



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Isidoro Nieto, President
Dr. Richard Rivera, Vice President
Andrew Gonzalez, Secretary
Erasmus Lopez
Patrick Kennedy
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez
Armando Cuellar

*Dr. Priscilla Canales,
Superintendent of Schools*



956-969-6503 319 W. Fourth Street / P.O. Box 266, Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Date
Time:

Regular Board Meeting
Virtual Meeting
September 14, 2020
6:18 P.M.

This meeting was posted online for at least 72 hours as permitted by the suspended portions of the Texas Open Meetings Act as approved by Governor Abbott. The meeting was livestreamed at the following web link: https://youtu.be/ygq_HvaHRQE

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by Isidoro Nieto, Board President
- II. A quorum was established. The following board members participated in this meeting via video conference.

Isidoro Nieto, President
Dr. Richard Rivera, Vice President
Andrew Gonzalez, Secretary
Armando Cuellar, Trustee
Patrick Kennedy, Trustee
Erasmus Lopez, Trustee
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Trustee

III. Opening Prayer

Mr. Elias Trevino, Director of Evaluation and Accountability, delivered the invocation.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge

Dr. Sergio Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, led the pledge of allegiance.

V. Awards and Recognitions

The Weslaco ISD Business Office has been recognized by the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for the past 17 years. This year, the Business Office also received a perfect score of 100 based on 15 FIRST indicators.

The Board acknowledged Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, and all the members of the Business Office for their diligence and careful management of the District's budget.



VI. Proclamation for National Payroll Week, September 7-11, 2020

The Board proclaimed the week of September 7-11, 2020 as “National Payroll Week”. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the American Payroll Association and its more than 20,000 members have launched a nationwide public awareness campaign that pays tribute to the nearly 150 million people who work in the United States and the payroll professionals who support the American system by paying wages, reporting worker earnings and withholding employment taxes; and

WHEREAS, payroll professionals in Weslaco ISD play a key role in maintaining the economic health of WISD, carrying out such diverse tasks as paying into the unemployment insurance system, providing information for child support enforcement, and carrying out tax withholding, reporting and depositing; and

WHEREAS, payroll departments collectively spend more than \$2.4 trillion annually complying with myriad federal and state wage and tax laws; and whereas payroll professionals play an increasingly important role ensuring the economic security of American families by helping to identify noncustodial parents and making sure they comply with their child support mandates; and

WHEREAS, payroll professionals have become increasingly proactive in educating both the business community and the public at large about the payroll tax withholding systems; and

WHEREAS, payroll professionals meet regularly with federal and state tax officials to discuss both improving compliance with government procedures and how compliance can be achieved at less cost to both government and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the week in which Labor Day falls has been proclaimed National Payroll Week, I hereby give additional support to the efforts of the people who work in Weslaco ISD and of the payroll profession by proclaiming the first full week of September Payroll Week for Weslaco ISD.

VII. Proclamation for National Security Officer Appreciation Week, September 14 - 18, 2020

The Board proclaimed the week of September 14-18, 2020 as “National Security Officer Appreciation Week”. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, National Security Officer Appreciation Week will be celebrated in the Weslaco Independent School District during the week of September 14 through September 18; and

WHEREAS, security officers are hard-working, highly-trained individuals who are often our country’s first responders; and

WHEREAS, these individuals deter crime, lead evacuations, work closely with local law enforcement and are constantly vigilant in their efforts to keep us safe; and

WHEREAS, in today’s society, a security presence has become the expectation, thus the great work of security officers across the country can easily be taken for granted, and

WHEREAS, National Security Officer Appreciation Week should be used to recognize their contributions, profile the many roles security officers fill, disprove old misconceptions and stereotypes; and raise awareness for security career opportunities.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Board President Isidoro Nieto thanked all the security guards district-wide for their hard work and dedication.

VIII. Public Comments

The public had the opportunity to participate in public comments by registering no later than 5:45 p.m. at the following web link: <https://www.wisd.us/superintendentboard/new-page>.

No one signed up to address the Board.

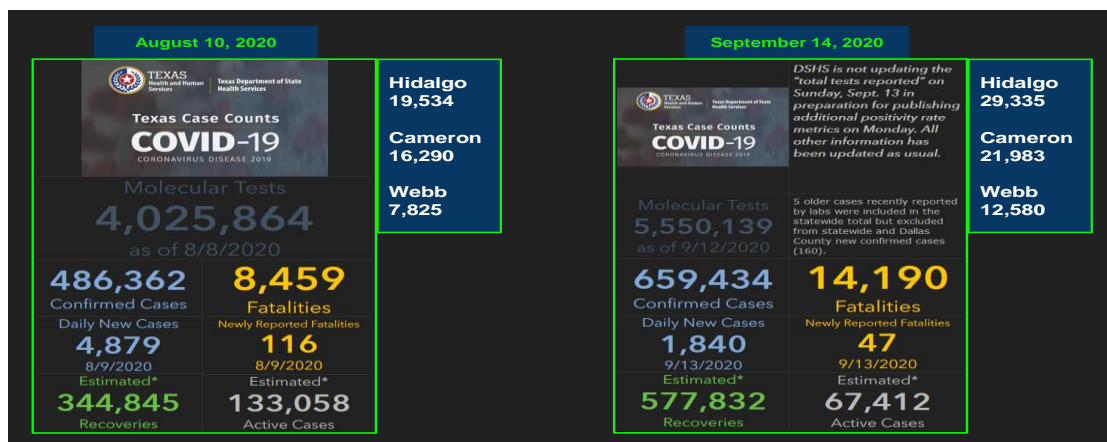
IX. Superintendent’s Report

• COVID-19 Updates & School Start Transition

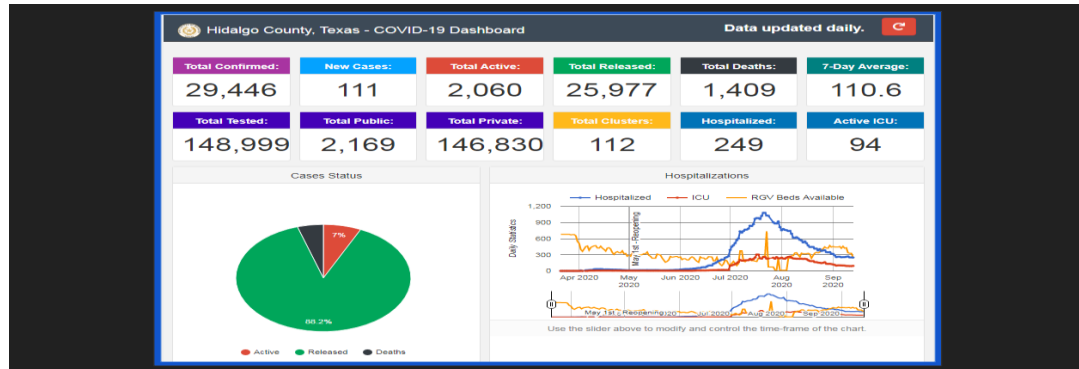
Superintendent Dr. Priscilla Canales presented the following report.

➤The number of fatalities has increased across the state from August 10, 2020 to September 14, 2020.

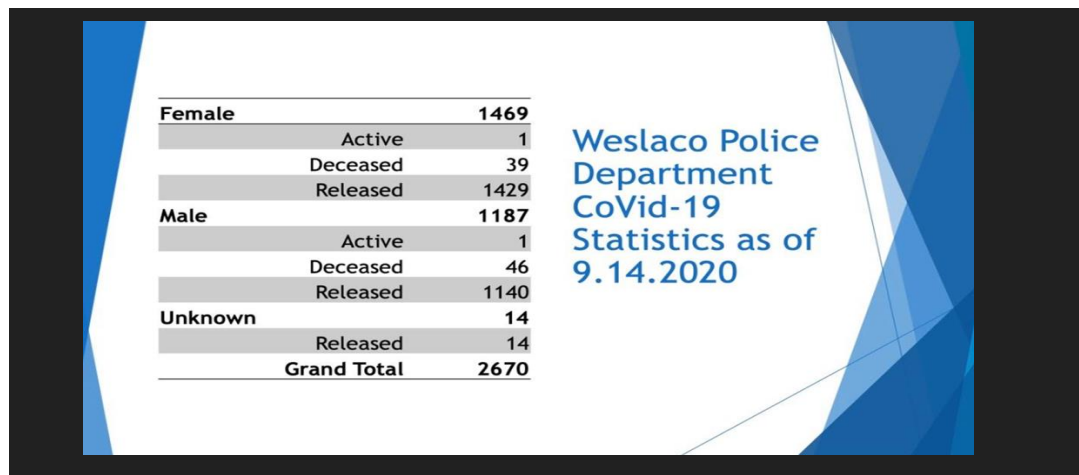
➤The number of active cases have decreased.



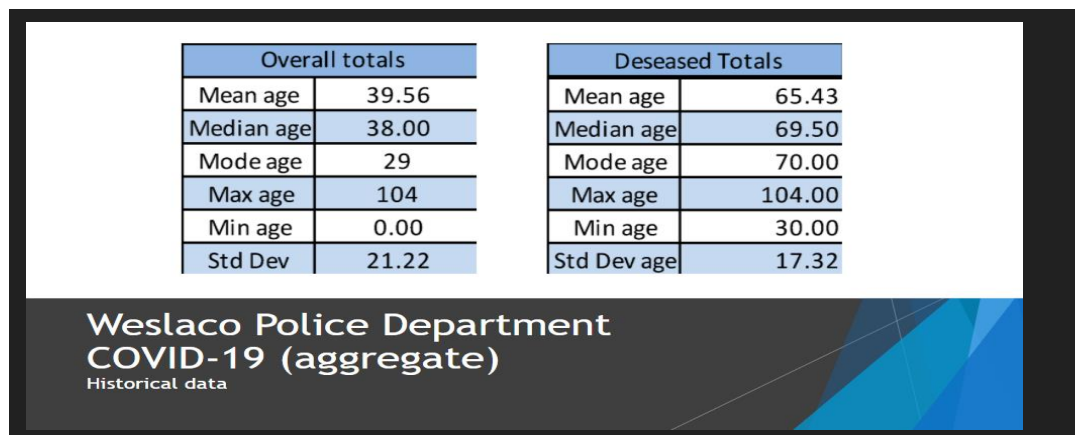
- > The following chart reflects the number of cases confirmed, new cases, fatalities, and the total number of people tested for COVID-19 in Hidalgo County.



- > Mr. Mike De La Rosa meets regularly with the Weslaco Chief of Police and the Fire Chief to gather information on COVID-19 statistics. As of today, the data received from Hidalgo County shows two (2) active cases reported for the city of Weslaco.



- > Staff continues to collaborate with the City to analyze data.



- ## City of Weslaco Data & Healthy Practices-It's a Choice: Ms. Susan Coffman
- Currently there are only 2 Covid 19 cases in the City of Weslaco that Hidalgo County Health and Human Services have reported
- Everyone has the power and responsibility to self, family, friends, and coworkers to slow the spread of COVID 19 and the best way to do this is to stay informed on an ever changing situation. It is imperative we work together to develop health and safety plans for our students and staff by staying ever vigilant on practicing mitigation strategies such as social distancing, masks wearing, facial coverings, hand hygiene and use of cohorting.
- COVID 19 staff trainings have been initiated on WISD campuses. The School Nurses are providing these trainings to staff members and staff members are encouraged to ask questions during these trainings. Staff members who have additional questions or concerns are encouraged to schedule an individual meeting with the school nurse to individually discuss their questions and concerns regarding COVID 19.

- # Weslaco ISD Health Protocols
- ## Face Coverings
- Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings** where applicable. Face coverings will be required while utilizing all district transportation services. Some Weslaco ISD staff, such as school nurses, nutrition services staff, and custodial services will be wearing masks and gloves throughout the school day.
- ## Registered Nurse
- There is at least one Registered Nurse or LVN assigned to every Weslaco ISD campus. District nurses/LVNs will play a critical role on campuses due to COVID 19.
- ## Response to COVID-19 Cases
- WISD staff will initiate the **Weslaco ISD Isolation Plan in the event of a suspected COVID-19 case on campus**. Nurses have already identified isolation stations at each campus for students who develop symptoms during the school day. In working with district and local health authorities, a course of action will be determined regarding necessary communication, required sanitation, possible closures and contact tracing. **Upon notification of a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case on a campus, the district will communicate with teachers, staff, and families of students who were potentially exposed. Standard notice to all.**
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Weslaco ISD Health Protocols

Campus Cleaning/Disinfecting

- Campuses will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the instructional day.
- Classrooms will be equipped for cleaning and disinfecting between transitions of students.
- Age appropriate signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings.


Arrival/Dismissal/Transitions

Arrival

- Multiple entry points will be established.
- Students will report straight to classrooms whenever possible.
- All areas of the building (gym, cafeteria, larger classrooms, common areas, etc.) will be utilized to limit the size of student groupings.

Dismissal

- Multiple exit points will be established.
- Campuses will implement staggered release procedures.
- Students will be released straight from their classroom whenever possible.



Weslaco ISD Health Protocols

Putting Your
Well-being First
Important Coronavirus/Covid-19 Information

Transitions

- Students and staff will follow protocols for face coverings.
- Classroom doors will be left open to reduce high touch areas when possible.
- Traffic patterns will be established throughout the campus that separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Staff and signage will be posted to reinforce physical distance expectations.

Transportation

- Families are encouraged to transport, if possible, students to and from school during the pandemic.
- Parents will ensure students screen daily for COVID-19 prior to boarding school transportation.
- Bus transportation will be offered; however, due to social distance recommendations, students (age appropriate), drivers, and bus monitors will be required to wear face coverings.
- Bus riders should distance themselves 6 feet from each other while waiting to board the bus and while loading the bus.
- Hand sanitizer will be located at the front of the bus for use as students enter the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats and will be loaded back to front with no more than 2 students per seat.
- Buses will be unloaded from front to back when arriving at the school.
- Driver will spray and sanitize seats, handrails, and steering wheels after each use.
- Buses will be thoroughly disinfected on a scheduled rotation.

Questions/Comments from the Board:

>Mr. Erasmo Lopez wanted to know if staff was getting up-to-date information on the protocols due to feedback he received from several employees. He feels that the lack of information is scaring the employees in not knowing what to do or expect for the new school year. Therefore, he stressed the importance of sharing newsletters and protocols through different avenues to ensure all employees are receiving the information so that they can feel safe at school.

•According to Mr. De La Rosa, the Administration shared the back-to-school protocols with staff back in August. The district has been receiving new information every day so staff is encouraged to contact their principal or his office if they have any questions or concerns. Dr. Sergio Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Administration & Support Services, shared that all employees were required to view a narrated PowerPoint presentation back in August.


>Dr. Jaime Rodriguez pointed out that the district has posted useful information on the website for the employees and the community to view. He would like staff to be transparent with the information that is going out to the employees in order to keep them well informed of all protocols in place. Aside from the custodial staff cleaning the facilities, he feels that all employees need to do their part when it comes to cleaning and disinfecting their areas to ensure all schools are safe and properly disinfected.

>Mr. Patrick Kennedy suggested that campuses who manage a social media page should upload pictures of the classrooms and the students' desks for parents to view. It is his understanding that the desks will have a protective plastic covering for their safety. He also suggested that staff be prepared and have proper procedures in place for exiting the students out of a building during a fire drill since these drills are mandated by law and will need to occur.

>Mr. Armando Cuellar stressed the need to make the PPE supplies available to staff and the importance of keeping items clean and sanitized.

➤Mr. Oscar Riojas provided the information on routine cleaning/disinfecting of campuses by the custodial staff.

- The water fountains will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- The district provided supplies to campuses several months ago but staff can call Mr. Riojas' office if they are in need of additional supplies.



Disinfecting and Protecting: Mr. Oscar Riojas

Frequent cleaning and disinfection will support a healthy learning and work environment for students and staff.

Routine Campus Cleaning/ Disinfecting

- ▶ Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected by custodial staff routinely.
- ▶ All high-touch areas (door handles, work area, phones, light switches, desks, high touched devices such as computers or tablets) will be disinfected throughout the day and/or between use as much as possible by custodial and campus staff using an EPA approved disinfectant (NOTE: This list is currently available on the TxSSC COVID-19 resource page and the EPA website.)
- ▶ Staff will ensure that disinfecting products are not used near children and stored securely away from children.
- ▶ Cafeterias will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- ▶ Custodial staff will clean and disinfect water fountains daily.
- ▶ Staff will have access to disinfecting items to sanitize working surfaces, shared objects, and high-touch areas after use and during breaks in instruction. Campus Principals will provide a disinfectant to each classroom.

Restrooms

- ▶ Restrooms sinks and stalls will meet social distancing requirements of at least six feet apart (middle restroom stall and sink will be temporarily off-limits).
- ▶ Increased disinfecting by custodial staff will occur throughout the school day.
- ▶ Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the restroom.
- ▶ All restrooms must have handwashing signs with visuals indicating proper handwashing techniques and social distancing signs should be displayed to consistently reinforce this practice.

Custodial Staff Training

- ❖ Custodial Staff has received training for proper cleaning/disinfecting of facilities

Mr. Riojas thanked the custodial staff for their hard work cleaning the campuses to ensure they are safe and ready by the time students and staff return. Staff will post several posters of the image below throughout the campuses to acknowledge the custodians for their work.



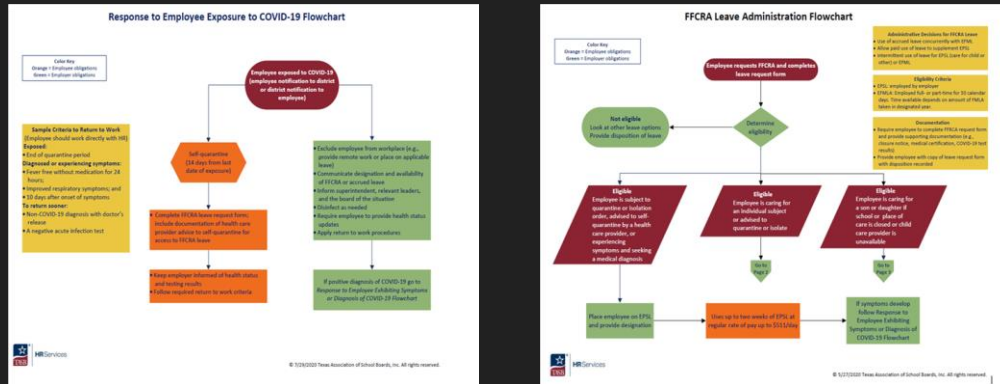
The board members acknowledged and thanked the custodians district-wide for all their work. They stressed the importance of teamwork, having all employees working together to help keep the schools safe and clean for the safety of everyone's well-being. They also stressed the importance of getting PPE supplies to staff at all campuses as well as getting pertinent information out to all employees.

➤Mrs. Melva Segura, Human Resources Director, presented information on procedures to follow when employees are exposed or diagnosed to COVID-19 and the process for requesting FFCRA Leave based on TASB's guidance and recommendations.

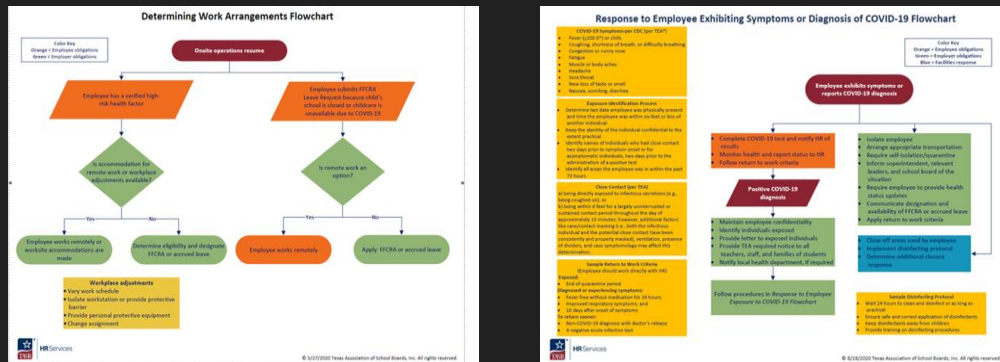
- Employees have been notified to communicate exposure to COVID-19 directly to their principal/supervisor. The Human Resources Department and the Insurance/Employee Benefits Department work closely with the employees, case-by-case, until it is safe for them to return to their work place.

- The FFCRA Leave flowchart outlines the employee and districts obligation when an employee formally applies for leave under the Family First Coronavirus Response Act and eligibility has been determined.

WISD COVID-19 Response Flowcharts



WISD Response Flowcharts cont'



- Once eligibility has been determined, staff will work with the employee on work arrangements.
- Mrs. Segura reiterated that after the employee reports symptoms of COVID-19, the Human Resources Department and Risk Management Department work closely with the employee to ensure all medical information is kept confidential.
- The flowcharts are posted on the HR website. Staff will continue to blast resources/information to all employees. Mrs. Segura invited all employees log in to the HR website where they could find additional resources and guidance.
- In addition, Norma Brewer and support services staff have developed an Employee Wellness Program linking important information on mental health during this crisis.

Mrs. Segura will forward this information to the principals via email in the coming week.

The board members stressed the importance of sharing the same information with all employees. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez commented that he had viewed the district's website and assured the public/staff that there was a lot of information posted. He suggested that administration direct staff and parents to the district's website.

Mr. Lopez pointed out that it was hard to read the flowcharts and asked Mrs. Segura to include the flowcharts in their weekly report. He also asked that the flowcharts be sent to the principals to share with their employees.

Mr. Kennedy would like staff to develop a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document consisting of questions from parents and staff and have it posted on the district's website.

Dr. Canales mentioned that the website was redesigned to make it easier for parents to access information. She will share the information with the principals in their upcoming meeting.

- Dr. Canales presented the Transition Planning & Submission Timeline.
 - The Plan will be presented for board approval at a Special Meeting the week of September 21-23.
 - TEA requires Board action to approve a waiver for a second fourth week transition period.
 - Parents have a choice to keep students at home on remote learning or to send them to school.

Transition Planning & Submission Timeline

Parent Choice Remote On-Campus

SEPTEMBER 2020

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Transition Waiver - Tentative Timeline

Parent Survey (Preference)	September 10-14 (closes at 12 pm on the 14th)
Staff Survey (Safety)	September 10-14 (closes at 12 pm on the 14th)
Gather Survey Data	September 14-15
Transition Plan (Draft 1)	September 14 (Board Meeting)
DAC Feedback	September 16 (3-5 pm)
Teacher/Staff Feedback	September 17 (TBD)
Parent Feedback	September 17 (TBD)
TOTY Feedback	September 18 (TBD)
Special Board Meeting	September 21-23
Submit Waiver to TEA	September 24-25

- On September 11-14, 2020 staff sent out a parent survey on the learning preference for students. Below are the results.

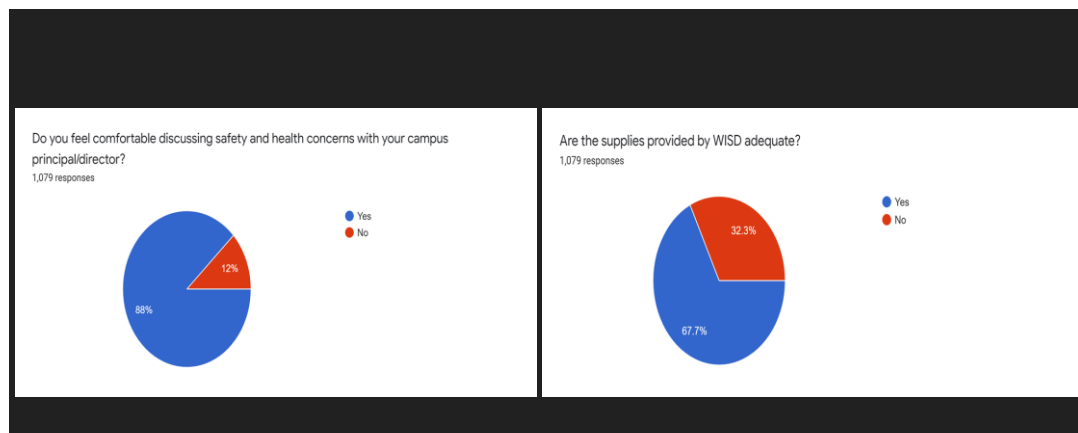
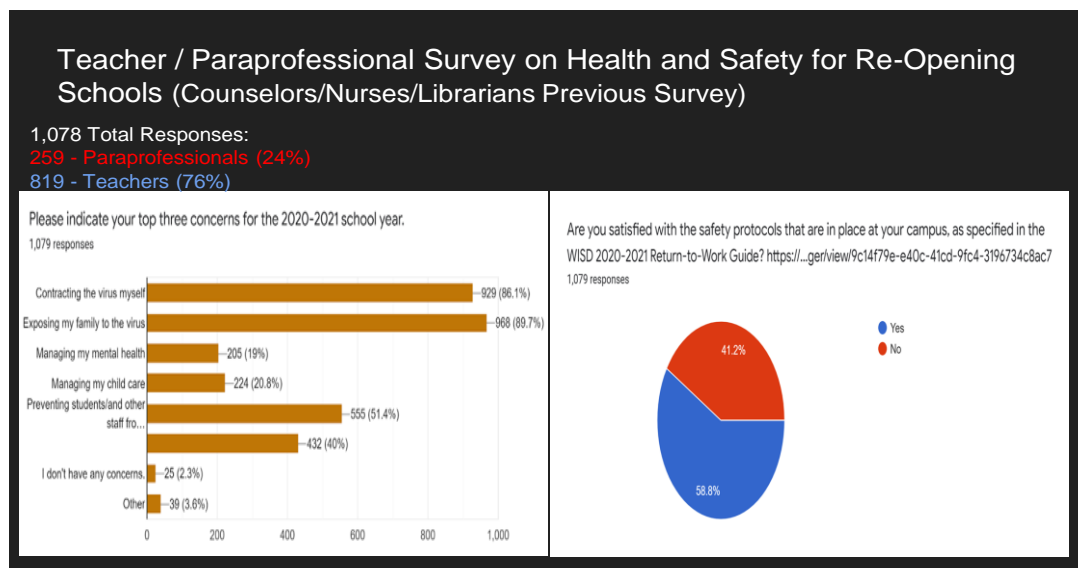
Parent Survey for Learning Preference (Trends)						
Pre-Registration						
Date	Total # Students	School / Hybrid	Percentage		Home (Online)	Percentage
Aug. 12- Sept. 14, 2020	16,721	5,553	33%		11,168	67%
Parent Survey						
Date	Total # Students	School / Hybrid	Percentage		Home (Online)	Percentage
Sept. 11-14, 2020	7,800	2,464	32%		5,336	68%

> The chart below shows the number of teachers who are currently working on campus by choice.

Teachers Currently Working on Campus (Week 1 & 2)

- Teacher Choice

	A	B	C	D
		total # of teachers working on campus (teacher choice)	total # of teachers assigned to your campus	% of teachers
1				
2	Airport Elementary	6	52	12%
3	AN Tony Rico Elementary	8	47	17%
4	Cleckler-Heald Elementary	25	50	50%
5	Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary	22	58	38%
6	Justice R. Gonzalez Elementary	7	38	18%
7	Memorial Elementary	12	55	22%
8	North Bridge Elementary	10	47	21%
9	PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary	5	38	13%
10	Sam Houston Elementary	5	42	12%
11	Rudy Silva Elementary	18	38	47%
12	ELF Academy	0	14	0%
13				
14	B. Garza Middle School	10	68	15%
15	Central Middle School	10	57	18%
16	Cuellar Middle School	6	52	12%
17	Mary Hoge Middle School	3	60	5%
18				
19	CTE Early College	1	13	8%
20	Weslaco High School	20	160	13%
21	Weslaco East High School	18	155	12%
22	South Palms Gardens High Scho	5	6	83%
23				
24	Horton			
25	CATE Calvillo Complex	4	14	29%



Dr. Canales shared that the Transition Plans presented were initial plans at this time. The administration has to get feedback from teachers, parents, and staff members before presenting the finals plans to the Board for approval.

Mr. Daniel Budimir, Principal at North Bridge Elementary presented the Transition Plan for the Elementary Campuses.

➤ On Week 5 (September 28, 2020), three (3) groups will be introduced on campus in a safe manner.

Elementary Transition Plan		
All teachers return to campus Phased in student return with parent choice:		
Week # & Date	Student Group	Rationale
Week 5-September 28	All students that have no or poor connectivity or lacking a device.	Access to internet or a device to increase student engagement.
Week 5-September 28	Special Education Units...students will report based on student survey results and/or by respective grade levels if survey numbers indicate high occupancy.	Students report based on numbers to re-introduce students to the classroom in a safe manner. Enhanced ability to safely meet student IEP's.
Week 5-September 28	Pre-K & Kinder students, plus their siblings from other grade levels.	Increased student engagement and additional staff are available to help introduce students into the building.

➤Other student groups will be phased in on Week 6, 7, 8 and 9.

➤Staff is carefully monitoring the numbers in case there is an increase of students wanting to return to face-to-face to ensure the safety of all students on campus.

All teachers return to campus Phased in student return to campus with parent choice:		
Week # & Date	Student Group	Rationale
Week 6-October 5	1st and 2nd grade students plus their siblings from other grade levels.	Increased student engagement and make greater gains in closing the Covid gap.
Week 7-October 13	3rd, 4th, and 5th based on survey results.	Increased student engagement and make greater gains in closing the Covid gap.
Week 8-October 19 & Week 9-October 26	All Students	

Plan B-All teachers return to campus on week 5-September 28, 2020
All Pre-K-5 students will have the option to return to campus or continue with remote learning.

- Fair and Equitable for all students and families. (This will encompass students with no internet access, academic need, and enhances our ability to meet social and emotional needs of our students).
- Alleviates child care concern
- Increases parent/teacher accessibility
- Elementary students need more structure, support and motivation.

- >The board members liked the idea of allowing siblings from other grade levels to come in.
- >Due to the flu season coming up, Mr. Lopez was concerned that kids would be getting sick and the flu could be mistaken for COVID-19, which would have everyone worried. He asked staff to compile a list of testing sites in Weslaco that would provide a quick response on the results and to get this information to the teachers, students, and the City of Weslaco as soon as possible.
- >Dr. Rivera commented that this was a good plan that would allow staff to make adjustments as needed prior to approving the final plan.
- >Dr. Rodriguez asked for clarification on whether TEA was allowing the district to do 100% virtual after the four-week extension.
 - Dr. Canales confirmed that at this point TEA will not allow virtual learning after the fourth week.
 - Funding from TEA is contingent upon parent choice for the fifth week of school which is September 28, 2020.
- >Mr. Kennedy wanted to know if a student who has been doing virtual learning with an elementary teacher would be able to remain with that same teacher once they begin on-campus instruction.
 - Mr. Budimir replied that most of their initial plan was to have the students stay with the same teacher that they started developing a relationship back on August 31 to present.

Mr. Enrique Ornelas, Principal at Mary Hoge Middle School presented the Transition Plan for the Middle Schools.

Middle School Transition Plan

Why all teachers need to report to work September 28, 2020

- Face-to-face instruction is better than asynchronous learning or packet. Students are having issues with poor internet connectivity.
- We can provide better support services to our students with learning disabilities and students with 504 plans
- Students can be from all grade levels and different sub groups.
- In order to ensure fairness and equity for all students and teachers.

If we transition (stagger) staff, difficult to justify who comes in and who remains teaching remotely. It could effect:

- Morale
- Campus Climate
- Learning environment

Middle School Transition Plan

Week 5 (September 28, 2020)
Transition of Students

(Following TEA suggestions)

- Students that have no or poor internet connectivity

Week 6 (October 5, 2020)
Transition of Students

(Following TEA suggestions)

- Special Education Students and students with 504 plans

- >All students are expected to come back on Week 9, October 26, 2020.
 - At this time, 35% of parents want to send their children to school for face-to-face instruction.
 - Mr. Ornelas liked the idea presented by Mr. Budimir for the elementary transition plan, which allowed siblings from other grade levels on campus. He will present this idea to his staff for consideration.

- The board members were in support of the Transition Plan for the middle schools as presented.
- Mr. Cuellar wants to make sure it is safe for teachers and students to return to school.
- Dr. Rivera requested that Administration report to the Board any Covid-19 related issues of employees/students so it can be addressed as soon as possible.

Middle School Transition Plan

Week 7 (October 13, 2020)
 Students coming back on campus:

- 6th Grade Students

Rationale:
 Will be needing additional support with the transition from elementary to middle school

Week 8 (October 19, 2020)
 Students coming back on campus:

- 8th Grade Students

Rationale:
 Students will benefit from an additional week of face-to-face instruction
 STAAR Test Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies

Week 9 (October 26, 2020)
 All students come back

Dr. David Gamboa, Principal at Weslaco East High School presented the High School Transition Plan for the Hybrid Option.

- High schools have the opportunity to implement the hybrid option.
- Students currently have the opportunity to select two different types of learning plans, Hybrid and remote learning.
- The Hybrid option will allow staff to divide students into two different groups:
 - One group will be present in class two (2) days a week while the other group attends class virtually three (3) days a week. The students will be divided into Group A and Group B by last names.
 - One group will have the opportunity to be present in the classroom while the teacher is lecturing, and the other group at home will have the opportunity to log on and participate at the same time as they all work together.

High School Transition Plan for Hybrid Option

Fully Implement Hybrid Schedule-ALL teachers return to meet the needs of ALL students who chose to return

- Number based on plan selected upon registration
 - Overall Students Attendance Per Day at Comprehensive High Schools (divided by ½)
 - WHS - 532 (1,064)
 - WEHS - 368 (735)

Hybrid plan will accomodate students at all levels and from all subgroups and ensure equity at all grade levels

*New parent survey was released on September 11, 2020

>On Week 5, staff will phase in the following group of students who selected the Hybrid option to ensure they are receiving the necessary assistance.

High School Hybrid Transition Plan

<p>Week Five</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connectivity/Hardware related issues; CTE students; Special Education / 504; EOC December 2020 Retesters; English Learners; <p>Teachers Back On Campus</p>	<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure equity amongst student populations; Provide special populations the services identified by ARD and placed in IEP; Allow opportunity for students to participate in extracurricular activities; Provide academic assistance face-to-face for students testing EOC in December;
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>On Week 6, staff will phase in the following group of students.

High School Hybrid Transition Plan

<p>Week Six</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual Enrollment/OnRamps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STC UTRGV Advanced Placement 	<p>Rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility to resources needed to succeed at the post-secondary level; AP training and counseling for success;
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High School Hybrid Transition Plan

<p>Week Seven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshmen Sophomores 	<p>Week Eight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juniors Seniors
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>By Week 7, staff will transition the freshmen and sophomores who selected the Hybrid option.

>By Week 8, staff will transition the juniors and seniors who selected the Hybrid option.

>Based on the survey that went out in September, 30% - 35% of students selected the Hybrid option.

Comments/Questions from the Board:

>Mr. Nieto asked that staff follow all guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

>Mr. Cuellar said that many students need to be back on campus for different reasons, but the Board will look at all the options and consider the choices made by students and staff prior to making a decision.

>Dr. Rivera stressed the importance of putting safety first at all levels, but also mentioned that the Board will need to discuss the safety concerns regarding the athletic program.

- >Dr. Rodriguez asked for clarification on the schedule.
 - Dr. Gamboa explained that Hybrid students would be divided by last name into 2 groups: Students in Group 1 would be present in class on Monday and Tuesday listening to the lecture in front of the teacher while Group 2 is at home listening to the teacher virtually.
 - The groups will alternate on Wednesday and Thursday: Group 1 will be at home listening to the teacher on their computer while Group 2 will attend class in front of the teacher.
 - Fridays will be set aside to focus on students who need extra support (tutoring or remediation).
- >Will Fridays be a combination of virtual and face-to-face?
 - The teacher will decide what type of lesson they want to provide on Friday.
- >Can students who lack credits for graduation be able to make up time on Friday?
 - Students can only make up credit recovery after 4:00 pm, not during the school day.
- >Mr. Lopez wants parents and staff to understand that the district has to come up with a plan using information provided by TEA, the state, and all other entities that govern the school district. The safety of everyone is of utmost importance as they work on getting students and staff back to school.

The Board thanked Dr. Gamboa and all the principals for working together in coming up with these plans.

• **Indoor Air Quality Study Presented by Mr. Oscar Riojas and Mr. Americo Garza**
Air Disinfecting in HVAC Systems: Ultraviolet Lighting and Bipolar Ionization

As requested by Trustee Erasmo Lopez, staff is looking into different HVAC systems that will provide air quality at all campuses and facilities for the safety of students and staff.

The information presented by Mr. Garza was sourced from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, the Center for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, EPA, and Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institute of Health.

- >Below is information on Ultraviolet Lighting.
 - This type of technology was used to disinfect water in the late 1800s.
 - In 1930, UV lighting was used at Duke University Hospital to disinfect surgery rooms. It was implemented across the country due to its effectiveness.
 - UV lighting exposure is very harmful and therefore the intent is to install it inside the air conditioning cabinets.

Ultraviolet Lighting

- Ultraviolet (UV) lighting / radiation has been used as a means of disinfection since the late 1800s.
- The use of UV light to disinfect air in an indoor setting started in the 1930s.
- UV light kills microbes by damaging their DNA.
- There are 3 main types of UV rays.
 - UV-A (315 nm - 400 nm wavelength)
 - UV-B (280 nm - 315 nm wavelength)
 - UV-C (100 nm - 280 nm wavelength)
- The most effective type of UV ray at inactivating or killing microorganisms such as viruses and bacteria is the UV-C ray.
- UV lighting exposure is harmful.

›Mr. Garza presented the following information on Bi-polar Ionization.

- According to Centers for Disease Control, this technology is considered relatively new or “emerging technology” because it has a less documented track record in regards to cleaning/disinfecting large and fast volumes of moving air within HVAC or air conditioning systems.
- The CDC shared reports that show this system is an effective technology and initial safety concerns with technology are addressed within the report. However, they do encourage all consumers to research and exercise caution with all considered “emerging technology”.

Bi-polar Ionization

- According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) “bi-polar ionization has a less documented track record in regards to cleaning/disinfecting large and fast volumes of moving air within” HVAC or air conditioning systems. The technology is considered relatively new or “emerging technology.”
- The American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) does not offer a position on the technology.
- These systems use “reactive ions” that react with airborne organisms rendering them inactive or killing them. These ions include hydroxyl radicals, superoxide anions, and reactive oxygen species (ROS).
- These “reactive ions” / free radicals have their place / function in the human body when maintained at low to moderate concentrations. However, in excessive amounts, they can be toxic to human cells and cause cancer.
- Systems utilizing the technology may produce ozone.
- Ozone causes adverse health effects when inhaled according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- The CDC states the technology may work as advertised, but advises consumers to vet and approve the devices as safe for intended use.

›The chart below shows the pros and cons of both methods.

UV-C Lighting and Bi-polar Ionization Pros & Cons			
UV-C Lighting		Bi-polar Ionization	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
1. Does not produce ozone 2. Disinfects the air 3. Maintains HVAC air coils clean 4. Assist in the reduction/prevention of illness	1. Exposure hazard 2. Specialized disposal of lamps required 3. Lamp replacement require annually 4. Requires proper PPE for maintenance 5. Current availability concern	1. Does not produce ozone provided it is UL 2998 & UL 876 certified 2. Disinfects the air 3. Maintains HVAC air coils clean 4. Assist in the reduction/prevention of illness 5. Long life 6. Minimal maintenance 7. Potential VOC reduction.	1. Potential for ozone production 2. Ozone causes respiratory problems 3. Use of free radicals known to cause cancer 4. Considered an “emerging technology”

Additional notes addressed by Mr. Garza:

•UV-C Lighting (Cons)

- ›Additional cost for specialized disposal of lamps
- ›Additional cost to replace lamps on an annual basis
- ›Major concern: This technology is very difficult to obtain. Vendors have indicated that fixtures are back ordered or unavailable.

•Bi-polar Ionization (Pros & Cons)

- ›Long life of up to 10 years
- ›Potential for VOC reduction
- ›Potential for ozone production which causes respiratory problems
- ›Use of free radicals known to cause cancer

>The chart below provides the estimated cost for both systems.

- The estimate includes cost for the 10 Elementary Schools, 4 middle schools and 2 high schools.
- Bi-polar Ionization includes the cost for an ozone detection monitor to ensure ozone is not being produced by these devices.

UV-C and Bi-polar Ionization Estimated Cost	
Bi-polar Ionization	UV-C Lighting
\$1,800,000 - \$2,200,000	\$2,600,000 - \$3,000,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not Included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Louise Black - Early College HS○ South Palm Gardens○ Horton AEP○ Calvillo CATE Complex○ Performing Arts Center○ Aquatic Center○ Roosevelt○ Central Administration○ Stephen F. Austin○ Ag Facility○ Professional Learning Center○ KWES○ Energy Management○ Maintenance, Transportation, & Warehouse○ Advocacy Center○ Old Library Services and Portable Buildings	

Questions/Comments Addressed by the Board:

- > Mr. Erasmo Lopez wanted to know why some buildings and facilities were not included on the list. He did not agree with them being left off the list and said that the systems need to be installed in all buildings and facilities occupied by students and staff.
 - Mr. Garza replied that staff focused on the main campuses due to time restraints gathering inventory of the facilities. He clarified that the number of school buildings mentioned earlier was used to obtain a cost estimate for the Board at this meeting; however, staff will include all facilities and submit a total cost estimate to the Board at a future meeting.
- > Dr. Rivera wanted to know how the district would pay for this project.
 - According to Mr. Sanchez, there are no funds set aside for this project so it would have to be paid from the fund balance or through a Maintenance Tax Note.
- > Mr. Andrew Gonzalez agreed with having these systems installed throughout the entire district.
- > Mr. Patrick Kennedy commented that he was leaning towards UV lighting but would like to see additional information prior to making a final decision.
- > Dr. Jaime Rodriguez wanted to know the timeframe for completing this project.
 - According to Mr. Garza, it is difficult for staff to set a timeframe at this time without having someone assess the systems to see how they will approach the project. He will try to gather additional information to come up with a timeline for completing this project and will include information in their weekly update.

Board President Isidoro Nieto pointed out that the time factor for completing this project is very important because the Board wants to make sure that the students and staff are safe when they return to their campuses.

Mr. Oscar Riojas informed the Board that staff has researched these systems and are still working to finalize the cost of this project. He concurred that the installation of these systems will greatly benefit the district because it will help to combat illnesses especially during the flu season.

Mr. Lopez commented that the Board would not purchase a system that is not safe for the employees, but because time is of the essence, he asked staff to find the fastest way to obtain one of these systems and have it installed at all the facilities as soon as possible.

- Insurance

Mr. Mike De La Rosa, Risk Management/Employee Benefits Director, presented the following report.

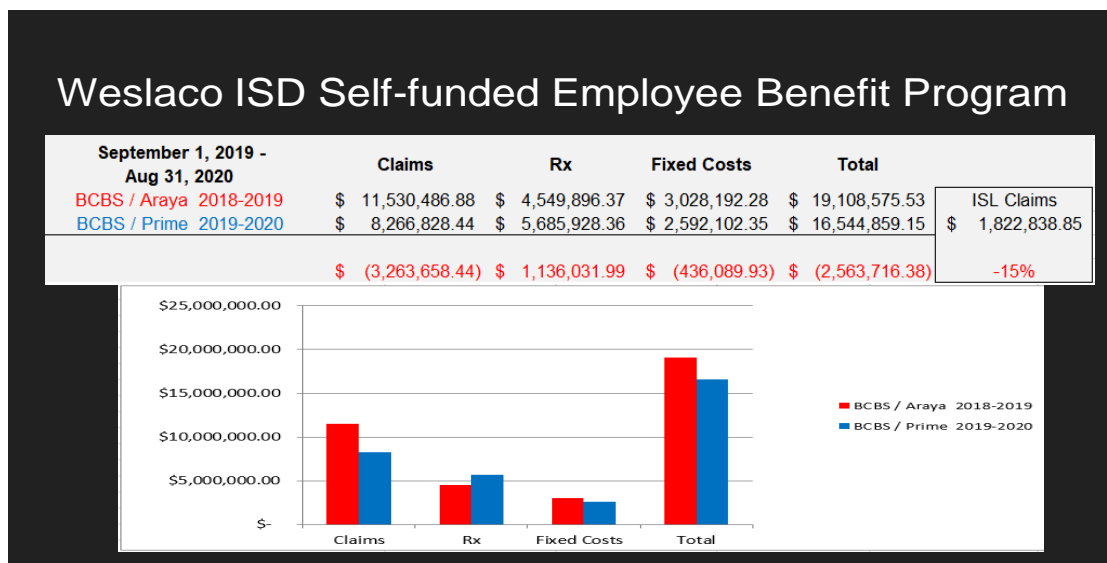
>The chart below reflects a decrease of \$3,263,658.44 for claims.

>Rx Cost: Increase of \$1,136,031.99

>Fixed Costs: Decrease of \$436,089.93

>The total amount spent as of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020 is \$16,544,859.15 vs. \$19,108,575.53 in 2018-2019, for a decrease of \$2,563,716.38.

>ISL Claims: The District received \$1,822,838.75 in individual stop loss reimbursements.



>The 2019-2020 fiscal year for the Self-Funded Workers' Compensation Program has come to an end.

- This plan did very well this year.

- The district cannot use any of the savings because they are reserved in case the district has a bad year.

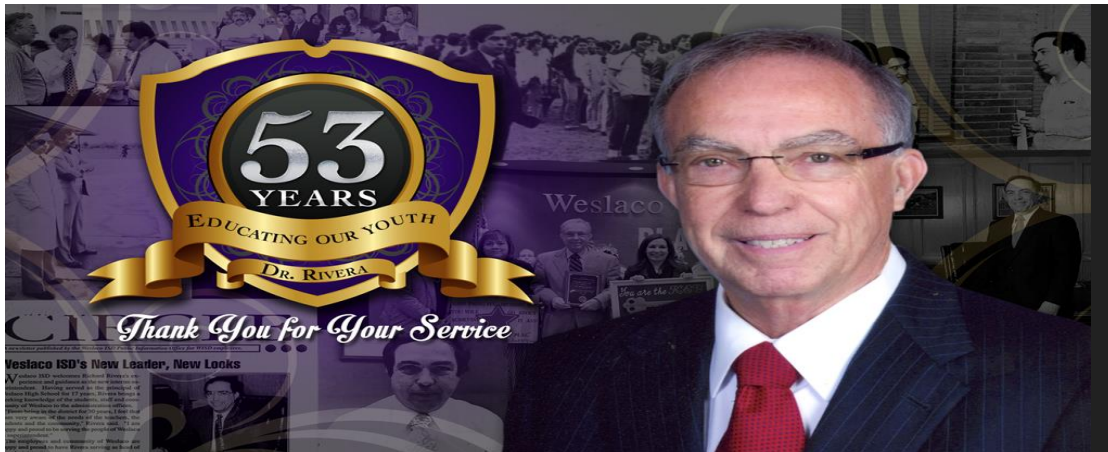
The Board commended staff for a job well done for coming in under budget in these times of hardship.

Weslaco ISD Self-funded Workers' Compensation

WISD 2 Year Claims Comparison					
FY Loss	Number of Claims	Paid	Outstanding Reserves	Incurred	
2018/2019	105	\$ 199,522.90	\$ 102,706.90	\$ 302,229.80	<i>claims for FY 2018/2019 valued at 8/31/2019</i>
2019/2020	70	\$ 179,319.72	\$ 91,017.96	\$ 270,337.68	<i>claims for FY 2019/2020 valued at 8/31/2020</i>

- Tribute

The Board paid tribute to Trustee Dr. Richard Rivera for 53 years of service to education. Dr. Rivera will not be running for reelection and will serve on the Board of Trustees until November 2020.



Dr. Richard Rivera began his career in 1967 as a teacher and coach. He later worked as an assistant principal and principal of Mary Hoge Junior High.



1972

Dr. Rivera was principal at Weslaco High School from 1979 to 1996.

In 1996, he moved to Central Office as Superintendent until 2011.

As WISD grew tremendously, Superintendent Dr. Rivera helped transform the district expanding facilities and programs. WISD earned the "Recognized School District" distinction for 12 out of 14 years.



During Dr. Rivera's leadership, the district had a lot of growth which included the addition of the Aquatic Center, a new scoreboard, new field turf, and the expansion of many facilities. The district also had success academically. WISD received a "Recognized" rating for 12 out of 14 years. In addition, Dr. Rivera always supported competitively salaries for teachers and staff.

Dr. Rivera 53 Years of Service!!!

Thank you!



Principals, Campus Instructional Facilitators, Administrators, and Supervisors relayed messages of gratitude, inspiration, and extended best wishes to Dr. Rivera through a video presented during the meeting. Many administrators who worked under Dr. Rivera's leadership were very grateful for having him as a mentor providing guidance and support and for the difference he made at WISD.

Dr. Rivera thanked the Administration and his fellow board members for this recognition and made the following remarks: "So many memories, good memories, I am grateful. As a leader, principal, superintendent, you have to have the staff with you. It was all a team effort. As someone said, the most important thing are the boys and the girls of this district; they are the reason we are here. I have been touched and blessed by so many. Everyone in this board room, I was either your principal, superintendent or teacher. I am grateful, God has blessed me."

X. Consent Agenda

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 10, 2020, the Public Hearing of August 24, 2020, and the Special Meeting of August 24, 2020

The Board approved the minutes as presented.

- B. Approval to Accept Donation of 3,500 Tote Bags from Various Sponsors to Fill With School Supplies and Distribute to WISD Students to Start the 2020 School Year Remotely:

1. Knapp Medical Center
2. Superior Health
3. Mayor Joe V. Sanchez Public Library

The Board accepted the donation as presented. Staff will fill the tote bags with school supplies, a chrome book and headsets, and distribute the bags to Weslaco ISD students to take home and start the 2020 school year remotely.

- C. Approval of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Innovative Courses to Offer State Elective Credit to High School Students: Texas PreFreshman Engineering I-IV

The Board approved the CTE innovative courses: Texas PreFreshman Engineering (TexPREP) I-IV. The State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education have approved this course.

These courses will facilitate additional options to students (middle school and high school) for success in advanced studies leading to careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM). The course is offered to students as a formal out-of-school time experience across four summers as they progress from TexPREP I through TexPREP IV. Students will receive 140+ contact hours each summer.

WISD offers these courses through partnerships with UTRGV and STC at no cost.

D. Approval of Changes Made to the Interlocal Agreement Between Weslaco Independent School District and Regional Day School Program for the Deaf (RDSPD) at McAllen ISD to Provide Special Education Services to Students Who are Identified as Deaf or Hard of Hearing (RFP #16-08-51)

Weslaco ISD will have a total of thirty-one students serviced by RDSPD for the 2020-2021 school year. Ten students attend RDSPD full-time and the remaining students are provided itinerant services at Weslaco ISD. RDSPD has provided services and has met the needs of Weslaco ISD students who are deaf or hard of hearing for over 16 years. During the time of school closure RDSPD will service students on a remote basis utilizing available on-line platforms, telephone calls, and instructional packets, etc. The 2020-2021 Interlocal Agreement includes the following changes:

- Change of Auditory/Hearing to Deaf or Hard of Hearing, as per B 281 & HB 588
- Added “Non” in Article VII section 7.4
- Corrected Article number from X to XI, added an “s” to serve in Article X, section 10.1
- Corrected the word Agreement to Agency in Article XIII

The Board approved the changes made to the Interlocal Agreement with the Regional Day School Program for the Deaf (RDSPD) as presented.

E. Approval of Purchase of Supplemental Materials for District-Wide Leader-In-Me Program for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the purchase of supplemental materials to support the District-Wide Leader-In-Me Program for the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers may use some materials while in the virtual environment, as well as being prepared for the return of face-to-face instruction in the future. The supplemental materials are necessary for the continuation of the program, which has been integral to the socio-emotional well-being of the students for the past five years. Supplementary texts will cost \$39,122.00 and funded through Title IV, Part A federal fund grant funds. Below is a breakdown of the cost per campus.

School	Amount
Airport Elementary School	\$ 4,992.00
Cleckler-Heald Elementary School	\$ 5,676.00
Margo Elementary School	\$ 240.00
Memorial Elementary School	\$ 1,434.00
Rico Elementary School	\$ 6,192.00
Gonzalez Elementary School	\$ 2,984.00
Sam Houston Elementary School	\$ 4,200.00
North Bridge Elementary School	\$ 4,080.00
Silva Elementary School	\$ 3,088.00
Ybarra Elementary School	\$ 4,816.00
Central Middle School	\$ 105.00
Cuellar Middle School	\$ 105.00
Mary Hoge Middle School	\$ 105.00
Garza Middle School	\$ 105.00
All Schools	\$ 39,122

F. Approval of Purchase of Google G-Suite Enterprise for Education 1 Year Renewal Software Maintenance and Support for 2020-2021

The Board approved the purchase of Google G-Suite Enterprise for Education software maintenance and support from Amplified IT from Norfolk, Virginia at a cost of \$39,984.00.

The purchase of the Google G-Suite Enterprise software is for the entire District. As part of the G-Suite Enterprise the software includes the following features: Google Meetings, Live Streaming of Events, Meeting Recordings, Originality Reports, Security Dashboards, Security Health, Investigation Tools, Data Loss Prevention (DLP) for Drive, Endpoint Management, 24/7 online support and community forums. The District will continue to use Google Meetings/Live Streaming for all virtual board meetings/workshops and other district events.

G. Approval of Purchase of Eduphoria Renewal of Software Maintenance and Support for 2020-2021

The Board approved the sole source purchase of the annual renewal of Maintenance and Support for the District's Eduphoria System from Eduphoria! Inc., located in Plano, Texas. The cost of this purchase is \$46,512.00.

The Eduphoria Suite is an integrated web-based application used district-wide to aid teachers, administrators, and staff to monitor student-learning progress, aide in teacher lesson planning, manage and track staff development, and provide an education platform for educational professionals.

WISD has used the Eduphoria Suite application to amass student local and state assessments, employee professional learning training records, state required teacher evaluations, and students' assessment item banks. WISD has successfully collected this valuable data since 2019 on the Eduphoria System.

H. Approval of Purchase of NearPod Renewal of Software Maintenance and Support for 2020-2021

The Board approved the purchase of Nearpod renewal software maintenance and support from Nearpod Inc., from Dania Beach, Florida. The cost of this purchase is \$65,000.00.

Nearpod allows teachers to make interactive lessons. It will include unlimited access to the Nearpod lesson library featuring over 7,000 standards-aligned lessons. The District has used this software in the last four years and it has been growing in usage every year. Teachers chose Nearpod as one of their top software used in their classroom. The licenses also support the blended learning initiative.

I. Approval of the Renewal of Edmentum Software for the High Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the renewal of Edmentum software for Weslaco High School, Weslaco East High School, South Palm Gardens High School, and the CTE Early College High School from Edmentum, Inc. of Bloomington, Minnesota.

Students in the credit recovery program have used the Edmentum Core & Health and PE Library since the 2015-2016 school year. The Edmentum courses are offered in an online format and are self-paced. The students will complete these courses in a lab setting under the supervision of a credit recovery teacher.

This purchase also includes site licenses with unlimited use by students. The site license includes the College and Career Readiness Library, which offers students an online test preparation program for the TSI, ACT, SAT, and ASVAB. This software provides students an opportunity to prepare for and become familiar with the format of these exams because they should lead to increased scores. The total cost of these programs is \$102,750.000 for one year, which is inclusive of staff development for credit recovery teachers and other identified staff.

- J. Approval of a Contract Training Agreement Between Weslaco Independent School District and South Texas College to Provide GED and ESL Virtual Classes for WISD Parents

The Board approved the contract training agreement with South Texas College to provide GED and ESL virtual classes for WISD parents.

STC will provide 40 hours of GED (Spanish), 40 hours of GED (English), and 40 hours of (ESL) English as a Secondary Language training to parents of WISD students. Upon successful completion of each course, parents will receive CEU's (Continuing Education Units) and a Certificate of Completion. The classes will be offered in September and run through May 2021, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. via zoom.

- K. Approval of 2020-2021 Membership Renewal Fee to Participate in the Mexican American School Board Members Association (MASBA)

The Board approved the membership renewal fee to participate in the Mexican American School Board Members Association (MASBA) for fiscal year 2020-2021.

The MASBA organization provides assistance and training to its members to ensure that a quality education is available to all Texas students. In addition, school districts receive beneficial information such as newsletters and online resources. Paid membership allows the entire board and superintendent to attend all TEA recognized CEC sessions at the Annual Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, and free access to other MASBA events held throughout the year. MASBA has also made a commitment in providing scholarships to graduating seniors in every single member district based on student enrollment.

The annual membership fee is \$1,500.00 for a student enrollment of 10,000 or more. The funds are allocated in the 2020-2021 budget.

- L. Approval of the Waiver Request for the DAEP Student to Teacher Ratio Due to Circumstances Related to COVID-19

The Board approved the waiver request for the DAEP student to teacher ratio due to circumstances related to COVID-19.

Teachers previously assigned to Horton DAEP were moved to fill vacancies at multiple Weslaco ISD campuses since the district anticipated having few students enrolled at Horton DAEP during the fall semester due to COVID-19. Therefore, instead of the 15:1 required student to teacher ratio, the administration requested a waiver to increase the ratio to 20:1. Staff will continue to serve students in a virtual environment unless the parent has requested on-campus instruction. If on-campus enrollment increases past the 15:1 ratio, former Horton DAEP teachers will transition back to the campus.

- M. Approval of Extension of Proposal Awards for Safety & Security Systems Repair – District Wide (RFP #20-09-01)

The Board extended the contract for Safety & Security Systems Repair District-Wide to the following vendors:

- Security International Inc. – McAllen, Texas (Primary Vendor)
- Superior Alarms – McAllen, Texas (Primary Vendor)

The Safety & Security Department maintains a total of eighty-six (86) combined fire and security alarm panels throughout the school district. The repair services are contracted out on an as needed basis since the district does not have licensed technicians to maintain these devices. Aside from repairs on the alarm panels, there are other repairs needed on associated devices such as horn strobes, pull stations, duct detectors, smoke detectors, door & window contacts, motion sensors, sirens, and key pads.

Staff cannot determine the actual amount of this contract since service is requested only when repairs are needed. However, it is estimated that the total annual cost for service and parts may range from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

N. Approval of Proposal Awards:

1. Embroidery Items (Proposal #20-08-27)

Weslaco ISD campuses and departments utilize embroidery service to reward students and staff throughout the year. They also use this service for student competitions where they are representing Weslaco ISD.

The Board awarded the proposals received for embroidered items to the following vendors:

Vendor/Location	Total Awarded Points	Ranking	Award Status
Embroidery Express Weslaco, Texas	388	1 st	Primary Vendor
Duratex Apparel Pharr, Texas	366	2 nd	Primary Vendor
HDL Enterprises	365	3 rd	Primary Vendor
My World Publicity, LLC	333	4 th	Primary Vendor
Champion Awards and Apparel	327	5 th	Primary Vendor

No cost estimate is noted because staff does not know how many embroidered items will be purchased nor from which vendor. All purchases less than \$3,000.00 can be made from any of the five primary vendors. However, if the total purchased amount is greater than \$3,000.00, a quote must be obtained from any three of the five approved vendors.

2. Automotive & Bus-Parts & Supplies District-Wide (Proposal #21-09-01)

The Transportation Department is responsible for the maintenance of both the bus and vehicle fleets. Parts, equipment, supplies, and related items used for the repair and maintenance of the district's bus and vehicle fleets are purchased throughout the year.

The Transportation staff recommended approval of six (6) vendors for the Automobile Parts category and five (5) vendors for the Bus Parts category, taking into account the history and experience in working with these vendors in the past years.

The Board approved the following vendors as recommended by the administration:

Automotive Category	
Vendor	Location
Bill Bunton Auto Supply	Mercedes, Texas
Burton Auto Supply	Weslaco, Texas
LMG Sales/NAPA Auto Parts	Weslaco, Texas
O'Reilly Auto Parts	Weslaco, Texas
The King Corp.; dba, Arnold Oil Co.	Mercedes, Texas
Advance Auto Parts	Weslaco, Texas

Bus Parts Category	
Vendor	Location
Rush Truck Centers	Pharr, Texas
Chalks Truck Parts	Houston, Texas
Andy's Auto Air	Laredo, Texas
Heavy Duty Bus Parts	Willis, Texas
Burton Auto Supply	Weslaco, Texas

No dollar amount is mentioned because staff does not know the number of parts or equipment that will be needed in the future.

3. HVAC Filters (Proposal #21-09-02)

The Board awarded the proposal for HVAC filters to the following vendors:

Vendor/Location	Location	Rank
Superior Filtration Product, Inc.	North Salt Lake, Utah	Primary Vendor
Joe W. Fly Co., Inc.	Harlingen, Texas	Secondary Vendor
Johnstone Supply	La Feria, Texas	Secondary Vendor
Tex-Air Filters	San Antonio, Texas	Secondary Vendor

The Energy Management Department purchases pleated filters for the maintenance of the HVAC systems throughout the district. The Energy Management staff schedules filter changes on a monthly basis. Staff will purchase filters from the primary vendor; however, if the items are not available or cannot be delivered in a timely manner by the primary vendor, then the purchase will be made from any of the secondary vendors after obtaining quotes from all three. The total amount of filter purchases for the contract year will range from \$45,000.00 to \$65,000.00.

4. Senior Portraits for School Years 2020-21 & 2021-22 (Proposal #21-09-03)

The Board awarded the proposals for senior portraits to the following vendors as recommended by each respective campus. The principal's recommendation is based on the cost and the service history. There is no cost to the district for this service because the students will pay for the cost of the senior portraits.

Campus	Selected Photographer	Location
Weslaco High School	Alonzo Photographer	Weslaco, Texas
Weslaco East High School	Trevino's Digital Photography, Inc.	Pharr, Texas
South Palms Garden High School	Trevino's Digital Photography, Inc.	Pharr, Texas
CTE Early College High School	Trevino's Digital Photography, Inc.	Pharr, Texas

5. Letterman Jackets District-Wide (Proposal #21-09-04)

The Board awarded the proposal for letterman jackets to Texas Chenille & Embroidery, Inc. from San Antonio, Texas. The letterman jackets are given to junior and senior students as a reward and incentive for their participation in sports or other extracurricular activities such as Band, Cheerleading, Choir, Special Ed., and UIL. Each student's respective high school orders and pays for the jackets. The students are responsible for paying any additional items requested.

The cost per each jacket is \$40.00. The estimated amount of the award for the 2020-2021 year is \$20,000.00 for 500 jackets.

O. Approval of Budget Amendments

The Board approved the budget amendments as presented:

1. Assessment/Accountability – Local Fund to Cover Costs of Region One Virtual Conference, to Pay for TestHound Software Renewal for Testing, and to Pay for Lead4ward Testing Services: \$3,500.00
2. Cleckler-Heald Elementary – Local Fund to Purchase Chromebooks for Students: \$1,000.00
3. Sam Houston Elementary – Early Education Allotment Fund to Pay for Staff Development for Teachers, Provided by Sharron Wells in the Area of Math, to Benefit 2nd and 3rd Grade Students: \$2,000.00
4. Technology Department – Technology Special Fund to Record Roll-Forward for Technology Special Fund. Money will be Used for Instructional Computer Repairs at Individual Campuses: \$44,750.00
5. Business Office – Local Fund to Record Budget for Purchase Orders Rolled-Forward for Technology Equipment, Athletics Supplies and Equipment, and Security Guard Uniforms Ordered in Prior Year and Not Received by August 31, 2020: \$211,199.00
6. Business Office – Local Fund to Record Budget to Purchase PPE Equipment and Supplies, and Other Critical Items for Departments for Students and Staff in Response to COVID-19 for the 2020-2021 School Year: \$1,100,000.00

P. Approval of Monthly Tax Adjustments for July 2020

The Board of Trustees approved the monthly tax adjustments for July 2020 as presented.

Type of Tax	Current Levy	Prior Year Levies	Roll Back Taxes	Total
M&O Taxes	(\$19,702.05)	(\$ 32,071.95)		(\$ 51,869.00)
I&S Taxes	(\$ 377.55)	(\$ 2,673.11)		(\$ 3,050.66)
Total Adjustments	(\$20,174.60)	(\$34,745.06)		(\$ 54,919.66)

These negative tax adjustments represent a decrease in the tax collections for the year.

Q. Approval of Revisions Made to the 2020-2021 Weslaco ISD Asynchronous Instruction Plan for Remote Learning

On August 24, 2020, the Board approved the Weslaco ISD Asynchronous Instruction Plan for remote learning which was designed and vetted by Principals, CIFs, C&I Strategists, Mrs. Sue Peterson, Mr. Abel Aguilar, Dr. Priscilla Canales, and the 2020-2021 Teaching and Learning Continuum Design Committee.

WISD must submit an online application that includes attestations and open-ended questions. The plans must be reviewed and approved by TEA to continue to receive funding for asynchronous attendance after the end of the grace period which is the end of the third six-weeks reporting period.

Revisions made to the 2020-2021 WISD Asynchronous Instruction Plan are as follows:

- Changes to the instructional schedules synchronous minutes for 1st and 2nd grade (Elementary)
- More specificity to instructional language in ELAR and Math (Elementary)
- More clarity to synchronous and asynchronous instructional delivery (Middle School)
- More specificity to interventions with regard to special populations (All Levels)
- Science labs and CATE course have been adjusted to work in a remote setting (High School)

The Board approved the revisions made to the 2020-2021 Asynchronous Instruction Plan as presented.

XI. Discussion Items:

A. First Reading of Policy Update 115 from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)

Policy Update 115 was presented for first reading. No action was required.

TASB Policy Update 115 focuses on updating and reorganizing several policies in the FFE series of the manual addressing student welfare. FFEA continues to focus on counseling and a new code. FFEB focuses on mental health provisions.

Update 115 also includes several other policies affected by legislation from the 86th Legislative Session that were not included in Update 114 and incorporates numerous changes from revised Administrative Code rules. Recommended changes to local policies address the following topics:

- Board Policies
- Compensation and Benefits: Vacations and Holidays
- Employee Welfare: Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation
- Professional Development: Professional Meetings and Visitations
- Academic Achievement
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Admissions
- Attendance: Attendance Accounting
- Student Welfare: Child Abuse and Neglect
- Student Welfare: Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation
- Student Activities: Contests and Competition
- Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances
- Public Complaints

This policy will be presented for board approval at a future board meeting.

B. First Reading of Revision to Policy DMA (Local) Professional Development: Required Staff Development

Policy DMA (Local) was presented for first reading. No action was required.

The DMA Local Policy will be modified to reflect staff development requirements for G/T teachers, Pre-AP/AP teachers, and OnRamps instructors. The district practices these staff developments, but they need to be in Board Policy for staff accountability. In its current state, the policy only

addressed Time Equivalency. An inclusive local policy will help be transparent with all stakeholders. This policy will be presented for board approval at a future board meeting.

C. First Reading of Revision to Policy EHBB (Local) Special Programs: Gifted and Talented Students

Policy EHBB was presented for first reading. No action was required.

The EHBB local policy will be modified to reflect the current practices of the Gifted and Talented referral process for Kindergarten identification procedures. The revised Texas State Plan for Gifted and Talented Education requires that all kindergarten students be screened for the GT Program. The Intradistrict student transfer policy needs to be reflected in the current transfer student processes in the GT Handbook.

This policy will be presented for board approval at a future board meeting.

D. Interim Financial Report for the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2020

The Board acknowledged the Interim Financial Report for the twelve months ended August 31, 2020 as prepared by the Business Office. This report does not present the entire financial activity for the fiscal year. Business Office staff is currently working on closing the books for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2020.

Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, presented the following report.

Source	Budget	Received & Receivable	Variance	Percentage
5700 Local Source	26,768,076	26,686,308	(81,768)	99.69%
5800 State Source	133,167,387	128,869,976	(4,297,411)	96.77%
5900 Federal Sources	15,224,953	11,972,672	(3,252,281)	78.64%
Totals	175,160,416	167,528,956	(7,631,460)	95.64%

- Of the total revenues budgeted of \$175,160,416; the district received \$167,528,956, which represents 95.64% of the budget.
- Of \$182,885,265% in budgeted expenditures, the district expended or encumbered \$160,851,008, which represents 87.95%.

Dr. Rivera said that the Board could decide later on how to use the surplus funds. He acknowledged Mr. Sanchez and his staff for a job well done in balancing the budget and having surplus funds.

E. Acknowledgement of Hidalgo County Tax Office Collection Reports for July & August 2020: Current Taxes and Delinquent Taxes

The Board acknowledged the Collection Report for July & August 2020 as presented. Section 31.10 Property Tax Code requires the Tax Assessor/Collector to submit to the governing body of the taxing unit a written report made under oath accounting for all taxes collected for the unit during the preceding month.

Listed below is the July 2020 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office:

	Original Tax Levy	Collected To Date	Modifications (Adjustments) to Date	Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2019-2020	% Tax Collections 2018-2019	2019-20 Versus 2018/2019
Current Taxes	\$ 25,421,226	\$23,961,723	(\$219,786)	\$ 1,239,717	95.08%	94.77%	0.31% Higher
Delinquent Taxes Prior Years Levy	4,069,728	727,544	(282,970)	3,059,213	19.21%	24.96%	5.75% Lower
Rollback	58,547	118,707	104,624	44,465	72.75%	17.63%	
Totals	\$ 29,549,501	\$ 24,807,974	(\$ 398,132)	\$4,343,395			

- The collection of **current taxes** for fiscal year 2019-2020 through July 31 is 0.31% higher than the current taxes for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- The collection of **delinquent taxes** for fiscal year 2019-2020 through July31 is 5.75% lower than the delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2019-2020 fiscal year in their July 2020 report.

Listed below is the August 2020 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office:

	Original Tax Levy	Collected To Date	Modifications (Adjustments) to Date	Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2019-2020	% Tax Collections 2018-2019	2019-20 Versus 2018/2019
Current Taxes	\$ 25,421,226	\$24,037,947	(\$219,786)	\$ 1,163,493	95.38%	95.24%	0.14% Higher
Delinquent Taxes Prior Years Levy	4,069,728	767,251	(282,970)	3,019,507	20.26%	26.77%	6.51% Lower
Rollback	58,547	118,707	104,624	44,465	72.75%	17.63%	
Totals	\$ 29,549,501	\$ 24,923,905	(\$ 398,132)	\$4,227,464			

- The collection of **current taxes** for fiscal year 2019-2020 through August 31 is 0.14% higher than the current taxes for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- The collection of **delinquent taxes** for fiscal year 2019-2020 through August 31 is 6.51% lower than the delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2019-2020 fiscal year in their July 2020 report.

XII. Discussion and Possible Action Items:

A. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve Local Policy (DIA) Employee Welfare: Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

The United States Department of Education Title IX Final Rule is clear, predictable, and effective at ensuring schools have the tools they need to address incidents of sexual harassment in their programs and activities. Under the Final Rule, schools know the importance of responding to such incidents appropriately by supporting survivors, as well as by providing a fair, transparent process for investigating and adjudicating sexual harassment matters. The Final Rule will carry the force and effect of law as of August 14, 2020.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve Local Policy (DIA) Employee Welfare: Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a CARES Act Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the County of Hidalgo, Texas and the Weslaco Independent School District for the Installation of WiFi Communication Towers on Weslaco Independent School District Properties to Assist the Citizens of Hidalgo County with Distance Learning for Students as well as Improving Telework Capabilities for Families

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency, Hidalgo County, in cooperation with WISD, has identified and is working toward developing innovative learning strategies that include access to a Public Internet Wi-Fi network as part of this Project. Hidalgo County will install Wi-Fi communication towers on WISD properties to assist the citizens of Hidalgo County with distance learning, including technological improvements, as well as improving telework capability, in conjunction with school and business closings. The goal is to provide free internet access to identified areas within the District and County that will enable online distance learning for families that do not have the means for internet connectivity. Approximately 7,500 WISD students will be able to connect to this free Public Wi-Fi.

WISD will be responsible in providing a 10' x 10' section of property at the three locations (Cleckler-Heald Elementary School, Rudy Silva Elementary School, and Mary Hoge Middle School) that will be used for the 75' Communication Towers. The District will also provide electricity with one 20 amp electrical circuit to each of the towers and install a fence around the base of each tower once installation is complete.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the CARES Act Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the County of Hidalgo, Texas and the Weslaco Independent School District for the installation of WiFi communication towers on Weslaco Independent School District Properties to assist the citizens of Hidalgo County with distance learning for students as well as improving telework capabilities for families. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval for Administration to Seek Quotes from Approved Purchasing Cooperative Vendors that Provide Indoor Air Quality Improvement Systems

The COVID-19 pandemic raised concerns with indoor air quality (IAQ) of all Weslaco ISD facilities. Reports of the coronavirus potentially being airborne have prompted the district to look to potential means of disinfecting the air in all the district's air-conditioned spaces.

Mr. Erasmo Lopez pointed out that this project was an emergency due to health concerns and wanted to know the fastest way to get this project done. He said that he had addressed this item to the superintendent about a month ago and would like this project done "sooner than later". He asked if the District could go through the Buyboard to obtain the equipment and stressed the importance of getting it completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Andres Sanchez replied that staff would need to request quotes from approved purchasing cooperative vendors that provide Indoor Air Quality Improvements Systems. Once evaluated, staff will request a Board Workshop and Special Meeting to present the results and ask for possible approval.

Board President Isidoro Nieto directed staff to follow up on this project as soon as possible.

Erasmus Lopez made the motion to approve the Administration to seek quotes from approved purchasing cooperative vendors that provide indoor air quality improvement systems. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Rivera asked staff to do research on what other districts are doing in this area.

D. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Delegate to the Superintendent the Authority to Approve the Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Other Critical Items Needed for the Safety of our Students and Staff from Approved Purchasing Cooperative Vendors

Due to the ongoing pandemic caused by COVID-19, the school district has purchased small amounts of supplies for staff. However, with the possibility of in-class instruction becoming a possibility again, it has become critical that the district purchase all of the required safety equipment and supplies for students and staff members.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and other associated supplies and equipment is now a requirement for our schools. Since the cost for these items is not budgeted, the administration requested that authority be granted to the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Priscilla Canales, to approve all purchases for these items up to \$1,100,000. All purchases will be from approved purchasing cooperative vendors. This will allow the district to purchase the necessary supplies without having to wait for a board meeting to get approval.

The intended purchases are for the following items:

- PPE (face masks and/or face shields for students and staff)
- Desk shields for students and staff at the schools
- Custodial supplies (sanitizer for all classrooms and offices district-wide)
- Maintenance supplies (retrofit water fountains/bottle filling stations/hand washing stations and supplies, plexi-glass and partitions supplies)

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to grant the Superintendent of Schools the purchasing authority to approve all necessary purchases related to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical items from approved purchasing cooperative vendors up to \$1,100,000. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Richard Rivera commented that staff needs to follow all proper purchasing procedures to avoid getting into any problems.

Mr. Armando Cuellar wanted to know how long it would take to receive the supplies. Dr. Canales replied that the district has basic supplies on hand provided by TEA to all school districts; however, the administration wants to be able to restock the necessary items to have available. The basic items provided by TEA include sanitizer, face shields, gloves, and masks for adults and children. In addition to these basic items, staff will order desk shields.

Board President Isidoro Nieto wanted to know how many masks TEA provided for teachers.

- Staff will provide information in the Board update.

Mr. Lopez wanted to know if all the schools had PPE supplies on hand and suggested that the administration assign an individual to keep track of the supplies that are distributed. He would like staff to distribute the supplies equitably by the number of staff and students, and not per building.

According to Mr. Sanchez, the schools have received half of the supplies and will be receiving additional supplies.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Andrew Gonzalez and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to grant the Superintendent of Schools the purchasing authority to approve all necessary purchases related to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical items from approved purchasing cooperative vendors up to \$1,100,000.

Patrick Kennedy and Dr. Richard Rivera left the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

XIII. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 9:06 p.m. to discuss the following items:

A. Personnel Matters (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074)

1. Employment of Personnel
2. Resignations
3. Deliberation Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074 and 551.071)

B. Deliberation Regarding Acquisition of Real Property (Tx. Gov't Code 551.072)

C. Consultation with Attorney Regarding: a) Pending or Contemplated Litigation: b) a Settlement Offer: or c) a Matter in Which the Duty of the Attorney to the Weslaco ISD under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas Clearly Conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Tex. Gov't. Code 551.071)

XIV. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:20 p.m. to take action on the following items:

A. Possible Action, If Necessary, on Items Discussed in Closed Meeting

1. Discussion and Possible Action on New Employment

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as presented.

New Employment		
Name	Position	Location
Amy N. Nittler	Special Education Teacher	Weslaco High School
Randy Alan Smith	JROTC Senior Army Instructor	Weslaco East High School

Reassignment		
Claudia Mata	From: Teacher @ Cleckler-Heald Elementary School 187 Days	To: Technology Instruction Coach @ Margo Elementary School 207 Days

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as recommended by the superintendent. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Resignations

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as presented.

Resignations		
Name	Position/Location	Reason/Effective Date
Melissa Alejandro	Special Education Teacher Weslaco High School	Melissa Alejandro resigned to accept a position with Harlingen CISD, effective August 31, 2020.
Andres Cantu	Assistant Athletic Director Athletics Department	Andres Cantu resigned to accept a position with another organization, effective September 14, 2020.
Arturo Castillo	Health Teacher Mary Hoge Middle School	Arturo Castillo retired after 32 years in education, with 13 years of service at Weslaco ISD, effective August 31, 2020.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as recommended by the superintendent.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Acquisition of Real Property (Tx. Gov't Code 551.072)

Non-action item.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.