



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*



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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:  
Place:  
Date  
Time:

Special Board Meeting  
Virtual Meeting  
September 8, 2020  
6:52 P.M.

Notice for 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/t5gcD-mkCWM>

## AGENDA

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

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

### III. Public Comments

The public had the opportunity to participate in public comments by registering no later than 5:30 p.m. at the following web link: <https://www.wisd.us/superintendentboard/new-page>.

No one signed up to address the Board.

### IV. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Purchase Additional Internet Hotspots to Be Used by Students for On-Line Learning

On July 6, 2020, the Board approved the purchase of 700 internet hotspots. Subsequently, on August 3, 2020, the Board approved the purchase of up to 1,500 additional hotspots. The hotspots have unlimited data with filtered internet access on a 12-month subscription. After the 12 months, the district will have the option to renew or cancel and return the hotspots.

Based on a survey that went out to parents as part of the registration process, the Administration determined there was still a need for 1,500 more hotspots. The Administration recommended that the Board approve up to 2,000 additional hotspots with a 1-year subscription from T-Mobile from Bellevue, Washington. Dr. Canales thanked the Board for their support of remote learning and technology access for all students.

Mr. Andres Sanchez informed the Board that the district spent \$528,000.00 for the previous hotspots. The additional 2,000 hotspots will cost \$480,000.00.

Dr. Rivera asked how the district was going to pay for this purchase. As per Mr. Sanchez, the funding for this purchase will be obtained from the function 11 budget initially earmarked for the one-time incentive payment for employees as part of the 2020-2021 budget.

Dr. Rivera commented that the hotspots would greatly benefit the students and therefore made the motion to approve the purchase of up to 2,000 additional Internet Hotspots with a 1-year subscription from T-Mobile from Bellevue, Washington to be used by students for online instruction. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

#### **Questions/Comments from the Board:**

Mr. Lopez wanted to know if staff was monitoring the hotspots to ensure they were working properly and providing good service, prior to purchasing any more hotspots. He wanted to know what they were going to do with the hotspots in case the pandemic was over in a couple of months and all the students were back at school.

Mr. Andres Sanchez replied that Ms. Elma Calvillo (District Library Coordinator) and Ms. Renee Dyer (WEHS Librarian) have been monitoring the hotspots to ensure they are working properly. Once the students return to school, they will be able to continue using the hotspots to complete their school assignments at home.

Dr. Rivera commented that technology is very important for students because it will continue in the future and therefore this purchase is necessary.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Dr. Rivera and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve the purchase of up to 2,000 additional Internet Hotspots with a 1-year subscription from T-Mobile from Bellevue, Washington to be used by students for online instruction.

Board President Isidoro Nieto commented that it was very important to have the additional hotspots for the students and staff to use now and in the future.

Armando Cuellar inquired on the status of the waiting list for hotspots and asked how students without internet service were receiving assistance. He wants to make sure all students receive the technology resources available so that they do not fall behind.

Mr. Aguilar informed the Board that staff was closely monitoring the distribution of all devices. The district received 500 hotspots today and should receive 200 more on Friday or on Monday of next week. The additional 2,000 hotspots should take care of these needs. Additionally, paper packet alternatives are in place to assist students who are without internet service and teachers are reaching out to parents to offer support services to students as best as they can.

#### V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.