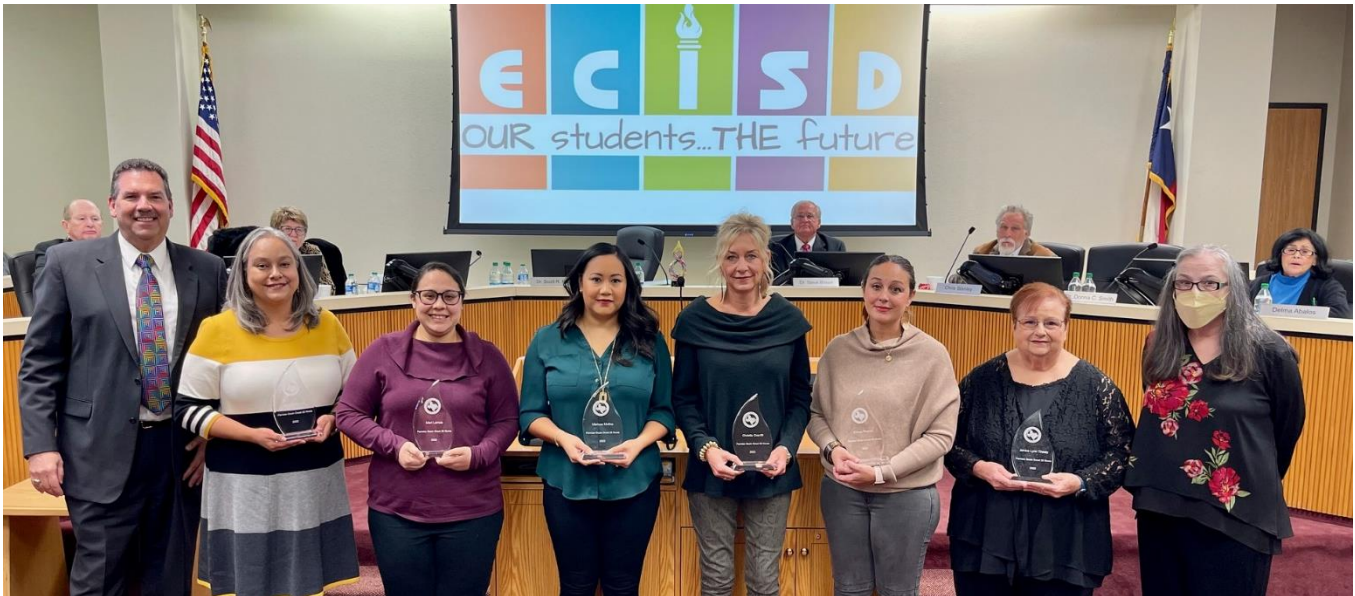


The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its November Board Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call. Dr. Donna Smith was absent.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Luis Esparza and Maximus Munoz from Ireland Elementary School led the pledges of allegiance.



4. Missions Pastor Chris Harrington from Immanuel Baptist Church gave the invocation.
5. Special presentations included announcement of the Texas Art Education Association [District of Distinction award](#), the introductions of six ECISD nurses honored by Permian Basin Great 25 Nurses (pictured below), and the recognition of the top fundraisers in ECISD's United Way campaign.
  - Department – Technology Services \$6,285.88
  - Elementary – Gonzales Elementary, \$3,501.60
  - Middle School – Crockett MS, \$4,672
  - High School – Odessa HS, \$9,603



6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri called attention to our substitute teachers. Friday is National Substitute Educators Day, and our district is going to celebrate these valuable team members with a reception on Thursday night. ECISD has about 500 substitute teachers.
7. There was no public comment.
8. Report/Discussion Items – Trustees received a report from the Education Foundation of Odessa. Lisa Wyman, President Elect for the Education Foundation, updated the school board on the work of the Foundation and its plans for future support of ECISD. A few of the biggest Education Foundation projects through the years include:
  - Food 2 Kids, backpacks filled with nutrition food started in 2010, now has expanded to other food outreach programs
  - Bookworms involves volunteer readers; more than \$540,000 invested (including purchase of 38 book vending machines), and over 6,700 students/month impacted
  - \$1,000 incentive to ECISD’s two teachers of the year
  - Provide partial funding for the district’s grant writer
  - Support for AVID from its inception in ECISD with more than \$1 million invested
  - \$750,000 in student scholarships
  - More than 930 teacher grants have been funded, worth \$2.7 million
  - Contributed to AP/IB programs, Innovation Department, Career & Technical Education, teacher training, and data research

The Foundation’s future plans are to focus on grants for innovative initiatives that can be scaled widely; celebrate educators for their work; and continue collaborative efforts with the community. There are also plans for an Inspiration Station, a mobile community outreach vehicle. The Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to create opportunities for education in Ector County ISD. Their vision is that every student in ECISD will be school-ready, college-ready, work-ready...WORLD-READY!

## 9. Public Hearing

- A. Trustees held a public hearing on applications for appraised value limitation on qualified property, pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code submitted by DG Penwell North, LLC, No. 1815 and Ophelia Solar, LLC, No. 1816.

Items 9B through 9F, Trustees voted 6-0 to approve resolutions adopting the findings of facts, applications, and agreements for limitation on appraised value for both of these Chapter 313 projects.

Background: 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 agreement stipulates the school district cannot be financially worse off by entering into the agreement.

Industries eligible for Chapter 313 school property tax limitation include manufacturing, research and development, clean coal and other clean energy projects, renewable electricity generation, nuclear energy, computer data centers, "Texas priority projects" — those with a qualified investment commitment of more than \$1 billion.

The agreements, of limited taxable valuations, are offered as an incentive for the companies to select Ector County as its location to build and provide jobs. Without the taxable value limitations, the huge increase in value would likely make ECISD a "property rich" district and require the district to send money to the state in recapture funds. School districts are limited on state/local revenue per student, and hence no additional total funds would be gained by not approving the agreements. An important benefit is, in addition to I&S tax revenue, these Chapter 313 agreements include M&O tax protection and supplemental payments from the companies which are not subject to recapture, nor state funding reductions.

Generally speaking, the State of Texas wants school districts to seek voter approval for bond building projects, so the additional revenue does not have any bearing on bond proposals presented to the citizens of Ector County. And, again, the tax limitation is not granted for debt service funds that pay off bonds.

10. Board Policy – Trustees voted 6-0 to approve revisions to board policy FFAC (Local): Wellness and Health Services: Medical Treatment. This revision authorizes a registered nurse or other designated and trained district employee to store and administer opioid antagonist medication, NARCAN, in the case of an overdose on school property. Prior to this approval, ECISD police officers were the only district employees authorized and trained to administer this type of medication.

#### 11. Action Items

- A. **Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the annual financial report. Every school district is required to prepare annual financial statements, have them audited by an external public accounting firm, and submit them to the state. The auditor, Whitley Penn, issued an Unmodified Opinion meaning a clean report with no internal control findings related to the financial report and no findings related to compliance. In short, a good report on the District's finances. The financial report shows the largest areas of school district expenditures by function are Instruction (56%) and Plant Maintenance & Operations. This report follows last month's announcement of a perfect score of 100 on the state's FIRST report for financial integrity.**

- B. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. The lone item on this list this month is the hiring of PBK Architects to refresh the comprehensive facility study done previously, and prepare it for the bond committee's work.
- C. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve West Texas National Bank as an approved investment tool. Diversification of investments is a requirement of the Texas Public Funds Investment Act which is set forth in the Texas Government Code Chapter 2256.
- D. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve ECISD's participation in the General Services Administration Advantage purchasing co-op.

12. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. This month's Consent Agenda included minutes of previous meetings; bills for payment; acceptance of donations over \$10,000\*; the Quarterly Investment Report; retainer agreement with Welsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo & Kyle P.C. for Special Education legal services; additional 2022-23 T-TESS Appraisers, a data sharing agreement with Hanover Research; and authorized investment representatives.

13. Trustees moved to closed session.

- A. Trustees voted 4-2 to approve Dr. Jessica Gore as the executive director of accountability. Dr. Gore joins ECISD after three-plus years as the principal of San Jacinto Middle School in Midland. She has experience in several Texas school districts as a teacher, assistant principal, instructional coach, interventionist, and teacher development specialist.

- B. Trustees voted 5-0-1 to terminate an employee contract.

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=553588>.

15. There were no closing remarks.

16. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

\*\$20,000 from Chevron to the Education Foundation for Project Lead the Way (engineering) program lab kits and supplies for Hays STEAM Academy.