

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its December Board Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call. Tammy Hawkins and Dr. Donna Smith were absent.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Pledges of allegiance.
4. Invocation.
5. Special presentations included the recognition of Permian High School Associate Principal Ysmael Lujan as the Region 18 Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, and the introduction of the four students whose artwork adorned the school board's Christmas cards this year.



6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri reminded the audience this is the last week of the semester; students are finished on Thursday and staff on Friday. After that he encourages all ECISD team members to enjoy the two-week break, take care of themselves and recharge for the spring semester. Dr. Muri also took a moment to recognize Albert Anchondo, who has worked for ECISD for the past six year in Accounting and in the Superintendent's office, as he is leaving the District for a new venture.
7. There was no public comment.

8. Board Policy

- A. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve revisions to Policy CFB(Local): Accounting Inventories. The changes are minor revisions that remove a reference to a regulation that has been deleted, and an additional sentence recommended by the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB).

9. Action items.

- A. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. There are four items on this list this month: apparel and facility items for ECISD School Nutrition; two separate insurance renewal items; and renewal of integrated pest management services.

- B. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve budget amendment #4.

- C. **Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the pursuit of an innovative partnership with UTPB STEM Academy. A formal agreement, if reached, will be brought back to Trustees for approval, likely in March.** Last week, a team from the University of Texas Permian Basin spoke with the Trustees about UTPB STEM's history and the potential of a partnership. UTPB STEM opened in 2014-15 with 308 students, and 14 teachers, in grades kindergarten through 6th. Currently the school has 770 students, and 39 teachers, grades kinder through 12. The charter is delegated to the President of UTPB, and is approved for an enrollment of up to 3,900 students. The UTPB STEM calendar is 180 days of instruction, from 7:50 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday; on Fridays the school dismisses at 12:00 p.m. The early dismissals allow students to continue learning online, work with tutors and interventions, and allow professional development for staff. The school utilizes Project-based Learning and STEM-based Learning. A future partnership with ECISD would benefit students at UTPB by giving them access to ECISD's athletics and fine arts programs, plus ECISD could help with facilities, counseling services, transportation, and food services. ECISD would benefit by having an additional Choice School options for families, a future middle school option, a collaborative partnership with shared resources between the two entities, and the continued building of the college-going culture for ECISD students.

- D. **Trustees voted 5-0 to approve an interlocal agreement with the City of Odessa for ongoing practicum/work-based learning opportunities for Career & Technical Education students. This agreement will allow CTE students to work at various sites affiliated with the City of Odessa, including the Odessa Animal Shelter. Potential arrangements are also being negotiated to potentially allow students paid internships with Odessa Fire & Rescue and the Odessa Police Department. Students will be able to learn from and work directly with employees on site. It is a tremendous opportunity for real-world application of learning, improving resumes, and networking that would naturally lead to possible employment after high school. It is a "grow our own workforce" partnership with the City of Odessa.**

- 10. Trustees voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. This month's Consent Agenda included minutes of previous meetings; bills for payments; acceptance of donations over \$10,000\*; the 2022-23 Dual Credit Matrix; and renewal of master clinical affiliation agreement with Lamar University.

11. Report/Discussion items

A. **The Board discussed its budget priorities for the 2022-23 school year. Across the board, Trustees identified the need to increase compensation especially, for hourly employees and hard-to-fill positions. They asked for District leaders to be creative in developing a package of salaries, incentives, benefits, working conditions, and professional development opportunities. They want to see inequities at failing schools addressed in order to turn them around right away. Advanced Academics programs like Gifted/Talented and International Baccalaureate need to be expanded; Special Education improved; programs like STEM and STEAM emphasized; technology added and refreshed; and the conditions of facilities improved across the District. The board also asked if programs currently in use could be evaluated for their efficiency in regard to student achievement. Dr. Muri thanked the Trustees for their input, and told them District leadership would begin working on budget preparations for next year, placing a priority on the items outlined by the Board.**

12. Trustees moved to closed session to discuss personnel issues.

A. Trustees voted 5-0 to accept the superintendent's recommendation to terminate an employee's contract.

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=504991>.

14. In his closing remarks, Dr. Muri wished Trustees happy holidays and said he would see them Thursday night at the final bond committee meeting.

15. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

\* \$44,276.06 from the Education Foundation for Future Teachers of Odessa.