

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

1. Roll Call.
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. Muri thanked the 4,200 employees of ECISD for all of their hard work over the past five months. He said this is normally when we are making slight adjustments to our back-to-school plan but this year the ECISD team is redesigning all aspects of the student day. He said it is hard work and he is proud of our employees for the tireless work they are doing to create plan for staff, students, and families.
6. Several citizens asked to address the school board. Angela Love-Jackson, ECISD teacher and parent, spoke of her desire for the work of the Equity Task Force to quickly move from research to action in order to rectify the significant differences in discipline and punishment for Black students. Bobbie Duncan, retired teacher, expressed worry about returning to school at this time. Her chief concern is teachers running out of sick leave if they become ill with COVID-19. The next speaker, teacher Shari Story, said she is also worried teachers will run out of sick leave and lose pay if they must quarantine or become sick. Both asked the district to find a solution for teachers to not have to use their own sick leave. Sheena Salcido and Javier Ruiz, both teachers, thanked the administration for inviting them to be on back-to-school committees and said they do not feel it is safe to return to school at this time. They asked District leaders to open schools online only until September 8, and only reopen school buildings to staff and students when our community sees a strong decline of COVID-19 cases for 30 days.
7. Action Items
 - A. **Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the process they will use to appoint someone to fill the current vacancy on school board Position 4. Trustees agreed to widely advertise the opening, requesting a cover letter and resume, from people interested in serving on the Board. The application period will remain open for two weeks, after which time Trustees will interview candidates during the board meeting in August.**

- B. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. Nelson Minyard abstained from the vote.
 - C. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve budget amendment #1. This amendment includes the agreement with Germblast sanitizing service, cleaning materials and supplies for ECISD custodial staff to use in schools, and a campus app that will help manage staggered, after-school dismissals in elementary schools and middle schools in the coming year.
 - D. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve revisions to DC(Local) Employment Practices.
 - E. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve revisions to DEC(Local) Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences.
 - F. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve revisions to EIC(Local) Academic Achievement: Class Rankings.
 - G. Trustees pulled consideration of this item, FNF(Local) Student Rights and Responsibilities: Investigations and Searches, from the agenda.
 - H. Trustees voted 6-0 to adopt the 2020-21 Student Code of Conduct.
8. Trustees voted 6-0 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; resolution for authorized representatives; resolution to designate Investment Officer(s); a Memorandum of Understanding with TEA's Texas College Bridge Program; a waiver for TX Virtual School Network course review and/or teacher development requirements; parent notice requirements for students at risk of failure waiver; School Nutrition Meal Prices for 2020-21; hazardous traffic area designation; AVID contracts for all ECISD campuses and AVID Excel contracts for participating middle schools; an Interlocal Agreement with Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin; approval of an application for Optional Flexible School Day Program for 2020-21; the T-TESS and T-PESS appraisal calendars and a list of appraisers.
9. Reports/Discussion items
- A. Trustees received an update on the work being done by the Equity Task Force. This local group of educators and community members studied discipline and**

suspensions. The data shows African-American students, who make up 4% of the student population, are a disproportionately big percentage of out-of-school suspensions, in-school suspensions, and alternative placements. The group offered recommendations of using a campus team to support students, rather than punish, at early signs of trouble; implement restorative discipline and strong professional development for campus leaders; implement cultural bias and awareness training; develop partnerships for mentoring; refine district drug testing policy and alternative placement practices; and strategic scheduling that encourages more challenging courses and extracurricular activities. This Equity Task Force will continue to meet quarterly to help implement and measure progress.

- B. Trustees heard the plan for opening schools on August 12. Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri gave school board members an overview of the District's plan to start the 2020-21 school year. He told Trustees the decisions made are driven by safety and equity for all students. The Texas Education Agency parameters state all schools will open for the school year using the calendar they have already approved; students and families must have a choice to keep their children at home or to send them to school; and school districts can use a period of 4 weeks to phase-in the number of students attending on campus.

He talked about safety being the top priority, and outlined plans for cleaning and sanitizing, as well as mask requirements – required for all staff and students 4th grade through 12th grade, recommended for students Pre-K through 3rd.

Dr. Muri explained that each elementary school student and middle school student will have three choices – attending school on campus 5 days/week, learning from home, or a hybrid model that alternates between days on campus and days at home.

High school students will have two choices – remote learning or a hybrid of alternating days of learning at school and learning from home. High school students will not be able to attend on campus five days/week due to the limited space for the large number of students.

All students will have a rotating A-Day, B-Day schedule which will allow more students to attend face-to-face classes with teachers on campus.

Students who want to attend in person on campus will be allowed back in four phases over the first few weeks of the year. All students will begin school on August 12, some in person, most virtually.

You can see the entire presentation and more detailed information at our Back-to-School web page - www.ectorcountyisd.org/BackToSchool.

10. Trustees spent about ten minutes in closed session discussing personnel matters.

- A. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve personnel recommendations. The two approvals:

- **Jennifer Bizzell as the principal at Reagan Elementary School. She is currently the assistant principal at Blackshear Elementary and boasts 21 years of experience and work as an AP at Jordan Elementary as well as Blackshear;**
- **Paul Fulce as the principal at Bowie Middle School. He is an experienced school leader with a global experience, as he moves from the position of Head of Schools at Knightsbridge Schools International in Bogota, Columbia. His 18 years of experience also includes leadership stints at schools in Spain, Dallas and Irving.**

11. Information items. You can find these items, as well as the descriptions of previous items, [in the Board Book](#).

12. There were no closing remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.