



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:  
Location:  
Date:  
Time:

Regular Board Meeting  
WISD Board Room  
319 W. Fourth Street  
October 12, 2020  
6:08 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/wVxmUIPM5Ao>

## 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:

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

### Student Recognition

Weslaco High School FFA student Noah Cuellar was elected as the 2020-2021 Vice-President for Citrus Valley District. Citrus Valley District consists of 15 school districts in our surrounding area. The elections took place the week of September 14-18. The selection committee judged nominee applications, conducted virtual interviews, and listened to virtual speeches along with delegates voting for a candidate. Weslaco FFA is extremely proud of Noah Cuellar for this awesome accomplishment. Noah's sponsors are Juan Cadena and Alonzo Garza.



### WISD A+ Employee of Year Recognition Program

Ms. Renee Dyer, WEHS Librarian, was recognized as the A+ Employee of Year for the month of October. Ms. Dyer took the initiative and resolved an issue during unprecedented circumstances. A lifelong learner herself, she helped mobilize the distribution of Chromebooks with other campus librarians to ensure that every Weslaco ISD student would be ready for remote learning. Ms. Dyer made a positive impact on countless students.



The Board acknowledged the custodians, principals, and staff members for working together in getting the schools ready to meet the needs of the students for the start of the school year.

VI. Proclamation for National Custodial Day, October 2, 2020

The Board proclaimed October 2, 2020 as “National Custodial Day”.

**WHEREAS**, National Custodial Day encourages appreciation to the men and women who keep our schools and workplaces across the district running smoothly; and

**WHEREAS**, Weslaco ISD has a Custodial Department that conducts custodial and maintenance duties for district facilities and properties; and

**WHEREAS**, these workers operate behind the scenes and are often underappreciated for the hard work they do day after day; and

**WHEREAS**, now more than ever, custodial employees are on the frontlines and contribute to the safety and well-being of students and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the work is demanding as they clean, disinfect and sanitize all surfaces in an effort to eliminate contaminants.

**THEREFORE, I**, Isidoro Nieto, President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim October 2, 2020, as “**NATIONAL CUSTODIAL DAY**”.

VII. Proclamation for Texas Education Human Resources Day, October 14, 2020

The Board proclaimed October 14, 2020 as “Texas Education Human Resources Day”.

**WHEREAS**, the Human Resources division is instrumental in recruiting, selecting, resourcing, and retaining quality staff in support of providing an excellent education for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Resources plays a key role in fostering satisfaction and loyalty among employees by allowing for professional growth and development and keeping employees informed about policies, working conditions, compensation, and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Resources monitors and manages current and future workforce trends, organizational culture, legal and legislative trends, and ethical and social responsibility; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Resources is an important part of district leadership and is vital to the overall productivity and efficiency of the district’s workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Resources is a valued and respected department that sustains the district’s most important asset — its people;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Isidoro Nieto, Weslaco ISD School Board President, do hereby support and proclaim October 14, 2020 as **TEXAS EDUCATION HUMAN RESOURCES DAY** throughout the district. The Board also encourages students, staff, and parents to express their appreciation to our human resources team members for their dedication and commitment to Weslaco ISD employees and students.

VIII. Proclamation for National Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, 2020

The Board proclaimed the week of October 23-31, 2020 as “National Red Ribbon Week”.

**WHEREAS**, National “Red Ribbon” Campaign will be celebrated in the Weslaco Independent School District during the week of October 23 through October 31; and

**WHEREAS**, the Weslaco Independent School District and the City of Weslaco are coordinating this grass roots community awareness program in a united effort with representatives throughout the community; and

**WHEREAS**, business, government, law enforcement, schools, religious institutions, service organizations, youth, medical, senior citizens, military, sports teams and individuals will demonstrate their commitment to drug and alcohol free, healthy life-styles; and

**WHEREAS**, the community of Weslaco further commits its dedication to ensure the success of the “Red Ribbon” Campaign; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Isidoro Nieto, Weslaco ISD School Board President, do hereby support and proclaim October 23 – October 31, 2020 as “**RED RIBBON WEEK**”.

in Weslaco ISD to encourage all Weslaco citizens to participate in drug and alcohol education awareness activities, making a visible statement that everyone is strongly committed to drug and alcohol free, healthy life-styles.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Weslaco Independent School District encourages all its citizens to pledge: “**TO BE DRUG FREE**”.

IX. Proclamation for Dyslexia Awareness Month, October 2020

The Board proclaimed the month of October as “Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

**WHEREAS**, dyslexia is a language-based learning disability which often limits a student’s ability to succeed in a traditional classroom setting; and

**WHEREAS**, neurological in origin, dyslexia affects the way the brain processes information and is a leading cause of difficulties with reading, writing, and spelling; and

**WHEREAS**, special education opportunities, including highly-trained teachers, multisensory learning programs, and individualized instruction, are vital to a dyslexic person’s future success; and

**WHEREAS**, early identification, alternative instruction, and extra support from teachers, families and friends enable dyslexic students to achieve in school and excel in later employment.

**THEREFORE, I**, Isidoro Nieto, President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim October 2020, as “**DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH**” in Weslaco ISD. I endorse the observance of Dyslexia Awareness Month and encourage recognition of the benefits of early identification and effective teaching to the quality of life of dyslexic students.

X. Proclamation for Principals Month, October 2020

The Board proclaimed the month of October as “Principals Month”.

**AS** school leaders, principals are entrusted with our most valuable resource — our young people. These students are our promise for the future, and it is critical that they receive a rigorous and well-rounded education.

**PRINCIPALS** are more than just caretakers of their schools. Principals are expected to be educational leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, spokesmen, budget analysts and guardians of policy mandates and initiatives. Principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to maintain high curriculum standards, develop mission statements and set performance objectives.

**THE** National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals — joined by their state affiliates, the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association and the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals — have designated the month of October as a time to recognize the contributions of elementary, middle and high school principals.

**AT** this time, I encourage all Texans to recognize the important role principals play ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Isidoro Nieto, Weslaco ISD School Board President, do hereby support and proclaim October 2020 as “**PRINCIPALS MONTH**” throughout the district in accordance with Texas Governor Greg Abbott. The Board also encourages students, staff, and parents to express their appreciation to our school principals for their dedication and commitment to Weslaco ISD students.

## XI. Public Comments

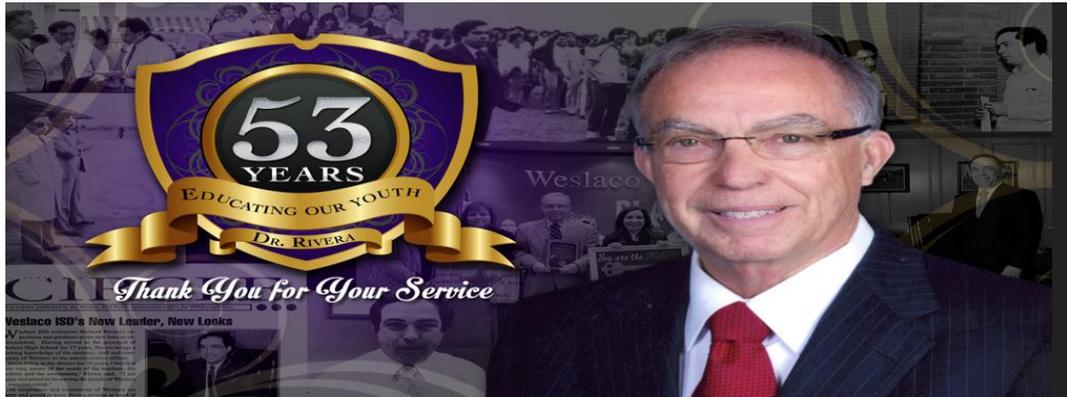
The public had the opportunity to participate in public comments by registering no later than 5:45 p.m. at the following web link: <https://www.wisd.us/superintendentboard/new-page>.

No one signed up to address the Board.

## XII. Superintendent’s Report

### •Tribute

The Board paid a second 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.



- District administrators relayed messages of gratitude, inspiration, and extended best wishes to Dr. Rivera through a video presented during the meeting.
- In addition, Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Commissioner David Fuentes and State Representative Armando Martinez read a proclamation in Dr. Rivera’s honor for his years of service to Weslaco ISD and for his commitment and dedication to the students, staff, and parents. Commissioner David Fuentes and State Representative Armando Martinez each presented a flag to Dr. Rivera.
- Through video conference, United States Congressman Filemon Vela and United States Congressman Vicente Gonzalez relayed messages of gratitude to Dr. Rivera for his contributions to the district and for making an impact on the lives of students, staff, and parents throughout his career. They also presented him with a flag that was flown over at the capital in his honor.

Dr. Rivera commented that during his time at Weslaco ISD he had a lot of support from teachers, employees, his mother, and from his wife and children. The job consisted of long hours but it was a team effort that contributed to all the accomplishments. He said, “In education, it’s like a puzzle and every single part has to fit for us to be successful - from administrators, principals, school board, maintenance, teachers, counselors, librarians, aides, secretaries, and security staff. I was blessed by God that everything was able to fit. I am a simple man that was able to survive 53 years. I gave it my best, mistakes were made and there are regrets, but no one is perfect. God blessed me with all the wonderful people around me to be able to do what I did through these 53 years, but again, it was a team effort that we were able to be successful.” He thanked everyone who came across his life during these 53 years. He concluded by saying that with the leadership of the Board and their commitment, the District will continue to become better and second to no one.

Dr. Canales acknowledged Dr. Rivera for his commitment of 53 amazing years in education. She announced that the district would honor Dr. Rivera with another tribute in November.

Board President Isidoro Nieto shared that he had been in close contact with Dr. Rivera throughout his years at Weslaco ISD. Dr. Rivera was his 7<sup>th</sup> grade football coach and then went on to hire Mr. Nieto as a college tutor, assistant principal, and principal. He thanked Dr. Rivera for everything he did for him and his family.

•COVID-19

Dr. Canales presented the following information regarding on-campus student attendance and teacher volunteers.

- > A total of 279 students are attending school on campus.
- > Teacher Volunteers as of September 30 through October 9, 2020: 31
- > 11% of students are having problems with connectivity.

	Student Count 10/05/2020	Student Count 10/06/2020	Student Count 10/07/2020	Student Count 10/08/2020	Student Count 10/09/2020	Teacher Volunteer Count 10/05/2020	Teacher Volunteer Count 10/06/2020	Teacher Volunteer Count 10/07/2020	Teacher Volunteer Count 10/08/2020	Teacher Volunteer Count 10/09/2020	On-Campus Student Attendance and Teacher Volunteers
Airport Elementary	10	12	10	11	7	4	4	4	4	4	
Rudy Silva Elementary	8	14	16	14	9	4	6	6	6	6	
ELF Academy	75	80	81	72	64	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	
B. Garza Middle School	20	22	15	21	18	2	2	2	2	3	
Central Middle School	8	6	9	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	
Cuellar Middle School	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	
Mary Hoge Middle School	8	8	11	16	12	1	1	1	1	1	
<b>TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
CTE Early College	1	2	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Weslaco High School	11	12	13	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	
Weslaco East High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
South Palms Gardens High School	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	4	4	
<b>TOTAL HIGH SCHOOLS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	
											<b>Student Count Avg. for 9/30/2020-10/9/2020</b>
											<b>Teacher Volunteer Count Avg. for 9/30/2020-10/9/2020</b>
											251
											24
											28
											7
											16,677 (1.7%)
											<b>TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT</b>

- > Below is the number of students who are utilizing transportation services.
  - A video released on social media shows how transportation staff is following CDC guidelines in implementing safety measures for disinfecting the buses to ensure the safety of all students.

### Transportation Services

NUMBER OF STUDENTS		
	Morning	Afternoon
High School	5	8
Middle School	19	19
Elementary School	66	72
Special Needs	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>102</b>



- > The picture below shows maintenance staff putting up plexi-glass shields at the campuses.
  - Staff is working hard to ensure that all safety measures are in place as per CDC guidelines.
  - A video is also available on social media.

### Safety Measures



- > Custodial staff received training in the areas of sanitation and disinfecting in order to create the safest environment possible for students and staff.
  - A video is also available on social media.

### Disinfecting Video



- Employee Wellness Resource Center
  - > Norma Brewer (Director for Student Support Services) and her staff have established MTTTS teams at each campus. The teams are comprised of counselors, nurses, teachers, and administrators. Meetings are held to allow the team the opportunity to address any concerns on their campus. The purpose is to promote staff wellness to ensure that employees feel safe and valued.

Mrs. Melva Segura, Human Resources Director, works closely with the team and refers staff members who feel unsafe to the Employee Wellness Center where they receive additional health support/resources and have the opportunity to discuss any concerns.

## Employee Wellness Resource Center

### Multi-tiered Systems of Support Teams

It is important that we build a culture of trust where school staff feel valued and know how to access support. The environment of our schools has an impact on the well-being of our teachers and staff. We are ready to provide the necessary support that our WISD employees need.

The MTSS teams will promote staff wellness. The teams will help in assessing the needs of the campus and use that data for planning. This will also help build a healthy school culture that promotes wellness and resiliency.

### Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

The team will do the following:

- Promote staff wellness
- Assess the well-being of staff
- Evaluate survey results
- School culture that promotes wellness and resiliency
- Equip staff with the most relevant PD
- Provide staff resources for mental health support
- Open a platform to discuss concerns

## Employee Wellness Resource Center

[WISD Educator Wellness Resource Center Link](#)



The team has also put together an Educator Wellness Resource Center that provides additional support in the area of mental health. Various resources relating to suicide, anxiety, depression, and trauma can be found on the WISD Educator Wellness Resource Center link that is posted on the HR website.

>The board members thanked Dr. Canales and Mrs. Brewer for their efforts in providing additional resources and support to teachers and employees to ensure they feel safe.

>Patrick Kennedy wanted to know if teachers were taking advantage of these services and if the information was confidential.

Mrs. Brewer shared that some teachers have received services and more referrals are coming in on a daily basis. Counselors have been trained to provide these services to staff and students. If necessary,

counselors can refer employees to health agencies that have licensed professionals who can also provide services to district staff. The Board approved several health agencies in August.

•Bilingual Evaluation and Exceptions' Requirement

Mr. Elias Trevino, Bilingual/ESL Director, presented on the WISD English Learner Evaluation 2020.

> 4,273 students are English Learners (First language is not English)

Below is a breakdown on the number of ELs in the district.

## *Weslaco ISD – English Learner (EL) Population*

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Total Enrollment – **16,674**

ELs – **4,273**

- Bilingual students in our Elementary Schools – **2,189**
- English as a Second Language students in our Secondary Schools – **2,084**
- 25% of WISD population

Over 99% - Spanish is first language

Other languages – Chinese, Vietnamese, Philippine, Urdu, and French



> Students are monitored by the LPAC Committee to ensure they are being successful.

## *Language Proficiency Assessment Committee Monitor ELs*

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- All ELs are monitored by the campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC)
  - Beginning of Year – placement and interventions
  - Middle of Year – state assessment decisions
  - End of Year – placement for the following year and exit decisions
  - Every Six weeks – academic progress, discipline, attendance
- English Learners that have met exit criteria are monitored for 2 years \*
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Year Monitored Students - 75
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Monitored Students - 136
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Year Monitored Students \* - 446



- >No data is available from the past year due to Governor Abbott’s suspension of the STARR and EOC testing.
- >The gains in 2019 are attributed to staff development. The District provides teachers the necessary resources.

### Academic Progress of WISD ELs

EL Snapshot Students																		
Grade / Subject	Math			Reading			Writing			Science			Social Studies			EOC		
	Approaches			Approaches			Approaches			Approaches			Approaches			Approaches		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
3rd	73%	78%	82%	59%	69%	81%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th	71%	79%	76%	57%	61%	77%	53%	47%	63%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5th	85%	92%	95%	76%	78%	84%	-	-	-	72%	77%	80%	-	-	-	-	-	-
6th	51%	55%	63%	40%	44%	48%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7th	64%	69%	68%	52%	50%	55%	57%	48%	54%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8th	80%	83%	88%	63%	63%	69%	-	-	-	59%	65%	69%	41%	56%	53%	-	-	-
English I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29%	36%	42%
Algebra I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75%	78%	74%
Biology I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73%	74%	78%
English II	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33%	30%	36%
US History	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65%	73%	74%

WISD  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
Online Strong

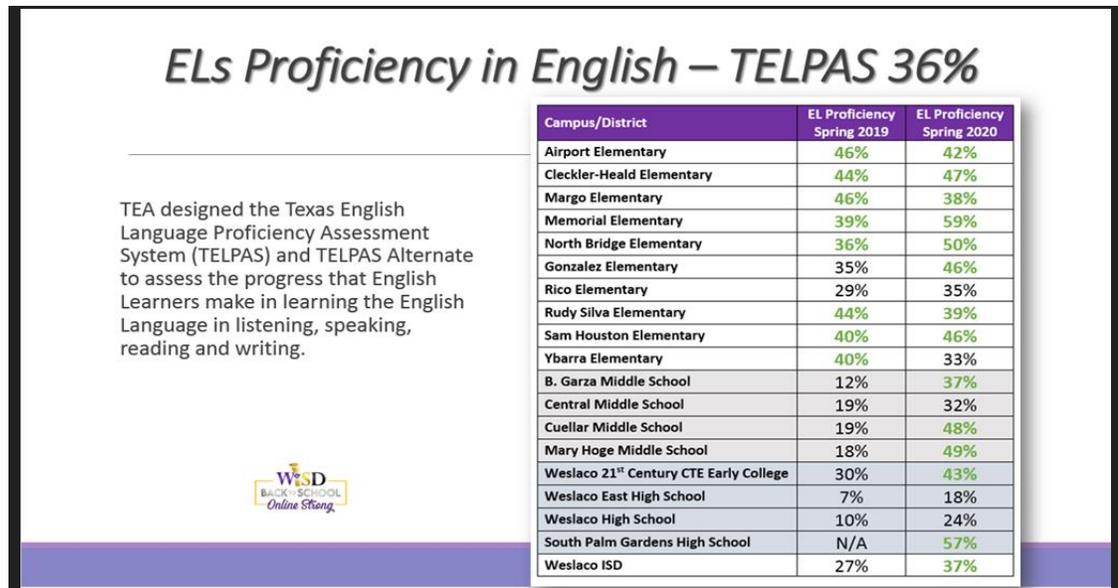
- >As reflected in the chart below, EL students who have gone through the program are more successful than the regular population, scoring between 80-100 percent. The students are doing very well.

### Academic Progress of Monitored ELs

Monitored EL Students																		
Grade / Subject	Math			Reading			Writing			Science			Social Studies			EOC		
	Approaches			Approaches			Approaches			Approaches			Approaches			Approaches		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
3rd	100%	95%	100%	100%	95%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th	93%	100%	96%	79%	92%	100%	64%	92%	92%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5th*	100%	100%	97%	100%	100%	100%	-	-	-	96%	95%	97%	-	-	-	-	-	-
6th	83%	72%	93%	86%	81%	92%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7th	90%	93%	94%	88%	91%	91%	86%	90%	93%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8th*	97%	98%	97%	97%	93%	97%	-	-	-	91%	95%	92%	85%	86%	88%	-	-	-
English I*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73%	80%	87%
Algebra I*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94%	96%	93%
Biology I*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	98%	96%
English II*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78%	78%	82%
US History*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84%	95%	98%

WISD  
BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
Online Strong

- >As required by the federal government and state, the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) must assess on a yearly basis that English Learners are progressing with respect to English proficiency.
- >TEA requirement: 36% of students have to show growth
- >The chart below shows the schools that met the requirement in 2019/2020 (percentage in green).
  - More students are accomplishing the English proficiency year after year.



- > The District submitted a waiver to TEA in the fall of 2019 as a result of 78 teachers who were not fully certified Bilingual and were serving English Learners.
- > 10% of the \$2 million received by the State has to go towards staff development.

### *Bilingual Education Exception in 2019-2020*

- In the Fall of 2019, WISD requested an exception for the bilingual education program as a result of 78 teachers serving English Learners who were not fully certified Bilingual.
- 10% of total Bilingual Education Funds for Professional Learning provided through the comprehensive Professional Learning plan.
- Although not fully Bilingual certified, these teachers provide the cognitive, linguistic, and affective support needed for our students to be successful.
- Full Bilingual Certification requires successful passing of Bilingual Comprehensive exam and the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) which require teachers to listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish.



## ***Bilingual/ESL Teachers Training***

- 2-day Differentiated Instruction Fiesta Conference – August 5-6, 2020
- Bilingual Comprehensive Test prep sessions
- ESL Test Prep sessions
- BTLPT Test Prep sessions
- 25<sup>th</sup> Annual RGV-TABE Conference, South Padre Island
- Rio Grande Valley Conference for Teachers of Mathematics (RGVCTM) – Fall 2019
- Rio Grande Valley Conference for Teachers of Science (RGVCTS) – Fall 2019
- Early Childhood Symposium – Region 1



## ***Bilingual Education Exception in 2020-2021***

- For the 2020-2021 school year, WISD will once again be requesting an exception from TEA
- A total of 71 teachers will be under the exception
  - Successful passing of test
  - ELs placed with Bilingual teachers
  - New hires must be Bilingual certified
- Bilingual/ESL Teachers training continues (*10% Budget Requirement – PD Plan*)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Differentiated Instruction Fiesta Conference – August 2021
  - Bilingual, ESL, and BTLPT test prep sessions throughout the year
  - RGVCTM and RGVCTS Fall 2020
  - Early Childhood Symposium
  - Locally developed Bilingual/ESL online courses



- > The District will be requesting an exception from TEA for the 2020-2021 school year.
- > The numbers under the exception have gone down from three years ago, from 94 to 71. The goal is to get more teachers fully Bilingual certified.
- > All new hires must be Bilingual certified.

Mr. Nieto wanted to know if the 71 teachers under this exception were expected to be fully certified by the end of the year.

Mrs. Segura, Human Resources Director, explained that the exam is very rigorous and therefore TEA allows the District to request an exception and apply for permits for teachers who are willing to attempt and challenge the exam. The one-year waiver covers them from the beginning of the year (the date they apply for the permit) to the end of the year. If a teacher does not pass the exam, the district must find additional staff at the campus to service the needs of the students.

Mr. Trevino pointed out that TEA only requires that the district submit the number of teachers under this exception and not their names. The teachers must pass two exams, which are very difficult. The exams require them to read, write, and listen and speak fluently in Spanish. The goal is to have all teachers certified. All new teachers coming in to the district must be bilingual certified which will curtail the need to request an exception in the future.

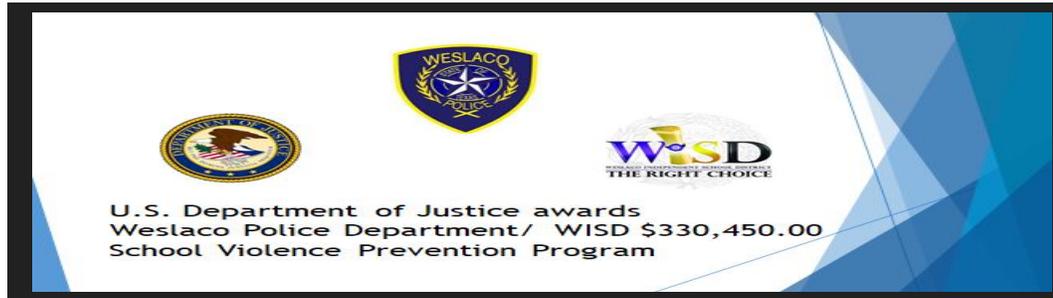
Mr. Nieto asked if the 71 teachers were all English teachers. According to Mrs. Segura, the teachers in the middle and high school grade levels are English teachers; the teachers in the elementary level can be anyone serving in the reading and writing areas. Mrs. Segura clarified that every district in the State of Texas is participating and taking advantage of requesting an exception due to the shortage of bilingual certified teachers. The district has changed their hiring practice and has strictly required that all new hires must be ESL/Bilingual certified in the elementary level. The district has enough bilingual certified teachers within the district to meet the needs of the students in case a teacher does not successfully pass their exam and changes are necessary.

•Grants and Awards

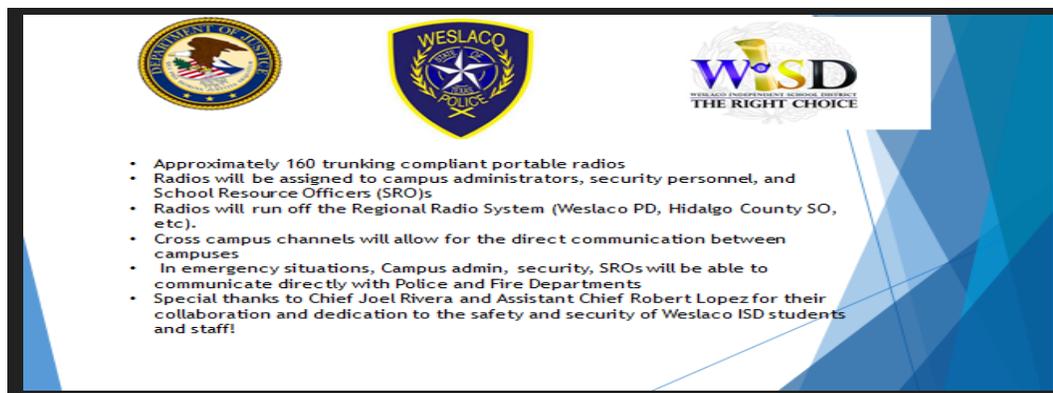
Mr. Mike De La Rosa, Risk Management/Employee Benefits Director, presented the following report.

> 2020 COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program

The Weslaco Police Department applied for the COPS grant on behalf of the school district. The grant is open to school districts across the entire United States. This is a collaborative effort between the Weslaco Police Department and Weslaco ISD.



>The district will receive 160 trunking complaint portable radios to be used by staff in the following manner.



Chief Joel Rivera gave a brief overview on the application process. He explained that as part of a collaborative effort with the school district in the prevention of school violence, a team of officers (crime prevention specialists) were assigned to the campuses to do a threat assessment of the schools. School Resource Officers were placed at the schools and were responsible for reporting information back to Chief Rivera. In working together with Mr. De La Rosa and the superintendent, a list of priorities was developed. The main priority identified was communication between administrators, campuses, and with the police

and fire departments. The Police Department applied for this grant because it would allow them to purchase radios which would assist with the communication process. This collaborative effort will greatly benefit the school district and the Police and Fire Departments in their daily operations.

The board members thanked everyone involved in securing this grant and were very appreciative because the radios would provide fast and direct communication in case of an emergency.

➤ Hidalgo County 25% Funding Match under CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funding

During this pandemic the school district has invested a lot of money on hotspots, mice, and headsets for students and document cameras for teachers. Hidalgo County has approved a relief fund reimbursing the school district \$375,879.94 under the CARES ACT Coronavirus Relief Fund.

➤ Hidalgo County Public Wifi Project: 3 Towers in WISD

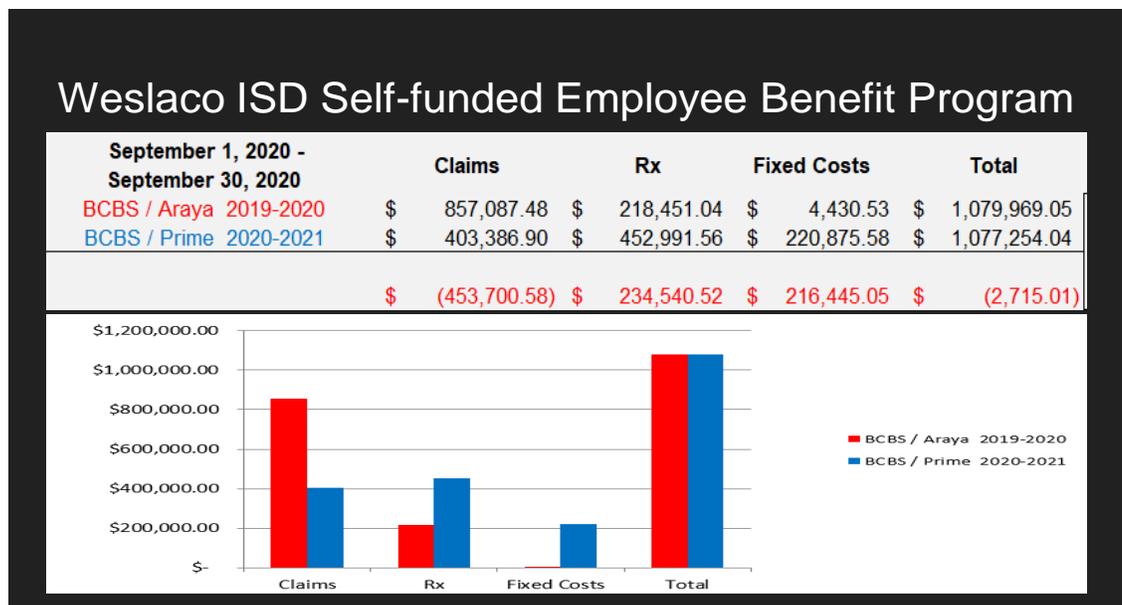
Hidalgo County also approved a Public WiFi project, which consists of placing three towers to help serve communities that do not have access to WiFi. The towers will be placed at Cleckler-Heald Elementary School, Silva Elementary School, and Mary Hoge Middle School in the near future.

Mr. Kennedy wanted to know the radius of WiFi service to be provided from the towers. Technology Director Carlos Martinez replied that 7,500 students would benefit by connecting to the free public Wifi.

The board members thanked Dr. Canales and staff for their collaborative efforts with the City and County in helping the students with free WiFi, securing the COPS Grant, and receiving a 25% funding match under the CARES Act.

• Insurance

Mr. Mike De La Rosa, Risk Management/Employee Benefits Director, presented the following report. This is the first month of the fiscal year which begins September 2020 through August 2021. The chart below reflects the cost comparison from fiscal year 2019-2020.



Self-Funded Workers' Compensation Program

>The district has incurred \$4,000.00 for 2020-2021.

>There were minor incidents this month.

Weslaco ISD Self-Funded Workers' Compensation Program						
WISD 2 Year Claims Comparison						
FY Loss	Number of Claims	Paid	Outstanding Reserves	Incurred		
2019/2020	5	\$ 870.82	\$ 38,186.38	\$ 39,057.20	<i>claims for FY 2019/2020 valued at 9/30/2019</i>	
2020/2021	8	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	<i>claims for FY 2020/2021 valued at 9/20/2020</i>	

XIII. Consent Agenda

Items U and W-1 were pulled out for discussion. Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Items U and W-1. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- A. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2020 and the Special Meetings of September 8 and September 24, 2020

The Board approved the minutes as presented.

- B. Approval of Out-of-Valley Trips

The Board approved the following trips as presented.

Weslaco East High School

- The Girls Cross Country Team will attend and participate in the UIL Region 4 Cross Country Meet in Corpus Christi, Texas on November 8-9, 2020.
- The Boys Cross Country Team will attend and participate in the UIL Region 4 Cross Country Meet in Corpus Christi, Texas on November 8-9, 2020.

- C. Approval to Accept a Donation of \$1,000.00 from the Weslaco Rotary Club to Purchase Uniforms and School Supplies for Weslaco ISD Students

The Board accepted the \$1,000.00 donation from the Weslaco Rotary Club as presented. The district will use the funds to purchase uniforms and school supplies for Weslaco ISD students most in need.

- D. Approval to Accept a Donation of \$500.00 from Woodmen of the World for North Bridge Elementary School

The Board accepted the \$500.00 donation from Woodmen of the World as presented. Staff will use the funds to purchase printed pictures, frames, prizes, and reading certificates to promote, acknowledge, and highlight student-reading achievement.

- E. Approval to Accept a Donation of \$150.00 from David Fuentes for the Maintenance of the Aquarium at Silva Elementary School Counseling Department

The Board accepted the \$150.00 donation from Mr. David Fuentes as presented. The counseling staff will use the funds to maintain the aquarium located in the student calming area within the counseling department.

- F. Approval to Accept a Donation of a Gift Certificate in the Amount of \$587.20 from Office Depot for Rudy Silva Elementary School

The Board accepted the donation of a gift certificate in the amount of \$587.20 from Office Depot as presented. Staff will use the funds to purchase instructional supplies for the campus.

- G. Approval of 2021 Membership Fee to Participate in the National School Boards Association (NSBA)

The Board approved the annual membership renewal with NSBA for 2021 at a fee of \$8,620.00. The district receives beneficial information such as newsletters, periodic reports, policy briefs, and online resources through this membership. The district also receives discounts on annual conferences and a one-year subscription to the American School Board Journal for each board member and superintendent.

- H. Approval of 2020-2021 Membership Fee with the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce

The Board approved the 2020-2021 membership fee with the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce at a cost of \$600.00.

Membership with the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce has been mutually beneficial. It has allowed the District to share some of the employees' talents to help promote the community.

- I. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between Weslaco Independent School District and Community Development Institute Head Start Program for 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Community Development Institute Head Start Program as presented.

Through this partnership the Community Development Institute will provide services to children transitioning into the public system, and to eligible children for Early Childhood: Special Education Program in compliance with Federal and State laws and regulations. The services provided may be required to be completed virtually (not in-person) depending on the guidance of CDI HS and local health policies. CDI HS and Weslaco ISD will be in communication as to the provision of services and any alternative methods that may be utilized. Weslaco ISD will be responsible for all expenditures related to Special Ed services provided.

- J. Approval of the Childcare Local Match Contribution Agreement Between the Weslaco Independent School District and the Lower Grande Valley Workforce Development Board for 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the agreement with the Local Workforce Development Board of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and pledges the local in-kind funds stated below in order for the Texas Workforce Commission to draw down additional federal funds to be used for the provision of allowable childcare

services in the community. This funding has been made available to the community for daycare services for the past eight (8) years.

>The Texas Workforce Commission for the City of Weslaco is expected to receive \$1,006,000.

>Weslaco ISD will only match in-kind funds totaling \$1,006,000.

- These funds come from the Early Learning Foundations (ELF) Academy local budget.

>The total local 2020-2021 budget for the ELF Academy is \$1,259,558.

- The Academy spends funds on 18 staff members, supplies, materials, resources, facilities, etc.

K. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Weslaco Independent School District and the Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development (RGV LEAD) for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development (RGV LEAD) for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

The RGV LEAD supports the goal of having students stay in school and ultimately, graduate from high school equipped with the academic foundation and other competencies that are vital for college and career success. RGV will provide the following services:

- Create a regional labor market report developed biennially in collaboration with chambers of commerce, economic development entities, higher education partners, individual employers and work with district staff for use of the information in the report.
- Provide quarterly regional (P-16) Council and Counselors' network meetings to facilitate sharing between and among public schools, colleges, and university to support college-and-career preparation and successful student transitions from education to workforce.
- Provide annually updated data reports and support their use to facilitate continuous improvements in college and –career preparation systems.
- Provide regional events (for example, annual superintendents' meeting and regional conference) providing for employer-educator dialogue and sharing of best practices to facilitate successful student transitions from public school to the workforce.
- Coordinate regional programs for students to acquire skills necessary for success in post-secondary education and careers.
- Provide other services as may be agreed upon from time to time.

The cost for these services will be \$9,664.00 and paid through CTE funds.

L. Approval of Grade Pre-Kinder English Language Arts and Reading Textbook Committee for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the Pre-Kinder English Language Arts and Reading Textbook Committee for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The committee is comprised of classroom teachers who are currently assigned in a kinder classroom. The teachers evaluate materials and share findings with their respective campus and grade level. The committee will review materials available for adoption under Proclamation 2020. The list of committee members is on file.

M. Approval of the District Improvement and All Campus Student Achievement Improvement Plans for 2020-2021

The Board approved the 2020-2021 District and Campus Achievement Improvement Plans as presented.

Each year, the district and each campus is required to write a Student Achievement Improvement Plan to set goals, initiatives, strategies, and timelines for improving the district's performance in the Academic Excellence indicators. These are developed based on a comprehensive needs assessment using all TAPR indicators as source data. The campus plans are developed by the Principal and the SBDM Committee at each campus. The plans are available for Board and public review on the district's website.

N. Approval of Revisions to Policy EHBB (Local) Special Programs: Gifted and Talented Students

The Board approved the revisions to Policy EHBB (Local) Special Programs: Gifted and Talented Students.

The revisions to Policy EHBB (Local) were submitted as first reading during the regular board meeting held on September 14, 2020. 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 are screened for the GT Program. Intradistrict student transfer policy will be reflected in the current transfer student processes in the GT Handbook.

O. Approval of Revision to Policy DMA (Local) Professional Development: Required Staff Development

First reading of Policy DMA was presented to the Board during the September 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. The DMA Local Policy will be modified to reflect the 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. The Board approved the revisions to Policy DMA (Local) Professional Development: Required Staff Development as presented.

P. Approval of Policy Update 115 from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)

The Board approved Policy Update 115 as presented. Update 115 was presented for first reading at the regular board meeting held on September 14, 2020. 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 FFEB focuses on mental health provisions.

Update 115 also includes several other policies affected by legislation from the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session that were not included in Update 114 and incorporates numerous changes from revised Administrative Code rules. Recommended changes to local policies will 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

Q. Approval to Pay Membership and Coaching Fees for the Leader-In-Me Program at All Elementary and Middle Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the payment of membership and coaching fees for the Leader-In-Me Program at all elementary and middle schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The coaching fees (\$71,300.00) will be funded through Title II (Professional Development). Membership fees (\$70,000.00) will be funded through Title IV, Part A (Activities to support well-rounded educational opportunities).

R. Approval of Agreement with Region One ESC to Provide Instructional Coaching and Professional Development for Secondary English Language Arts and Reading Teachers for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the agreement with Region One ESC to provide necessary instructional coaching and professional development for secondary English Language Arts and Reading teachers for the school year 2020-2021.

This agreement will include fifteen days of instructional coaching and five days of professional development. It is the district's expectation that through these trainings teachers will be able to deliver high quality, effective, and efficient instruction for all students to experience academic success in reading and writing.

Regional Education Service Centers are authorized by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide goods and services to school districts without following a competitive procurement process. The cost for professional development training will be \$7,500.00 and \$24,000.00 for instructional coaching.

S. Approval of Purchase of the Renewal of Digital Science Curriculum STEMscopes Subscription from Accelerate Learning, Inc. for Grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the sole source purchase of the renewal of digital science curriculum STEMscopes subscription from Accelerate Learning, Inc. for grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year.

STEMscopes has been utilized at K-12 grade levels at all elementary, middle school, and high school campuses, including district Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs and Early College High Schools. These program materials allows teachers to create a digital student roster, assign formal assessments, grades, and vocabulary interactives. STEMscopes is supportive of new science teachers with multiple lesson plans that utilize the 5E science instructional model of Engagement, Exploration, Explanation, Extension, and Evaluations. The cost for this program is \$69,996.45.

- T. Approval of Purchase of Imagine Learning Web-Based Interactive Learning System Licenses to Enhance the First Language Support of Our PreKindergarten through Twelfth Grade Migrant Students in English and Spanish, Including Live Support for At-Home

The Board approved the sole source purchase of Imagine Learning Web-Based Interactive Learning System Licenses to provide a first language support for the migrant students PK-12<sup>th</sup> grade, including live support for at-home practice. Through a blended learning environment, this web-based program provides students with opportunities to work at their individual needs. The district has used this program for the last four years and it has helped approximately 300 elementary students each year. The cost of this purchase (\$45,000.00) will be funded with Federal Title I Migrant funds.

- U. Approval to Amend the Student Code of Conduct to Include the Use of Facial Coverings (Masks) by Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Trustee Dr. Jaime Rodriguez pulled this item for discussion.

- V. Approval of Arbitrage Rebate Services Contract with Hilltop Securities Asset Management, LLC.

The Board approved the contract with Hilltop Securities Asset Management, LLC, from Dallas, Texas for a five-year period. This company has provided arbitrage rebate services to Weslaco ISD since 1997 under its previous name First Southwest Assets Management, Inc.

Arbitrage refers to the taxable interest income that issuers of tax-advantaged bonds may earn through investing the proceeds from the sale of tax-advantaged bonds in higher yielding taxable securities. Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to as the Arbitrage Regulations, permits a municipality to earn arbitrage in specified circumstances and in most cases requires arbitrage profits to be paid as a rebate to the Federal government.

To comply with various arbitrage rebate rules, municipal bond issuers are required to perform numerous tests and calculations for each of their outstanding bond issues. Failure to comply with the arbitrage rebate or yield restriction requirements may result in the loss of tax-exempt status of the district's debt obligations or the district may be subject to penalties and interest. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the district to continue to hire a qualified company to maintain these calculations. The cost for these services (\$1,200.00) will be paid from the Business Office budget in the Local Maintenance Fund.

- W. Approval of Budget Amendments

Trustee Armando Cuellar pulled out budget amendment #1 for discussion.

The Board approved the remaining budget amendments as part of the consent agenda.

1. Weslaco High School Band – Local Maintenance Fund to Purchase Band Instruments for the High School and Middle Schools, to Pay for Repair of Instruments, and to Cover In-District Mileage Travel for Band Directors

This item was pulled out for discussion.

2. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Leadership – Local Fund to Purchase Instructional Supplies for Dyslexia Teachers and Students: \$18,955.00
3. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Leadership – Local Fund to Cover Expenses for the Yearly Lead4ward Accountability Online Data Compiled for the District: \$3,500.00
4. Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary – Local Maintenance Fund to Pay for Scripps National Bee Membership: \$250.00
5. Horton DAEP – State Compensatory Fund to Purchase Laptop for Principal: \$1,000.00
6. Business Office – Local Fund to Record Budget for Purchase Orders Rolled-Forward for Technology Supplies and Equipment, and Athletics Reconditioning of Football Helmets, Ordered in Prior Year and Not Received or Invoiced by August 31, 2020: 997,545

X. Approval of Monthly Tax Adjustments for September 2020

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

Type of Tax	Current Levy	Prior Year Levies	Roll Back Taxes	Total
M&O Taxes		(\$ 2,429.40)		(\$ 2,429.40)
I&S Taxes		(\$ 54.00)		(\$ 54.00)
Total Adjustments		(\$ 2,483.40)		<b>(\$ 2,483.40)</b>

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

Y. Approval of Quarterly Investment Activity Report for the Quarter Ended August 31, 2020

The Board approved the Quarterly Investment Activity Report for the quarter ended August 31, 2020 as presented.

House Bill No. 2459 passed in 1995 requires that the Investment Officer(s) of a governing body prepare a written quarterly report of investment transactions for all funds for the preceding reporting period.

The market value of the amounts invested at the various investment pools during the quarter ended August 31, 2020 was higher than the book value of the investments, as required by law.

Fund Name	Book Value 8/31/2020	Ending Market Value 8/31/2020	Market Value is Higher (Lower) than Book Value By	Accrued Interest @ 8/31/2020
Total First Public Investment Pool	\$ 58,795,769.31	\$ 58,809,050.16	\$ 13,280.85	N/A
Total Texas Term Investment Pool	\$ 11,394,041.09	\$ 11,394,041.09	-	N/A
Total Tex-Pool	\$ 6,117,462.14	\$ 6,117,462.14	-	N/A
Totals – All Investments	\$ 76,307,272.54	\$ 76,320,553.39	\$ 13,280.85	

The investment earnings amount for the quarter ended August 31, 2020 is \$83,560.17.

Z. Approval of Annual Investment Activity Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2020

The Board approved the Annual Investment Activity Report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2020 as presented.

District Board Policy section CDA (Legal & Local) requires that in addition to the quarterly report required by law, the investment officer(s) of the District prepare a comprehensive annual report on the investment program that shows the investment activity for all funds of the District.

Overall, the market value of the amounts invested at the various investment pools during the fiscal year 2019-2020 was higher than the book value of the investments, as required by law. The investment income earned for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2020 is \$1,084,936.69.

**ITEMS PULLED OUT FOR DISCUSSION:**

U. Approval to Amend the Student Code of Conduct to Include the Use of Facial Coverings (Masks) By Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez pulled out this item for informational purposes. Dr. Rodriguez wanted to make sure that the students and staff are wearing a mask at all times.

Dr. Canales shared that the amendment to the Student Code of Conduct includes the use of facial coverings (facemasks) by students during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to CDC guidelines, masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. This recommendation is based on what is known about the role respiratory droplets play in the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, paired with emerging evidence from clinical and laboratory studies that shows masks reduce the spray of droplets when worn over the nose and mouth. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), so the use of masks is particularly important in settings where people are close to each other where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Dr. Canales informed the Board that during her visits to the campuses she observed students and staff wearing their mask.

W. Approval of Budget Amendments

Trustee Armando Cuellar pulled out budget amendment #1 for discussion.

1. Weslaco High School Band – Local Maintenance Fund to Purchase Band Instruments for the High School and Middle Schools, to Pay for Repair of Instruments, and to Cover In-District Mileage Travel for Band Directors: \$25,900.00

Mr. Cuellar wanted to know if all the other middle schools were covered through this budget amendment or had the same opportunity to amend funds within their budget. He wants to make sure all the students have what they need to participate in activities.

Mr. Andres Sanchez replied that this budget amendment was for the middle schools that feed to Weslaco High School. No additional funding was placed in the WHS, Central MS, nor BGMS band budgets with this amendment. Nonetheless, he will follow up with the Fine Arts Director to see if the middle schools that feed to Weslaco East High School have additional needs and will inform the Board through the weekly update.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve Item U and Item W-1 as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIV. Discussion Items:

A. Interim Financial Report for the One Month Ended September 30, 2020

The Board acknowledged the Interim Financial Report for the one month ended September 30, 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	24,908,510	309,513	(24,598,997)	1.24%
5800 State Source	137,408,250	18,530,612	(118,877,638)	13.49%
5900 Federal Sources	13,459,961	10,957	( 13,449,004)	0.08%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>175,776,721</b>	<b>18,851,082</b>	<b>(156,925,639)</b>	<b>10.72%</b>

- Of the total revenues budgeted of \$175,776,721; the district received \$18,851,082, which represents 10.72% of the budget.
- Of \$176,536,670% in budgeted expenditures, the district expended or encumbered \$8,713,679, which represents 4.94%.

B. Acknowledgement of Hidalgo County Tax Office Collection Report for September 2020: Current Taxes and Delinquent Taxes

The Board acknowledged the Collection Report for September 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 October 2020 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office:

	Original Tax Levy	Collected To Date	Modifications (Adjustments) to Date	Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2020-2021	% Tax Collections 2019-2020	2019-20 Versus 2018/2019
Current Taxes							
Delinquent Taxes Prior Years Levy	\$ 4,182,999	\$ 208,242	\$ ( 2,483)	\$ 3,972,274	4.98 %	2.55 %	<b>2.43 % Higher</b>
Rollback	44,465	7,189		37,275	16.17 %	0.00 %	
Totals	\$ 4,227,464	\$ 215,431	\$ ( 2,483)	\$ 4,009,549			

- The collection of **current taxes** for fiscal year 2020-2021 through September 30 is 2.43% higher than the current taxes for fiscal year 2019-2020.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in their September 2020 report.

C. Presentation of Annual Tax Collection Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020) by the Hidalgo County Tax Office

Mr. Paul Villarreal, Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector, commended the Board and Administration for their efforts in providing the students many benefits even though the district has one of the lowest tax rates in the valley.

Mr. Villarreal presented the annual Tax Collection Report for fiscal year 2019-2020, as required by Section 31.10 Property Tax Code.

- >Total Collected for 2019-2020: \$25,776,544.56
- >Total Revenue Disbursed to WISD: \$25,680,475.95
- >Current Collections to Date for 2019-2020: \$24,037,947.47
  - Percent Collected/Original: 94.56%
  - Percent Collected/Modified: 95.38%
- >Current Collections to Date for 2018-2019: \$24,981,509.03
  - Percent Collected/Original: 95.07%
  - Percent Collected/Modified: 95.24%

<b>Comparison of Collections from 2015-2019</b>	
2015	94.49%
2016	94.78%
2017	95.40%
2018	95.24%
2019	95.38%
<b>Outstanding Collections: 4.62%</b>	

D. Presentation by Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LLP, Delinquent Tax Attorneys Firm, of the Delinquent Tax Collection Activity Report for the Period from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020

Section 31.10 Property Tax Code requires the Hidalgo County Tax Office 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 year.

Mr. Hiram Gutierrez, Partner with the law firm of Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, LL.P. presented a brief overview of the collection activities for the period from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

- Phone Contacts: Handled 7,763 phone calls
- Mailings: Mailed out 8,009 separate Notices of Delinquency in addition to Specialized Notices generated from the Edinburg office.
- Property Inspections: Conducted 48 property inspections/personal visits
- Payment Agreements: Entered into payment agreements with 80 delinquent taxpayers, which as of September 1, 2019 involve \$126,984 in base tax owed to the district.
- Litigation: Filed 125 Original Petitions/Interventions involving claims, totaling \$1,887,109 in base tax on behalf of the district.
- Tax Sales: From September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020, Perdue Brandon posted 28 properties for tax sale in which the District owed delinquent taxes.
  - >Payment Agreements/Paid in full: (5) \$8,775.68
  - >Struck Off Properties: (8) \$77,834.41
  - >Sold Properties: (15) \$86,242.89

- Tax Resales: During this reporting period (December 3, 2019 through July 7, 2020), 11 properties were identified and posted for the Public Sheriff’s Tax Resale, and six (6) of these properties sold bringing in \$92,424.39.
- Bankruptcy: During this reporting period, the firm filed 21 new proofs of claim, involving more than \$254,376 in base delinquent tax, in Federal Bankruptcy Court on behalf of WISD.
- Audit Division: On behalf of the district, this firm submits taxable audits that can benefit the district by receiving state aid. As a result of the 2015, 2016, and 2017 audit submissions, the firm is estimating approximately \$1,519,744 in recovered funds will be credited to the district. The results of the 2018 and 2019 audit submissions are still pending.

**2019-2020 Collections (from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020)**

- » Collected \$767,251 in delinquent base tax for 2019-2020 fiscal year
- » Collected \$355,884 in penalty and interest for 2019-2020 fiscal year
- » Total Collections: \$1,123,135

**Delinquent Tax Collection**

The following graph shows the delinquent tax collections for September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

	Beginning Balance 09/01/2019 - 8/31/2020
Total Delinquent Levy	\$3,786,758
Collected	\$ 767,251
Percentage Collected	20.26%

The board members thanked Mr. Gutierrez and his staff for their efforts with the collections.

XV. Discussion and Possible Action Items:

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Weslaco and the Weslaco Independent School District to Share Joint Election Location for the November 3, 2020

On August 10, 2020, the Board of Trustees approved an Order calling for the November 3, 2020 School Board Election for the purpose of electing three (3) members of the Board of Trustees of Weslaco ISD: Place 1, Place 2, and Place 3.

House Bill No. 1 (HB1) requires that a school district election must be held jointly either with 1) the election for members of the governing body of a municipality located in the school district or 2) the general election for state and county officers.

Weslaco ISD and the City of Weslaco have contracted election services with the Hidalgo County Elections Administration for the last six (6) elections, pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 31.0092. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 11.058, the voters of the joint election shall be served by common polling places and a common ballot consistent with Texas Election Code 271.003(b).

It has been beneficial to the City and the District to hold joint elections as both a cost savings to each entity and as a convenience to the voters. The school attorney reviewed and approved the Interlocal Agreement as presented.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Weslaco to share joint election location for the November 3, 2020 Election. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Contract with the Hidalgo County Elections Administration to Conduct the November 3, 2020 Weslaco ISD School Board Election

Weslaco ISD and the City of Weslaco have contracted election services with the Hidalgo County Elections Administration for the last six (6) elections, pursuant to Texas Election Code Section 31.0092. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Section 11.058, the voters of the joint election shall be served by common polling places and a common ballot consistent with Texas Election Code 271.003(b).

This year, Weslaco ISD has three (3) places up for election: Place 1, office held by Erasmo Lopez; Place 2, office held by Dr. Richard Rivera; and Place 3, office held by Patrick Kennedy. The school attorney reviewed and approved the contract as presented.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to contract with the Hidalgo County Elections Administration to conduct the November 3, 2020 Weslaco ISD School Board Election. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve for Weslaco ISD to Submit a Request to TEA for a Class Size Limit Exemption Waiver

This item was pulled from the agenda by Administration.

D. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Proposal Award for Voluntary Employee (Insurance) Benefit Products: 1) Accident, 2) Cancer, 3) Disability, 4) Critical Illness, 5) Hospital Indemnity (GAP), 6) Term Life & AD&D, and 7) Vision (RFP #21-10-08)

The District conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for voluntary employee benefits, which include Accident, Cancer, Disability, Critical Illness, Hospital Indemnity (GAP), Term Life & AD&D, and Vision. Overall, the district received seventy-two (72) proposals for the various products requested. Valley Risk Consulting (VRC), the District's employee benefit consultants, evaluated the proposals based on coverage, value of benefits, premium, and age band rates versus 3-tier composite rates.

VRC presented the finalists per product and presented them to the Employee Benefits Committee for their evaluation and recommendation. Depending on the product, employees will see no premium increase, and in some cases, a premium reduction. Employees pay 100% of the cost for the products they select.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the proposal awards from the following vendors based on the evaluation and recommendation from Valley Risk Consulting and the Weslaco ISD Employee Benefits Committee:

1. Accident – United Healthcare
2. Cancer – Colonial Life
3. Disability – Cigna
4. Critical Illness – Voya
5. Hospital Indemnity (GAP) – United Healthcare
6. Term Life & AD&D – Lincoln Financial
7. Vision – Superior Vision

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the proposal awards to the vendors as recommended. Dr. Richard Rivera seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Armando Cuellar, Dr. Richard Rivera, Andrew Gonzalez, Erasmo Lopez, and Patrick Kennedy. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez abstained from voting. Motion carried.

- E. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Selection of Servicing Agent(s) for Voluntary Employee (Insurance) Benefit Products: 1) Accident, 2) Cancer, 3) Disability, 4) Critical Illness, 5) Hospital Indemnity (GAP), 6) Term Life & AD&D, and 7) Vision (RFP #21-10-08)

The selection of servicing agent(s) is at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The recommended products were submitted by the following agents:

1. Accident – United Healthcare: Ortegon Insurance
2. Cancer – Colonial Life: Salazar Insurance Group, Jeff Everett & Associates
3. Disability – Cigna: Jeff Everett & Associates, Ortegon Insurance
4. Critical Illness Voya: Jeff Everett & Associates
5. Hospital Indemnity (GAP) – United Healthcare: Ortegon Insurance
6. Term Life & AD&D – Lincoln Financial: Salazar Insurance Group, Tamez Financial Group, Ortegon Insurance
7. Vision – Superior Vision: Tamez Financial Group, Jeff Everett & Associates, Ortegon Insurance

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to select Tamez Financial Group, Ortegon Insurance, and Jeff Everett & Associates. Dr. Richard Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- F. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve the Administration’s Ranking Recommendation for the HVAC Units Replacement and Related Roofing Project at the Weslaco East High School Gymnasiums (CSP #21-10-05)

This item was pulled from the agenda by Administration.

- G. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Delegate to the Superintendent the Authority to Approve the Purchase of Electrical Supplies for Emergency Lighting System Improvements at Six Campuses from Approved Electric Supply Vendors from District Approved Proposals, and/or Purchasing Cooperatives Vendors

Six (6) campuses use electrical generators to power only the emergency lighting for the campus. The campuses are: Memorial Elementary, North Bridge Elementary, Airport Elementary, Cleckler-Heald Elementary, A.N. “Tony” Rico Elementary, and Mary Hoge Middle School. Maintenance and repairs on the generators has been a challenge and the systems are currently not working. All generators date back to the construction of the respective campus (1990-1995) and therefore need to be replaced. The district intends to hire an engineering firm to design a system to replace the generators with technology that is less expensive to purchase and easier to maintain. WISD electrical staff will perform the

installation of the devices in-house. The estimated cost for the electrical supplies is \$140,000.00 to \$160,000.00. The funds will be obtained from the local construction fund.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to grant the Superintendent of Schools the purchasing authority to approve all necessary purchases from approved electric supply vendors from district-approved proposals, and/or purchasing cooperative vendors, related to electrical supplies for the improvement of the emergency lighting systems at the six campuses. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

H. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve a Mechanical Engineering Firm to Design the Plans and Specifications and Provide Construction Administration Services for Emergency Lighting System Improvements at Six Campuses

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve to hire Trinity MEP Engineering to design the plans and specifications as well as provide construction administration services for the Emergency Lighting System Improvements Project at the following six (6) campuses: Memorial Elementary, North Bridge Elementary, Airport Elementary, Cleckler-Heald Elementary, A.N. "Tony" Rico Elementary, and Mary Hoge Middle School.

Trinity MEP Engineering has done work for the district on past projects and the experience working with this company has been positive. The proposed cost of the engineering services for this project is a flat fee of \$10,000.00. The funds will be available in the Local Construction Fund. WISD electrical staff will do the installation of the devices in-house.

*Dr. Richard Rivera left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.*

XVI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 8:01 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)
    - a. Superintendent's Recommendation for the Position of Director of Information Systems
- 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)
  - 1. Consultation Regarding Possible Transition Plan in Connection with Anticipated TEA Waiver Request (Non-Action Item)

XVII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 10:03 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 discussed in closed session.

<b>NEW EMPLOYMENT</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Lizzet Cardenas	Parent Specialist	North Bridge Elementary School
2. Valerie William Smith	Speech Teacher	Weslaco East High School
<b>REASSIGNMENT</b>		
1. Albert Rivera	From: Computer Information Specialist I @ Weslaco East High School	To: PEIMS Coordinator @ Technology Department

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as discussed in closed session. 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 discussed in closed session.

<b>RESIGNATIONS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Reason/Effective Date</b>
1. Debbie Montgomery	Teacher A+ Lab Weslaco East High School	Debbie Montgomery is retiring after (23) years in education, with all (23) years of service at Weslaco ISD. Her effective date of retirement is December 12, 2020.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as discussed in closed session. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Position of Director of Information Systems

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve Sandra Guerra for the position of Director of Information Systems. Three (3) applicants were interviewed for this position. Mrs. Guerra is currently the Senior Programmer/Analyst at WISD.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve Sandra Guerra for the position of Director of Information Systems as recommended by the Superintendent. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XVIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.