

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its February board meeting on the 20th. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Baylee Deese and Brandon Fierro from Ross Elementary led the pledges of allegiance.



4. Reverend Adrienne B. Coleman from Highland United Methodist Church gave the invocation.
5. In special presentations we introduced 6 students who earned All-State Musician honors from the Texas Music Educators Association. The recognition of the Academic Decathlon state-qualifying teams from New Tech Odessa and Odessa Collegiate Academy has been moved to the March meeting.



6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri reminded everyone that Early Voting for March Primaries is now underway. He complimented ECISD staff for turning out in strong numbers for the Bond Election in November and encouraged staff and community to be sure to vote again in this election cycle. He said ECISD is a district of leaders and leaders vote.

7. There was no public comment.

8. Bond 2023 Update

A. This month's update began with a look at bond finances. Specifically, more than \$300,000 has now been encumbered (officially designated for) the purchase of fine arts instruments; \$29,200 has been spent for land purchases in the form of associated escrow; more than \$2.8 million has been spent on the purchase and installation of Promethean interactive flat panels for classrooms and another \$401,000 has been officially designated to continue that same work; and \$3,580 is now officially designated for laptops for project managers.

Regarding architecture and engineering services, ECISD sent out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) inviting any interested firms to response. A total of 12 firms sent in qualifications, and four of them graded high enough to be invited for an interview. A committee of 15 people, a cross-section of school district departments and functions, interviewed teams from each of the four firms – DLR Group, JSA Architects, PBK Architects, and Parkhill. The next step in this process is to finish evaluating the interviews and qualifications of each firm and assigning bond projects as determined.

Next, Trustees learned more about the work to acquire land for the new Transportation Center. Now under contract and in negotiations, are two pieces of property at 5308 N. Andrews Highway, just north of the intersection with 52nd Street. The 21 acres sits adjacent to the ECISD Instructional Materials Warehouse and includes its own warehouse and office building, and has easy access to main roads. The cost is \$2.2 million. ECISD plans to keep and maintain the current bus barn on W. 10th Street as a satellite location.

The District is actively seeking third-party project management services to oversee the largest, most complex bond projects, assisting ECISD's Operations Department with the volume of work and dollars being spent.

To see the presentation slides, the project timelines, finances, and the latest bond news visit www.ecisdbond.com.

- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Bond 2023 purchases over \$50,000. This item included the projected architectural and engineering services (approximately \$26.4 million), the cost of the two pieces of property for the new Transportation Center (approximately \$2.2 million), land surveying services (\$100,000) and additional environmental assessment services (\$100,000).**
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Bond 2023 facilities construction methods for various projects. There are six construction delivery methods approved for school districts to use: Construction Manager At-Risk, Competitive Sealed Proposal, Job Order Contract, Competitive Bidding, Design Build, and Construction Manager Agent. [See this presentation \(Item 8C\) for the definition of each method and the differences between them.](#) School leaders recommended, and Trustees approved:**
- **Construction Manager At-Risk for the Career & Technical Education Center, the new middle school, and the Permian High School auditorium.**
 - **Competitive Sealed Proposal for the Transition Learning Center, Agricultural Facility, and the Transportation Center.**

9. Board Policy.

- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve TASB Local Board Policy GKG(Local) – Community Relations: School Volunteer Program. This recommended policy from the Texas Association of School Boards enables volunteer support across critical areas such as teaching, student/staff welfare, and district needs.**
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution to accept as volunteers chaplains. Senate Bill 763 enables school districts to employ or welcome chaplains as volunteers, providing essential support, services and programs for students as determined by the board. The resolution affirms the existing practice of permitting chaplains to volunteer with schools in accordance with ECISD’s volunteer program.**
- D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve local board policy EHBE(Local) – Special Programs: Bilingual Education/ESL. This policy revision spells out what the school district is already doing in implementing a dual language one-way program in which students learn academic content through two languages: English and Spanish...while also implementing a Dual Language Two-Way Model at appropriate campuses.**

10. Action items

- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Budget Amendment #6.**
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. The item on this list this month is for vendors to help provide speech and achievement evaluations and assess students for qualifications of special services.**
- C. Trustees voted on a series of school actions for the 2024-25 school year. These school actions include new attendance zones and/or new grade configurations for 5 elementary schools. [This story on our website](#) is a recap of the board’s lengthy workshop discussion of these proposals.**
- 1. The Zavala Elementary boundary item was pulled from the agenda with Dr. Muri saying more work will be done and this will be brought back at another meeting.**
 - 2. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a K-5 attendance boundary for Pease Elementary. The new attendance zone will go into effect in August 2024. In addition, Pease will be the**

location of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, a new Choice School offering for students.

3. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a K-5 attendance boundary for Noel Elementary. The new attendance zone will go into effect in August 2024.
4. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve an expanded K-5 attendance boundary for San Jacinto Elementary. The new attendance zone will go into effect in August 2024.
5. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve repurposing Burleson Elementary into a Prekindergarten center. With this decision, students in the current Burleson attendance zone will be rezoned to attend either Noel Elementary or San Jacinto Elementary. Families will be notified very soon.

D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2024-25 Academic Calendars. In January, the District released 3 calendar options and asked for comments/feedback from staff, parents and community. Having received 247 comments through Facebook, 889 responses from staff, and 2,206 responses from parents/community the overwhelming preference was for Calendar Option B. The key features: 175 instructional days for students; staggered start date for PK-6th and 9th graders; full days of professional learning instead of ½-days of early release; only one early release day in the year; and a traditional Christmas break that starts on a Monday and ends the following Friday. OCA and OCTECHS will follow the same calendar except for bad weather days and professional learning days which will occur on Fridays to align with the Odessa College calendar. These approved calendars will be posted online this week.

E. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution designating March 12, 13, 14; July 3, 5; November 26, 27; and December 27, 30 and 31 as additional non-business days under the Texas Public Information Act for Year 2024. This is a change in the law that went into effect after the last legislative session ended. Except for specified national and state holidays and other identified days, government entities now must designate up to 10 days as “nonbusiness” days for calculating deadlines for TPIA request. These are days the entity expects to be closed or operating with reduced staff. This must be done for each calendar year.

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*; the quarterly investment report; a resolution for removal of an investment officer who resigned; approval of a new investment officer authorization; a memorandum of understanding with the Education Foundation of Odessa for the Inspiration Station; approval of additional T-TESS appraisers for 2023-24.

12. Public Hearing

A. Trustees held a public hearing on the annual district performance report. This also served as the public hearing for the District Continuous Improvement Team (DCIT). School districts are required to hold a public hearing to discuss this annual report which includes academic performance data, accreditation status, campus performance objectives, and information on violent or criminal incidents. The information in this report is for the 2021-22 school year. This presentation can be found at the link in Item #14 below. You will find the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) within two weeks of this report, as required.

13. Trustees moved to closed session to discuss campus principal contracts. After returning to the public meeting, Trustees voted 7-0 to approve contracts for campus principals for the 2024-25 school year. All other administrative and professional contracts will be presented to the board later in the spring.

14. Information Items – <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=615430>

15. There were no closing remarks.

16. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

*\$15,250 from Sewell Ford for ECISD Signing Day