

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its March Board Meeting on the 29th. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Pledgers returned in person! In March 2020, Blackshear Elementary was schedule to send two students to our meeting to lead the pledges except – COVID. Since then, we have not had students at the monthly board meeting...until tonight. Blackshear students Madison Tarango and Alexander Romero led the pledges of allegiance.



4. Invocation.
5. Special presentations included the swearing in of 5 students as Texas Crime Stoppers Ambassadors Board members (ECISD students now hold 7 of the state-wide 12 ambassador positions; recognition of Rebecca Rhodes and Ali Hernandez as Nationally Certified School Nurses; introduction of Bowie MS student Shijay Sivakumar as the regional Spelling Bee champ; and the announcement of SSEP Mission 16 science project and mission patch winners whose work will be sent to the International Space Station later this year. *See our Ector County ISD Facebook page for pictures from these presentations.*

6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri let Trustees know the State just announced it would grant school districts leeway on attendance for this school year. This is a concession to the negative effect COVID had on school attendance throughout Texas for a large part of the year. Details are not fully known at this time.
7. There was no public comment.
8. Action items.
 - A. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. Items on this list included financial audit services, architectural services pertaining to the 2022 bond proposal, Career & Technical Education projects at the Ag Farm, and two School Nutrition Department items.
 - B. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the District of Innovation renewal plan. This is a five-year renewal of ECISD's original District of Innovation (DOI) plan adopted for the 2017-18 school year. House Bill 1842, passed during the 84th Legislative Session, permits Texas public school districts to become Districts of Innovation and to obtain exemption from certain provisions of the Texas Education Code.
 - C. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the 2022-23 Gifted and Talented Plan, after hearing a presentation last week. The Advanced Academics Department is redesigning GT services with more professional learning, strong curriculum, more family and community involvement work. In the classroom, GT services will look this way: Kindergarten-2nd grade, in an inclusion setting (supported by a certified specialist); 3-5 pull-out (for two-hours per week); middle school students will be served in their Honors classes (supported by a certified specialist); high school students will be served in Honors, AP, IB and Career & Technical Education classes (supported by a certified specialist).
 - D. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the physical education and health education textbook adoption. After a district committee review and vetting process, the Physical Education Department recommended *Quaver Health/PE* for Kindergarten-5th grade and *Texas Health Skill* for 6th-12th grades. Both of these comprehensive curriculums are designed to meet the needs of diverse learners while supporting the expectations.
 - E. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve a resolution to nominate Dr. Scott Muri for the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) 2022 Superintendent of the Year.
 - F. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the naming of Blackshear Elementary School's auditorium for Ms. Frizella C. Whitiker. Born in Greenwood, Louisiana, she grew up**

in Austin, graduated from Samuel Huston University in 1950, now Huston-Tillotson University. After graduating, Ms. Whitiker moved to Odessa to teach in ECISD Blackshear High School, now Blackshear Magnet Elementary. She was a vital part of the Blackshear High School choir. She later taught at Ector Junior High School as an English teacher. She retired from teaching in 1986. In Odessa, Ms. Whitiker has been a sponsor and board member of Head Start for over 40 years, as well as a board member of the Black Cultural Council of Odessa. She has also been a leader of Mackey Chapel of the United Methodist Church.

G. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the naming of Bonham Middle School's football field for J.T. King. "Coach King" was born in 1924 in Tahoka, graduated from Williams High School, and attended Texas Tech. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943, serving in the Pacific Theatre and the post-war occupation of China. Upon returning home, J.T. graduated from Southwest Texas State where he played football and tennis. He moved his family to Odessa in the late 1940's to work for Shell Oil Company, then was hired by ECISD to coach and teach at Crockett Junior High. He became the head coach at Bonham Junior High in 1959 and spent the next 25 years there compiling a record of 150 wins, 43 losses, and 6 ties. At one time he had a 36-game winning streak! J.T. King coached and taught in the community he loved for 33 years before retiring in 1985. Coach King passed away in 2004.

9. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. This month's Consent Agenda included minutes of previous meetings; bills for payments; acceptance of donations over \$10,000*.

10. Report/Discussion items

A. Trustees continued budget discussions with a review of estimated revenues for the coming year. Trustees are required by law to adopt three separate budgets by June 30 (which is the end of ECISD's fiscal year): a General Fund budget, a School Nutrition budget and a Debt Service budget. In estimating potential revenue, school district leaders are anticipating an increase in enrollment of 960 students, 93% attendance, 62% economically disadvantaged, 11% Bilingual and 10% Special Education students. The Maintenance & Operation side of the tax rate is expected to decline due to compression by the State of Texas, while the Interest & Sinking (Debt Service) side of the tax rate would increase if the bond proposition are approved by local voters.

B. The school board is in the process of appointing a replacement for Trustee Nelson Minyard who resigned in January. Still seeking more detailed information about board member redistricting being evaluated right now, the board chose to wait until April to continue this discussion.

C. Trustees heard a presentation from the Talent Development Department. Talent Development is one of the three priority themes of our [ECISD Strategic Plan](#). The department's specific goals are to attract and recruit talent as well as support and encourage employees to reach their full potential through professional learning. In short, create pipelines and pathways to find and develop our team members. In regard to pipelines, ECISD operates several.

- Odessa Pathway to Teaching is one of just three school-district authorized certification programs in Texas. Open to those who have a bachelor's degree and want to become a teacher, 36 people are currently enrolled in the OPT program.
- One piece of our Opportunity Culture staffing model is a year-long teacher residency program. There were 6 teacher residents in ECISD in 2020-21, with 12 now in 2021-22, and 20 projected for the 2022-23 school year.
- Future Teachers of Odessa is a CTE program that identifies high school students interested in becoming teachers and puts them on a pathway to teacher certification. This year there are 34 students in FTO right now with another 57 projected for 2022-23.
- Para to Teacher is a brand-new effort that provides funding for a paraprofessional to complete their degree and certification. The first 6 applicants were recently accepted to the program.
- The Principal Fellowship with Texas Tech University is a residency designed to build the capacity and skills of aspiring principals.

Coaching is another key focus of the Talent Development Department. Twenty-nine campus coaches, and 49 Multi-classroom Leaders (MCLs) from Opportunity Culture provide daily, real-time coaching and feedback for teachers. Compensation is also at the forefront of the department's work: Opportunity Culture MCLs can earn \$15,000-\$17,000 stipends and National Board Certification can mean up to an additional \$9,000 stipend. The strategic work of ECISD's Talent Development Department has gained attention of state and national audiences.

11. Trustees moved to closed session. Upon return from closed session Trustees voted 6-0 to approve a performance agreement with UTPB STEM Academy. Beginning on July 1, 2022, UTPB STEM students will become a part of Ector County ISD while the school maintains its charter independence. The STEM Academy is grades K-12; students currently enrolled may remain with empty seats to be filled through ECISD's Choice School lottery. ECISD will employ all teachers and most staff members. The partnership gives ECISD students access to another Choice option, while eligible STEM Academy students will have access to ECISD services and extra-curricular activities.

12. Information items. You can find these items, as well as the descriptions of previous items, here – <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=515518>.

13. There were no closing remarks.

14. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

*\$10,000 from Sewell Ford for sponsorship of the Awards for Excellence.