



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

Winners. Innovators. Scholars. Doers.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Location:
Date:
Time:

Public Hearing
WISD Board Room
319 W. Fourth Street
July 29, 2019
5:42 P.M

MINUTES

- I. The Public Hearing was called to order by Isidoro Nieto, Board President.
- II. A quorum was established. The following board members were present.

Isidoro Nieto, President
Andrew Gonzalez, Secretary
Armando Cuellar, Trustee
Erasmio Lopez, Trustee

*Dr. Jaime Rodriguez joined the meeting at 5:50 p.m.
Dr. Richard Rivera and Patrick Kennedy were absent.*

- III. Public Hearing on the Optional Flexible School Day Program

Mrs. Norma Brewer, Student Support Services/State Compensatory Director, and Dr. Raul Cantu, Student Support Services Coordinator, presented the following report on the Optional Flexible School Day Program.

- >Weslaco ISD implemented this program eight years ago. Initially, this program was for high school students, but last year staff expanded the program to include elementary and middle school students.
- >The purpose of the program for the high schools was to offer a flexible schedule to meet the needs of students who were not able to attend school on a daily basis because they work full-time or are parenting a child at home.
- >This past year, the program was offered to elementary and middle school students who were struggling with attendance. The program has helped these students recover their absences.



History of OFSDP

August 13, 2018, Board Approval of OFSDP for Weslaco High School, Weslaco East High School and South Palm Garden Campuses

The OFSDP was authorized in House Bill (HB) 1 by the 79th Legislature, Third Called Session, 2006, and became effective **May 26, 2006**. HB 1297 and HB 3646, 81st Legislature, 2009, modified program provisions to increase the number of students eligible for participation in OFSDPs, effective September 1, 2009.

November 12, 2018 received Board Approval to extend OFSDP to all WISD Campuses and during summer school programs

July 29, 2019 seeking School Board Approval to continue offering OFSDP to all WISD Campuses including summer school programs

Weslaco ISD started participating in the program in 2010-2011. (8 years)

We expanded the program to include elementary and middle schools in 2018.2019.



Optional Flexible School Day Program

The Texas Education Agency offers school districts the opportunity to offer a program that will offer flexible hours and days of attendance for a student who:

- Has dropped out of school,
- Is at risk of dropping out, or
- **Will be denied credit for one or more classes in which the student has been enrolled as a result of attendance requirements under the Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.092.**

➤ At the high school level, staff needs to focus on the number of credits in order to promote the students from one grade level to the other.



Program Goals


- Improve graduation rates
- Reduce dropout rate
- Improve course credits earned
- Improve promotion rates
- Improve attendance rates



Optional Flexible School Day Program


- Provides an alternate method of attendance accounting.
- Students must take STAAR during the regularly scheduled assessment calendar.
- A student enrolled in this type of program may participate in UIL if they meet UIL eligibility criteria.

- > A Public Hearing must be held to discuss the proposed program before the District can apply.
- > Weslaco ISD applied last year and amended the program.




Application Process

- The district must submit an annual application to Texas Education Agency (TEA) and request approval for participation.
- A public hearing must be held to discuss the proposed program.
- If approved by the school board, then an application will be submitted to TEA.



2019-2020 Student Participation


High Schools	Middle Schools	Elementary Schools
Requesting 300 slots for each high school.	Requesting 100 slots for each middle school.	Requesting 50 slots for each elementary school



2018-2019 Student Participation

High School	Middle School	Elementary
600	230	165
TAKS/STAAR Remediation & Credit Recovery	TAKS/STAAR Remediation & Credit Recovery	TAKS/STAAR Remediation & Credit Recovery
Represents roughly 100 additional ADA full-time equivalency		

>Additional 100 ADA will generate \$750,000 to the district



2018.2019 OFSDP Student Graduates

WHS	WEHS	SPGHS
7	44	11
62 WISD Graduates		

>The district was able to recapture instructional minutes from students attending school in the summer through the flexible program; however, the data is still pending.

Andrew Gonzalez commended staff for a job well done and for providing a great opportunity for the students.

Mrs. Brewer informed the Board that the program will generate funds, but most importantly, it will help students who are at-risk re-gain instructional time so that they can be successful.

Erasmus Lopez stated, "We have to continue to work hard to get our kids back, and to keep them motivated and involved in school because once they're out and we lose them, it's hard to get them back.

Armando Cuellar thanked Mrs. Brewer and Dr. Cantu for the outstanding work with this program and stated, "We need advocates to help all our kids".

Mr. Nieto wanted to know how the program would benefit the elementary and middle school students.

- Dr. Cantu replied that elementary/middle school students will be able to recapture instructional minutes by coming in after school, but the district can now bill for it.

Mrs. Brewer informed the Board that staff works very closely with the principals and campus staff because they are the ones who identify the students who have a high number of absences. These students are invited to participate in the OFSD program, with parental permission, to stay afterschool and recapture minutes. In addition, the district generates funds.

Dr. Cantu pointed out that the elementary and middle school students will learn better habits because there will be a natural consequence if they are missing school, because they are going to have to make it up, so by the time they get to high school we should see more improvement on graduation and attendance rates. Mrs. Brewer acknowledged the principals and the counseling staff who work very hard in identifying the students. Dr. Cantu also acknowledged the ACE Program - Katie Reyes and her staff, because this was the afterschool program the students were attending.

Superintendent Dr. Canales stressed the importance of education and that the natural consequences of not coming to school is making up lost instructional time.

IV. Public Comments on the Optional Flexible School Day Program Report

There were no comments from the audience.

V. Adjournment

The Public Hearing adjourned at 5:51 p.m.