

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its February Board Meeting on the 21st. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Kamryn Guara and Zoey Mulock from Jordan Elementary led the pledges of allegiance (*below*).



4. Senior Pastor Todd Starnes from First Assembly of God Church gave the invocation.
5. Special presentations included the TASBO Rise Award to Brandon Reyes (*above, right*), the introduction of TMEA All-State Musicians, and the announcement of All-State Athletes from the fall semester.
6. Dr. Muri's opening comments.
7. There was no public comment.
8. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve TASB Local Policy Update 120. These are recommendations from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) to keep local policies in line with changes in state law. Three local policies are included in this update: CKC (Local): Safety Program and Risk Management – Emergency Plans; FNG (Local) Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student and Parents Complaints Grievances; and FO (Local) Student Discipline.
9. Action Items

- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. Items on this list included virtual coaching for up to 20 teachers during the spring semester with the possibility of expanding this service to as many as 100 teachers in the 2023-24 school year; small kitchen equipment for School Nutrition; installation of wireless access points and construction of fiber to STEM Academy, Odessa YMCA Learning Center and ECISD Textbooks office to expand the district's wide area network (WAN).
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Budget Amendment #4. This amendment took a little more than \$13 million out of the General Fund Balance to help cover the 2022-23 budget. The shortfall is primarily the result of low daily attendance (in building the budget last year, the district projected attendance at 95% which was equal to pre-COVID percentages, however the first semester was only about 91.5%); as well as lower than projected enrollment. School district funding in Texas is based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA), so when students don't come to school on a given day, the district does not receive funding for that student on that day. Low attendance is a real concern for students', too. When they are not in school, they are not learning. The lowest attendance is at the two large high schools, Odessa High School and Permian High School where attendance is in the high 80s. This is an issue schools are seeing in Texas and around the U.S. ECISD is addressing the issue in a variety of ways beginning with clear-cut processes to ensure schools are tracking students who are not showing up, and documenting communication between the school and parents in an effort to find out what issues may be involved. Automated calls and text messages are sent daily, and attendance clerks, teachers and administrators make calls, too. In the fall, ECISD hired an additional 13 attendance clerks to help OHS, PHS and the middle schools address excessive absenteeism. Many schools have also begun offering incentives for good attendance. The district also provides targeted support for at-risk students through Teen Parent Related Services, Communities in Schools, 6 social services specialists, 6 homeless specialists, and 4 social workers who are part of the Community Outreach Center team. This will continue to be a district priority.**
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2023-24 Academic Calendars. Once posted, these calendars can be found at www.ectorcountysisd.org, under the Calendars tab on the homepage.
10. Trustees voted 7-0 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, an interlocal agreement with Region 18 Education Service Center for Reading Academies, out-of-state travel for the Odessa High School Band to travel to Colorado, an interlocal agreement with the West Texas Food Service Cooperative, and an application for a missed school day waiver.
11. Trustees received an update on strategic plan initiatives Blended Learning and Data Interoperability. **In a quick check of College, Career & Military Readiness (CCMR), our local Indicator of Success for rising seniors rose from 19% to 38%. Again, this is our local leading measure, not the state's statistic for graduates. We are tracking students ahead of their senior year to monitor who is on track and who is not.**
- Blended Learning is a combination of everyday teaching and online learning, and it is that online learning piece that helps personalize instruction, as students and teachers review results together and talk about how the student can improve. Students take more control and ownership in their learning. It is currently implemented at six schools in classrooms from kindergarten through 8th grade, and its focus is heavily on math and reading. ECISD partners with the University of Texas's UTeach professional development center for online teacher training. As of now, 231 teachers have completed

the training since this initiative began in 2019; 50 are actively pursuing the training now, and there is a waiting list.

Data interoperability refers to the concept that information from different formats and locations can work in harmony together. With data interoperability as a strategic goal, it remains in the forefront of our thinking as we are making decisions. There are three approaches involved in this. One is establishing operational data storage, which is a common format and language that allows the systems to speak to each other; another is implementing data governance teams who keep the focus on data privacy, security, ownership and quality. And, a data visualization tool, or a dashboard, with readily available information critical to carrying out the job. A new Student Information System, Focus, will go online in August.

12. Trustees moved to close session. Upon returning to the open meeting, Trustees voted 7-0 to approve 2023-24 contract renewals for Administrators in Pay Grades 6-11.

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=566592>.

14. There were no closing remarks.

15. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

*\$25,000 from Permian High School Baseball Boosters for batting cages weather proofing

\$10,000 from H.E.B. for Wilson & Young Medal of Honor Middle School Victory Garden