) chosen to take part in the Urban Schools Human Capital Academy which will be funded by the Texas Education Agency. ECISD's Human Capital Department has two arms: Human Resources that hires and establishes policies and processes; and Talent Development that is responsible for professional growth and developing pipelines to grow our employees' capacity. Just a few of the highlights from the presentation: Odessa Pathway to Teaching, ECISD's own teacher certification program, is taking applications right now. This program provides rigorous course

work plus hands-on classroom training and coaching before a candidate takes over their own classroom; Opportunity Culture which gives teachers a chance to be campus leaders and earn more money without leaving the classroom; Teacher Incentive Allotment which provides additional pay for highly effective teachers whose students show measurable improvement in academic growth; and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards which will begin accepting applications next week. National Board Certification is a very strenuous process and brings with it the chance to earn substantially more money because of the certification. You can check out the presentation itself and important information contained it at this link - <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=398308>.

13. There was no closed session.

14. Information items. You can find these items, as well as the descriptions of previous items, here - <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=398308>.

15. There were no closing remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.