WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
THE RIGHT CHOICE

Board of Trustees
Armando Cuellar, Jr., President
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Vice President
Jesse Trevino, Secretary
Marcos De Los Santos
Andrew Gonzalez
Isidoro Nieto
Jaclyn Sustaita

Dr. Priscilla Canales
Superintendent of Schools

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:	Special Board Meeting
Place:	Board Room/Virtual
Location:	319 W. Fourth Street
Date:	March 12, 2021
Time:	12:07 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/qvhjE9eArRc**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Armando Cuellar.

II. Establishment of a Quorum

A quorum was established. The following board members were present:

Armando Cuellar, President
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Vice President
Jesse Trevino, Secretary
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee

Andrew Gonzalez joined the meeting at 12:09 p.m.
Marcos De Los Santos joined the meeting at 12:10 p.m.
Jaclyn Sustaita joined the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

III. Public Comments

The public had the opportunity to participate in public comments by registering no later than 11:45 a.m. at the following web link: ***https://www.wisd.us/superitendentboard/new-page***.

No one signed up to address the Board.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Board/Administrative Committee's Recommendation for the Purchase of Portable Air Cleaning Units Districtwide for Use in Classrooms and Larger Areas (RFP #21-03-22)

Due to the current situation regarding the Coronavirus and the District's continuing concern for the safety of students and staff, the District solicited vendors for quotes on portable air cleaning units. This type of air cleaning device was pursued after extensive research of other means to clean the indoor air space.

The timeline that led to the procurement of these air purification/cleaning system(s) began on August 2020. On March 8, 2021, the Board of Trustees delegated a committee to review and make the final selection decision from the top four portable air cleaning units. The Board/Administrative Committee is comprised of three board members who serve on the Safety and Security Committee, the Superintendent, four Principals, and five District Administrators.

On March 10, 2021, the Committee met to review and rank the top four air filtration units based on four key criteria: sound levels to cubic feet per minute, cost, unit size, and delivery time. After a thorough review which involved listening to each unit individually, the committee decided to rank units as first, second, third, and fourth; with first being the best option for the district and the committee recommendation.

Below are the results of the ranking:

Vendor	Location	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Rank
Texas Air Products	McAllen, Texas	$1,590.00	$1,749,000.00	1st
Vaniman Manufacturing	Houston, Texas	$1,099.00	$1,208,900.00	2nd
Mechanical Reps, Inc.	Weslaco, Texas	$1,496.00	$1,645,600.00	3rd
Carrier Enterprise	Houston, Texas	$1,288.00	$1,416,800.00	4th

The Committee recommended the units from Texas Air Products. This unit ranked the highest after evaluation using the four criteria and specifically because their sound level-to-CFM were very impressive making it ideal to use in classrooms. The estimated cost of $1,749,000.00 is for 1,100 units.

Questions from the Board:

- Dr. Rodriguez wanted to know the arrival date of the units.
  - According to Mr. Andres Sanchez, due to the demand and production of these units, all units should arrive by the end of July.
    - 272 units will arrive in seven weeks
    - 72 units should arrive 6 weeks after that
    - An additional 272 units should arrive 5 weeks later
    - Final delivery of 284 units should arrive by the end of July

- Board President Armando Cuellar wanted to know if the units were going to be utilized upon arrival or stored until all the units arrived, as well as the distribution process.

  - The units will be distributed upon arrival. These units are mainly for the classrooms and large areas such as the gym, library, and cafeteria. Staff will need to decide which campuses will receive the units first. Nonetheless, all units will be distributed and in place prior to the school year.

Mr. Jesse Trevino suggested that the units be distributed first to campuses with the highest enrollment.

Dr. Canales and staff will work on an equitable way to distribute the units. As per Dr. Canales, the units will first be placed in classrooms where students are attending classes in person. Based on data, enrollment is higher at the elementary campuses, followed by the middle school campuses, and then at the high schools. Since the units are on casters, staff will be able to make adjustments and move them to classrooms that have more students in attendance. Staff will keep the board informed on their plan of distribution.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the Board/Administrative Committee's recommendation for the purchase of portable air cleaning units districtwide for use in classrooms and larger areas. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion. Mr. Nieto shared that the principals who served on the committee also recommended this particular unit.

>Dr. Rodriguez asked staff to explain why the committee's recommendation was the best option.

- Mr. Americo Garza explained that the committee received thirteen proposals. The committee members were looking at units that had a HEPA filtration system, and units with a low noise level to avoid disrupting the instruction in the classrooms. Also considered was the air flow rate of the units. These units will clean out the air and remove small particles/bacteria in the classroom in less than 15 minutes.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Mr. Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve the Board/Administrative Committee's recommendation for the purchase of portable air cleaning units districtwide for use in classrooms and larger areas.

V. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Resolution Regarding Supplemental Pay to District Nursing Staff During a COVID Vaccine Closed Point of Distribution (POD) Event on or About March 16, 2021

Superintendent Dr. Canales provided the following information to the Board:

- Parent, Community, Business, and Industry Partnerships is one of the District's goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the entire community in one form or another. Since the vaccine first became available, District nursing staff have played a key role in the vaccine distribution to the community. Through a partnership with the City of Weslaco and Hidalgo County, District nurses and staff have assisted with providing approximately 7,000 vaccines to the community.

- The District has scheduled a closed Point of Distribution (POD) event for March 16, 2021, strictly for school employees. The POD will be open to scheduled Mercedes ISD, Edcouch-Elsa ISD, Progresso ISD, and Donna ISD personnel as well.

- Supplemental pay for nursing staff is recommended at $30.00 per hour for registered nurses (RN) and $20.00 for licenses vocational nurses (LVN). The event is expected to run from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Funds will be obtained from the Local Maintenance Fund's Unassigned Fund Balance. A budget amendment will be presented to the Board for approval in May 2021 upon board approval. The estimated payroll for these supplemental nursing services is $3,760.00 plus fringe benefits.

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees ("Board") is authorized by Texas Education Code section 45.105 to expend funds of Weslaco Independent School District ("District" or "Weslaco ISD") for purposes necessary in the conduct of the public schools as determined by the Board;

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that during a pandemic, it is in best interest of school safety and operations that all District employees obtain a COVID vaccine should they be inclined;

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the Texas Department of Health Services recently determined that School and Child Care Personnel are eligible to receive a COVID vaccine;

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that the District participates in an Interlocal agreement with the Hidalgo County Health Department, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Gov't Code 791.001 et seq., which authorizes local governments to contract with each other to perform governmental functions and services under the terms of the Act; that a need exists to address the circumstance of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Board believes it is appropriate to compensate District Nursing staff to participate and administer COVID-19 vaccinations during a closed Point of Distribution (POD) event scheduled during Spring Break while RNs and LVNs are off contract;

WHEREAS, the Board concludes that providing the supplemental pay provided herein, serves the public purposes of protecting students and staff, and maintaining morale;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Weslaco Independent School District authorizes Supplemental pay in the amount of Thirty ($30) dollars per hour for District Registered Nurses and Twenty ($20) per hour for District Licensed Vocational Nurses to administer COVID-19 vaccines during the closed POD on or about March 16, 2021.

This supplemental pay expires after the closed POD on said date.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve a resolution regarding supplemental pay to District nursing staff who are called in to work during a COVID vaccine POD event to be held on March 16, 2021. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto wanted to know where the event was taking place and how many staff members were going to provide services at this event.

According to Mr. Mike De La Rosa, the POD event will be held at Knapp Medical Conference Center. The City has reserved 300 doses for WISD employees and approximately 17 staff members will administer the vaccinations.

Dr. Canales shared that the district plans to vaccinate all employees who registered for the vaccine by the end of March.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Andrew Gonzalez and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve a resolution regarding supplemental pay to District nursing staff who are called in to work during a COVID vaccine POD event to be held on March 16, 2021.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez acknowledged the nurses for everything they continue to do for the students and staff throughout this pandemic.

Board President Armando Cuellar stated, "There's a lot of appreciation for those who are in the front line. Every day we have staff showing up to work and it is really something special. We are very appreciative. In these trying times we are still learning about what we're dealing with. All those things are getting better. It's still there, but it's important we keep fighting this thing to the best of our ability. We are very appreciative to everybody that's out there working for us."

VI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 12:24 p.m. to discuss the following items:
Jaclyn Sustaita joined the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

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. 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)

Andrew Gonzalez left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

VII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 12:47 p.m.

Possible Action, If Necessary, On Items Discussed in Closed Meeting

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

1. Employment of Personnel

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the non-contractual personnel as recommended to meet the needs of the campus and/or district.

Name	Position	Location
1. Jaime X. Calzada	Computer Information Specialist I	Weslaco East High School
2. Eileen Estrada	Library Aide	Weslaco High School
3. Diana E. Lozoya	Counselor Aide	Margo Elementary School
4. Teresa Medina	Special Education Aide	Weslaco East High School
Reassignment		
5. Vicki Leal	**From:** Attendance/At-Risk Sam Houston Elementary School	**To:** Campus Secretary Sam Houston Elementary School
6. Maria Moreno	**From:** Library Aide Silva Elementary School	**To:** Library Aide Early College High School

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve the non-contractual personnel as recommended. Jesse Trevino seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Resignations

   Non-action item.

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)

   Non-action item.

B. 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)

   Non-action item.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.