

The Ector County ISD Board of Trustees held its June board meeting on the 18th. A recap of the agenda is below.

1. Roll Call.
2. Verification of compliance with open meetings requirements.
3. Camp SIP students Ava Loera (Hays Elementary) and Hailey Vesely (Nimitz MS) led the pledges of allegiance.



4. Deacon Alfonso Moreno from St. Joseph Catholic Church gave the invocation.
5. In the special presentations, 28 teachers were introduced for Leveling Up. This group improved their Teacher Incentive Allotment designation from last year to this year.
6. In his opening comments, Superintendent Dr. Scott Muri congratulated those teachers recognized during the special presentation, calling it a proud moment for our district. He also congratulated the Board of Trustees who had just returned from San Antonio having been honored by the Texas Education Agency's System of Great Schools Network for innovative, strategic Human Capital work.

7. There was no public comment.

8. Bond 2023 Update

A. Update: The CTE Center Advisory Committee met most recently on May 30 and after having reviewed a number of different design possibilities ultimately settled on a recommendation of a plan that would cover approximately half of the 37-acre site with career and technical programs of study on the ground floor, and the second floor being primarily for general education classes for the 400 high school students attending the campus full-time.

In May, ECISD officially took ownership of the property where the CTE Center will be located and a “Future Site of New CTE Center” sign is now visible on E. Murphy Street near the intersection with Meadow. The design of the new middle school is also progressing quickly. PBK architects presented several design options to the middle school committee and to school district departments like School Nutrition and Fine Arts. At the school board’s workshop on June 11, Trustees weighed in on the design, offering more feedback. “Future Site of New Middle School” signs are up on S. Tripp Avenue designating the land now owned by ECISD where the school will sit.

Trustees learned a second project is now complete – more than 840 interactive flat panels have been installed in classrooms across 38 campuses replacing traditional mounted projectors and touch screens.

ECISD’s Operations Department met with Gordian on June 10 to review job order contracting in preparation to begin Priority 1 & 2 projects.

The first meeting between DLR architects and a local planning committee took place on June 12 to begin work on the new Transition Learning Center.

An overview of bond financials showed about 1% of bond proceeds have been spent (approximately \$4.4 million), with about 5% having now been designated for specific work (about \$22.6 million).

The second round of bond sales occurred on June 5 with high investor interest. Nearly \$216 million in orders were placed for the \$99.5 million of variable rate bonds to be sold. All were successfully sold with an initial interest rate of 3.62%, about .12% above the estimated rate presented to the board in the preliminary finance plan in March.

Looking ahead, ECISD Fine Arts will be ordering instruments for mariachi, elementary and middle school bands. To date, Fine Arts has ordered 286 instruments to benefit all high school and middle school band and orchestra programs plus the harp program and middle school choirs.

ECISD Athletics is planning for the installation of lights at Odessa High and Permian High.

Finally, a series of eight Requests for Proposals will go out next week for projects such as roofing, plumbing, weatherproofing and more.

B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000 related to the bond. The single item on this list is \$4,891,322 to CDW-G for the refresh of surveillance cameras on campuses and in other district facilities.

C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve an Architect-Owner contract with Parkhill for the new Agriculture Farm.

- D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a Constructor Manager at Risk contract and General Conditions contract with Teinert for construction of the new middle school. Construction Manager (CM) oversees project from start to finish, works on behalf of the district and holds contracts with the subcontractors, architect/engineer holds separate contract with district; CM provides a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to the district before the design phase is complete. GMP is an estimate of project construction cost; if a project exceeds the GMP, the CM will be financially responsible, thereby putting the CM “at risk”.
- E. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a Constructor Manager at Risk contract and General Conditions contract with Teinert for construction of the new CTE high school.
- F. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a Constructor Manager at Risk contract and General Conditions contract with Teinert for renovation of the Permian High School auditorium.
- G. Trustees voted 5-2 to approve a Master Agreement for Program Management Services for bond program construction projects with Gallagher Construction Company, LP.

9. Public Hearing for Adoption of the 2024-25 Official Budget

A school board in Texas is legally required to approve three separate budgets: General Fund revenue budget which is projected to be \$337,248,000; Debt Service revenue budget projected at \$46,249,195; and School Nutrition balanced revenue and expenditure budget at \$20,277,315. The General Fund budget was built around the school board’s budget goals: retain high quality programs, retain high quality employees, a maximum of a \$12 million General Fund deficit budget, while keeping 90 days of available fund balance, school safety and facility improvements, equity weighted strategic campus staffing and funding allocations to support special education, economically disadvantaged and English language learners, and compensation increase or one-time incentive.

The General Fund is based on current appraisal district estimates for Ector County, current school finance laws, expected enrollment of 33,500 students, and a projected attendance rate of 88%. Projected expenses are slightly more than \$349 million, creating a deficit of almost \$12 million. The largest expense by object is employee payroll (78%). The largest expenditure by function is Instruction (57%).

As discussed in previous meetings, concern over funding for public education for this year and next year made Trustees hesitant to add raises to an already tight budget. Instead, Trustees approved a one-time retention incentive of approximately 3% for full-time employees who return to ECISD for the 2024-25 school year. It will come at a cost of about \$6 million. Remaining ESSER 3 federal funds will help allow ECISD to do this for its employees by freeing up fund balance for this incentive. The incentive will be about the size of a typical raise – the average teacher will see about \$1,950 and the average hourly employee will see about \$930; the minimum any employee would get is \$500. This incentive will be paid in the fall, and some part-time employees are not eligible for it.

There is no change anticipated for the tax rate, which is proposed to remain the same: \$.75960 for Maintenance & Operations + \$.25440 for Debt Service = \$1.01400 total tax rate.

- The total tax rate is the same as the prior year
- The M&O tax rate is the same
- The I&S tax rate is the same
- The total tax rate is at or below the voter approval rate
- The total tax rate is at or under the maximum tax rate allowed without a tax rate election
- The M&O tax rate is at or below the voter approval/rollback/no new revenue tax rate

- The I&S tax rate is at or below the allowable to cover bond costs
The Board of Trustees will officially adopt the tax rate in September.

10. Action items

- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2024-25 official budget.**
- B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution to calculate property tax rates. Texas Tax Code requires a position be named for calculating the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval tax rate, and this resolution appoints the District's Chief Financial Officer for that responsibility.
- C. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Budget Amendment #9.
- D. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution committing fund balance in accordance with GASB 54. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requires a district to approve categories for fund balance commitment or assignment for the coming year.
- E. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve purchases over \$50,000. With the start of the new year on July 1, this is a lengthy list this month for items like electrical and utility services, City of Odessa services, property tax collection, virtual speech therapy, roofing consulting services, student tutorial services, maintenance and transportation supplies and equipment, vehicle repairs, charter bus services and much more. [See the full list, item 10-E.](#)
- F. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Dawn Miller as the delegate and Bob Thayer as the alternate delegate to the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) delegate assembly.
- G. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2024-25 Student Code of Conduct with no revisions and the updated schedule of fines or fees.
- H. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve hiring authority to the superintendent for contractual personnel through the end of August 2024, as there are no board meetings scheduled in July.
- I. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve a resolution to lease or allow for a purpose other than a district purpose an unused or underused district facility. Texas Education Code allows a school district to lease or allow use of an unused or underused facility for a purpose other than a district purpose. In March, Trustees voted unanimously to establish an attendance boundary for Zavala Elementary that will include students who attended Travis Elementary. As a result, Travis will be repurposed. Trustees have identified a need for a high-quality childcare provider for the Ector County community. Statistically, several zip codes in Ector County are considered Childcare Deserts due to lack of high-quality childcare centers for the number of children ages 0-5 in that area. This resolution establishes the parameters of any future agreement to use Travis Elementary for this purpose of high-quality childcare.**
- J. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve construction delivery method for insurance related construction at Austin Elementary School. Due to breaks in ceiling trusses and damage to the east wall, the cafeteria at Austin must be rebuilt.

- K. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve an Architect-Owner contract for insurance related construction with Parkhill for the Austin Elementary cafeteria.
 - L. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the 2024-25 District Improvement Plan. Trustees reviewed the process for creating the District Improvement Plan – from a needs assessment to identifying performance gaps to creating the responses that will ensure board goals are met. The district’s five-year strategic plan is coming to an end, and Trustees will begin the next planning process by updating their board goals this fall.
11. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. The consent agenda is a group of routine, or previously discussed items presented together for a single approval vote. This month’s Consent Agenda included minutes of meetings; bills for payment; acceptance of donations over \$10,000*; a memorandum of understanding with Odessa College for Odessa Collegiate Academy; a memorandum of understanding with Odessa College for OCTECHS; a memorandum of understanding with the University of Texas Permian Basin for academic dual credit; approval for out-of-state travel for the Permian High School Choir to go to London May 27-June 1, 2025; a data-sharing with Texas Tech University; and 2024-25 Professional Learning Plan.
12. Trustees moved to closed session to discuss personnel matters.
- A. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Rebert Trejo as Executive Director of Accountability and School Improvement. Currently he is the principal at Clint High School. He has 17 years of experience in education from teaching to curriculum and instruction specialist to a decade of campus leadership. He holds a bachelor’s and a master’s in math and is very knowledgeable about the accountability system.**
 - B. Trustees voted 7-0 to approve Veronica Reyes as Executive Director of Leadership. She joins ECISD from El Paso ISD where she has served as the executive director of specialized learning services since 2022. She has 11 years of administrative experience in middle school and high school and in multiple school districts, including three years as a principal and four years as a Bilingual Director.**
13. Information Items – <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/1406?meeting=637636>
14. Dr. Muri reminded Trustees there will be no regular meetings in July, however, there may be a special meeting. They will meet again in August.
15. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

*\$41,523 from Permian High School Booster Club for indoor practice field turf
\$31,775 from ECISD Education Foundation for ¼ of fund for the 2024-25 STEAM Director and part-time aide for Inspiration Station