

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its November Board Meeting on the 17th. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call. Dr. Donna Smith and Dr. Steve Brown were absent.
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. Scott Muri, took a couple of moments to thank some organizations for their support of ECISD. Last week, the Ector County Commissioners' Court approved \$270,523 in CARES Act funding for ECISD for student devices and hot spots. This money will help reimburse our District for 6,500 Chromebooks, 5,800 iPads, and 1,000 MiFi hot spots we have purchased. Also, Grow Odessa, the non-profit organization dedicated to economic development, committed \$100,000 to support the District's new agreement with SpaceX to utilize the Starlink satellite constellation to delivery broadband internet service to the Pleasant Farms area of south Ector County. He thanked these groups for believing in and supporting the kids in our community.
6. There was no public comment.
7. Public Hearing on Targeted Improvement Plans. Targeted Improvement Plans are required for all schools rated 'D' or 'F' – or earns a 'D' in one of the measured Domains – in the last accountability ratings in 2019 (the Texas Education Agency did not rate schools this past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic). For 2019, ECISD had 3 schools with an 'A' rating, 6 have a 'B' rating, 10 are rated 'C', and 19 are either 'D' or 'F.' These Targeted Improvement Plans are built using an Effective Schools Framework that emphasizes a multi-faceted approach to school improvement that includes developing campus leaders, recruiting and retaining highly qualified educators, setting high expectations for all, aligning curriculum with assessments, and using a student's data to drive individualized instruction. Several principals spoke with the Board members about their individual plans.
 - A. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the Targeted Improvement Plans.
8. Board Policy
 - A. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve 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).

9. Action items

- A. Trustees voted to approve Daisy Flores and Tom Lechtenberg for Parent positions on the School Health Advisory Council. Daisy Flores is a provider for Candyland Day Care and Tom Lechtenberg is the head athletic trainer at the University of Texas Permian Basin.
- B. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the quarterly investment report.
- C. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. One of the items on the list is the initial cost, (\$72,855) of our agreement with SpaceX to provide Starlink satellite internet service to 45 families in Pleasant Farms.
- D. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve budget amendment #5.

10. Trustees voted 5-0 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 addition of Grandfalls-Royalty ISD to the Regional Day School for Deaf Services; an interlocal agreement with West Texas Food Service; a memorandum of understanding with Odessa College for college prep math and English Language Arts courses; and additional T-TESS appraisers. Item 10-G, the acceptance of donations was pulled for future consideration.

11. Reports/Discussion items

- A. Dr. Muri presented Trustees with a data-driven look at the how the school year is going up to this point. He began with a look at the number of ECISD employees who have sought leave due to COVID; the daily percentage of substitute teachers is down significantly from one year ago (86% fill rate to 62% fill rate); enrollment is down about 2,200 students although we have more 10th, 11th and 12th graders than last year; attendance is down 2%; 67% of our students are now attending face-to-face versus 33% attending virtually; the percentage of economically disadvantaged and at-risk students moving from face-to-face to virtual learning is increasing as the year goes on (a worrisome trend, he said); failing grades are up, failure rates are up and many students' are struggling with reading and math assessments; Dr. Muri reviewed the many, many ways our teachers and staff members are reaching out to families and attempting to engage students in school; he told the board COVID cases had caused the District to quarantine classrooms and areas of campus but not an entire campus yet. He closed the presentation by praising the work our teachers, principals, cafeteria workers, custodians and all staff members are doing each and every day. He commended them for doing their jobs incredibly,**

saying they are doing the best they can in an ugly situation. School Board members echoed his sentiments saying they appreciate all that teachers are doing and want to make sure they are receiving all of the support they can get.

12. Trustees spent about 35 minutes in closed session discussing personnel matters.
 - A. Trustees voted 5-0 to authorize the superintendent to give notice of proposed termination of the employment contract for Jesus Martinez.
 - B. Trustees voted 3-2 to authorize the superintendent to give notice of proposed termination of the employment contract for Noel Gillespie Francisco.
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=406114>.
14. There were no closing remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.