

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its January board meeting on the 16th. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Ethan Carter and Jaxon Christesson from Bowie Middle School led the pledges of allegiance.



4. Trustee Dr. Steve Brown gave the invocation.
5. Special presentations included a School Board Recognition Month proclamation from Odessa Mayor Javier Joven, the presentation of a Texas Association of School Board rebate check to ECISD, the recognition of Odessa High School's Ellie Mourning for qualifying for the UIL Congress state competition, and the introduction of 15 student-athletes who earned Academic All-State and/or All-State honors during the fall semester.
6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri echoed the sentiments Mayor Joven highlighted in the School Board Month proclamation. He told the audience school board members are elected officials who work for free. He applauded the amount of time and energy they commit to the students and staff

members of ECISD. He said he enjoys working with a strong board, like this one, and called it a privilege to be part of this Team of 8 that is doing really good work for kids.

7. In public comment, Permian High School seniors Jade Workman and Jordyn Jones addressed the board. Jade thanked them for providing support for athletics. She thanked her coaches for creating an atmosphere of success. She said she loves playing at Permian High School saying there is no place like it. Jordyn thanked the board for its support of athletics and fine arts and the opportunities for competition, travel, and experiences beyond the classroom. She added she has learned a lot of life skills and lessons through these programs, and has made life-long friendships.
8. Bond 2023 Update

A. In the first update since Bond 2023 passed in November, Trustees discussed the outline of a five-year project calendar giving a look at which projects will reasonably be started this year (2024) and how they will carry over into future years until completed. If all goes according to schedule, the major construction projects will be done in 2-3 years and only some Priority 2 renovations/repairs/maintenance will be remaining in 2028.

Trustees also reviewed the estimated costs for each project and saw that a purchase order of more than \$3.1 million has already been created for interactive flat panel displays for classrooms (Promethean Boards). Those were ordered in December. Looking year-by-year, the schedule shows the largest portion of bond proceeds would be spent during 2025 as construction of the new middle school, new CTE Center, new Transportation Center, Permian High School auditorium renovation, Ag Farm and Transition Learning Center kick in. To note: most, if not all, of the work on these projects during this year, 2024, will be in the design and planning phases.

Next, Trustees discussed land purchases. The new middle school will be on 40 acres on South Tripp Avenue in West Odessa, just north of Interstate 20. See item 8B below. A housing community is being developed around the location of the new school. The new Career & Technical Education (CTE) Center will be located on 37 acres in the industrial complex on East Murphy Street, near the intersection with Meadow Avenue. This land was donated by Grow Odessa. A third piece of property is unrelated to Bond 2023 but will be used for future school district growth. It is Sunset Golf Course on Andrews Highway. It is slightly more than 169 acres and has a cost \$3.4 million. See Item 10A below.

The management of the projects will be a combination of internal employees, external contractors, and bond staff hired by ECISD with bond dollars to support the Operations Division and the Finance Division. Staff members in these divisions do not have the personnel to run day-to-day requirements and manage all the bond projects that will come on-line in a short period of time.

A Bond Oversight Committee of 10 community members has been formed to review and monitor all the bond work over the next five years. This group will meet for the first time on January 23.

The district has put out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architectural/engineering firms and will return to the school board in February to make recommendations on awarding projects to qualifying firms. ECISD will consider a variety of construction methods including competitive bidding, competitive sealed proposal, construction manager-agent, construction manager at risk, design-build and job order contracts.

See the presentation slides here -

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=61240>

B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Bond 2023 purchases over \$50,000. This item is for \$756,000 to purchase 40 acres on South Tripp, once a contract is finalized. This will be the site of the new middle school. The cost of the land is \$720,000 plus associated fees.

9. Board Policy.

B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve TASB Local Policy Update 122. The Texas Association of School Boards recommended revisions to this set of ten local board policies to keep them aligned to current law.

10. Action items

A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. The two items on this list this month are the purchase of the land at 9301 Andrews Highway (Sunset Golf Course), once a contract is finalized, for future school district growth and design/engineering services for roof replacements and repair and miscellaneous related work.

B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Budget Amendment #5.

C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with WestEd to conduct an evaluation of ECISD's high-dosage tutoring program with Air Tutors. Air Tutors is one of the companies ECISD uses to provide high-dosage, virtual tutoring for foundational math skills. Air Tutors is being used at 14 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 3 high schools. In this model, the student and the tutor see each other. WestEd's evaluation will measure the impact of the program on students' math achievement, at no cost to the district.

11. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. The consent agenda is a group of routine or previously discussed items presented together for a single approval vote. This month's Consent Agenda included minutes of meetings; bills for payment; acceptance of donations over \$10,000*; a mutual confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement with Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC) to share data for the LEAP grant, a collaborative agreement with CTAC, and approval of an Office of the Governor Police grant.

12. Report/Discussion items

A. Trustees heard about a cutting-edge research and innovation partnership with FEV Tutoring and Stanford University for a Tutor Co-Pilot program using Artificial Intelligence to support tutors. FEV Tutoring is one of the companies ECISD uses to provide high-dosage, virtual tutoring. FEV is being used at 8 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school. ECISD as selected due to being a top-performing high-impact tutoring district nationally. The concept is based on prior Stanford research and utilizes the knowledge of expert math teachers using AI searches to provide multiple, real-time suggestions for their tutors. The tutor can edit that response, too. The study will look at questions: how do tutors use an AI Tutor Co-Pilot and how does an AI Tutor Co-Pilot affect student engagement and academic growth? The study will be conducted through this semester with findings to be released around September.

13. Trustees moved to closed session. **After returning to the open meeting, Dr. Muri said Alejandra Garcia will be the new principal at Ector MS for the 2024-25 school year. Garcia is currently the principal at Travis Elementary. She was an assistant principal at Ector College Prep Success Academy for two years, taught at Ector for three years, and has also been an assistant principal at Odessa High School. ECISD will resume control over the Ector campus**

at the end of this school year. No board vote is required for this due to the move being a transfer of a current principal.

14. Information Items – <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=611240>

15. There were no closing remarks.

16. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

*\$20,063.37 from Permian High School Tennis Booster Club for windscreen replacements

\$10,000 from Hemphill Charitable Foundation for student needs