

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its December Board Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Madison Chavez and Ethan Chavez from LBJ Elementary School led the pledges of allegiance.



4. Senior Pastor Isaiah David Tunson, Jr., from Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church gave the invocation.
5. Special presentations included the introduction of the students who created the pictures for the Board of Trustees Christmas Card, announcement of Permian High School senior Harris Sewell's invitation to the Under Armour All-American football game, and presentation of State Crime Stoppers Adult Program Coordinator of the Year award to ECISD Assistant Chief of Police Jeff Daniels.



6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri reminded the crowd the winter break begins next week and reminded students and parents to take advantage of the time away, enjoy it, and come back healthy and refreshed in the new year. He also took a moment to say thank you to the Odessa Chamber of Commerce and local businesses for hosting an ECISD Appreciation Day on Friday. That afternoon, all ECISD employees will receive a meal from the Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang, t-shirts and a ticket to a Jackalopes hockey game this weekend. He said this recognition is humbling and he is proud of the work done by the 4,200 ECISD employees over the past few years.
7. There was no public comment.
8. Public Hearing
  - A. Trustees held a public hearing for Amendment No. 1 to the application for Limitation on Appraised Value between ECISD and Nacero TX 1LLC, Application 1568, pursuant to Chapter 313 of the Texas Tax Code.
  - B. Trustees voted 6-0 to approve the same amendment to the original agreement.

**Background:** Chapter 313 agreements were created by the 2001 Texas Legislature to allow communities to attract specifically defined companies/projects through limiting the school district's Maintenance & Operations (daily operations) taxable valuation for ten years. The agreement remains fully taxable for I&S (Debt Service) tax purposes at all times. The agreement stipulates the school district cannot be financially worse off by entering into the agreement.

Industries eligible for Chapter 313 school property tax limitation include manufacturing, research and development, clean coal and other clean energy projects, renewable electricity generation, nuclear energy, computer data centers, "Texas priority projects" — those with a qualified investment commitment of more than \$1 billion.

The land designated for use in these projects is undeveloped and currently brings in very little local tax revenue for ECISD. The agreements, of limited taxable valuations, are offered as an incentive for the companies to select Ector County as its location to build and provide jobs. Without the taxable value limitations, the huge increase in value would likely make ECISD a "property rich" district and require the district to send money to the state in recapture funds. School districts are limited on state/local revenue per student, and hence no additional total funds would be gained by not approving the agreements. An important benefit is, in addition to I&S tax revenue, these Chapter 313 agreements

include M&O tax protection and supplemental payments from the companies which are not subject to recapture, nor state funding reductions.

Generally speaking, the State of Texas wants school districts to seek voter approval for bond building projects, so the additional revenue does not have any bearing on bond proposals presented to the citizens of Ector County. And, again, the tax limitation is not granted for debt service funds that pay off bonds.

## 9. Board Policy

- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve revisions to board policy CO(Local): Food and Nutrition Management. Because ECISD has implemented universal feeding (free breakfast and free lunch for every student, every day) language in this policy regarding donations and charges is no longer relevant. A review by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) recommends this be moved to administrative regulations instead of policy.
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the deletion of board policy CA(Local): Fiscal Management Goals and Objectives. This recommendation, to delete this policy and move it to administrative regulations, also comes from TASB. There would be no change to the district's operations.

## 10. Action Items

- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. Items on this list include insurance renewals, decodable books for elementary and food items.
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Budget Amendment #3. This includes an item of approximately \$1.5 million for remaining roofing projects from the Tax Ratification Election, and a customer service training.
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve 2022-23 Targeted Improvement Plans. This is an annual item but the first since 2019 because the state paused the accountability system for two years due to COVID. TEA requires schools in bottom 5% of Domain III-Closing the Gaps to present a Targeted Improvement Plan.

11. 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\*; and the 2023-23 Dual Credit Matrix.

**12. Trustees discussed their budget priorities for the 2023-23 school year. Each of the Trustees were given the opportunity to talk about the areas they want to see prioritized as the budget for next year is developed. Some of the items mentioned include compensation (a priority for all of the school board members); ensuring an equitable educational experience for every student that gives every child access to a high-quality teacher and strong principal; school safety including mental health resources; recruiting new teachers and staff; facilities management, maintenance and upkeep; Special Education needs; Career & Technical Education, extra-curricular courses/activities; arts in elementary schools; and innovation that prepares students for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century and jobs of the future.**

13. Trustees moved to closed session.

**A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Jeff Daniels as the ECISD Chief of Police. Chief Daniels is a 26-year veteran police officer, with 24 of those years coming with ECISD. He served five years as a police lieutenant, three years as master sergeant, and most recently as the assistant police chief. He is a certified police canine trainer, SWAT Team Operator with the Odessa Police Department, trained in First Responder Active Shooter and as mentioned earlier, is the 2002 Adult Program Coordinator of the Year for Texas Crime Stoppers**

B.

14. Information items. You can find these items, as well as the descriptions of previous items, here – <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=557532>.

15. In his closing remarks, Dr. Muri thanked retiring Police Chief Todd Hiner for his eight years of service and dedication as the chief. He then welcomed the new chief, Jeff Daniels.

16. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

\*\$12,500 from the Education Foundation for a portion of the grant writer's salary.