WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
THE RIGHT CHOICE

Dr. Cris Valdez
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:	Regular Board Meeting
Place:	WISD Board Room/Virtual
Location:	319 W. 4th Street
Date:	January 18, 2022
Time:	5:34 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ONLINE FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS. THE MEETING WAS LIVESTREAMED AT THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK: ***https://youtu.be/na7El65_Ax0.***

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

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

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, Trustee
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos joined the meeting at 5:39 p.m.
Mr. Andrew Gonzalez joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.
Mrs. Jacklyn Sustaita was absent.

III. Opening Prayer

Maribel Magallanes, Attendance Clerk at Memorial Elementary, delivered the invocation.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge

The following students from Memorial Elementary led the Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge:

>Francisco Guevara Jr. is a fifth-grader at Memorial Elementary School and he is the son of Francisco Guevara Sr. and Edna De Leon. Francisco enjoys playing catcher for his coach's pitch team - the Red Sox. He also loves reading and earned a perfect score on the Reading STAAR test last year. Francisco wants to be a pediatrician so he can help kids live a strong healthy life. He is also considering being a professional baseball player so he can play a sport while making lots of money.

>Alaina Sanchez is also a fifth-grader at Memorial Elementary. She is the daughter of Raymond and Ana Sanchez. Alaina loves reading and math and enjoys reading "The Warrior Series" by Erin Hunter. Last year she received a perfect score on the math STAAR. Alaina also plays the piano and enjoys singing with her family. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up because she loves animals, especially cats.

V. Awards and Recognitions

Student Recognition

>**Academic All-State Honor Roll**

Several high school athletes were selected by the Texas High School Coaches Association for their academic excellence, and were named on the Academic All-State Honor Roll.

Weslaco East High School	
Student	**Achievement**
1. Samuel De La Torre	Cross Country: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
2. Gabriela Reyna	Volleyball: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
3. Kimberlee Quintanilla	Volleyball: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
4. Bianca Magali Larraga	Volleyball: 1st Team - Academic All-State
5. Josue Moralez	Football: 2nd Team – Academic All- State
6. Pedro Garcia	Football: 1st Team – Academic All-State

Weslaco High School	
Student	**Achievement**
1. Derek Rodriguez	Cross Country: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
2. Anna Vela	Cross Country: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
3. Kennedy Villalpando	Cross Country: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
4. Kalissa Cavazos	Cross Country: Academic All-State, 2nd Team
5. Jered Garcia	Cross Country: Academic All-State, 1st Team
6. Rowly Sandoval	Cross Country: Academic All-State, 1st Team
7. Xiomara De Anda	Volleyball: Academic All-State, 2nd Team
8. Sarah Morales	Volleyball: Academic All-State, 2nd Team
9. Jaeda Moreno	Volleyball: Academic All-State, 1st Team
10. Noah Gonzalez	Football: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
11. Eric Gonzalez	Football: Academic All-State Honorable Mention
12. Roberto De Anda	Football: Academic All-State, 1st Team
13. Marcus Saenz	Football: Academic All-State, 1st Team

>**All State Band** Three WHS band students recently earned chairs in the All State Band:



These students will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on February 12, 2022. These musicians are among the best in the state of Texas.

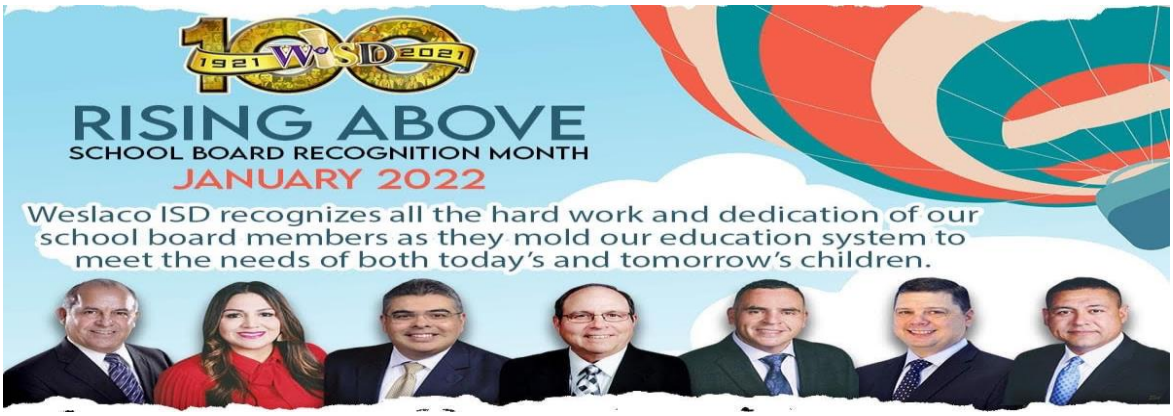
Band Director: Rodrigo Leal

VI. Recognition of WISD School Board of Trustees

January is proclaimed as School Board Recognition Month. The WISD Administration acknowledged the board members for their dedication and commitment to students, parents, staff, and the community.

Dr. Valdez presented the board members with a plaque for recognition of their years of service to Weslaco ISD.

Board Member	Years of Service
Armando Cuellar, Board President	2018 - 2022
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Vice President	2017 - 2022
Jesse Trevino, Secretary	2020 - 2022
Marcos De Los Santos, Trustee	2020 - 2022
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee	2014 - 2022
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee	2014 - 2022
Jacklyn Sustaita, Trustee	2020 - 2022



VII. Proclamations

The Board acknowledged the proclamations as presented.

>Career and Technical Education Month, February 2022

WHEREAS, February 1 - 28, 2022, has been designated Career and Technical Education Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

WHEREAS, profound economic and technological changes in our society are rapidly reflected in the structure and nature or work, thereby placing new and additional responsibilities on our educational system; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides Americans with a school-to-careers connection and is the backbone of a strong, well-educated workforce, which fosters productivity in business and industry and contributes to America's leadership in the international marketplace; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education gives high school students experience in practical, meaningful applications of basic skills such as reading, writing, and mathematics, thus improving the quality of their education, motivating potential dropouts and giving all students leadership opportunities in their fields and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education offers individuals lifelong opportunities to learn new skills, which provide them with career choices and potential satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, the ever-increasing cooperative efforts of career and technical educators, business and industry stimulate the growth and vitality of our local economy and that of the entire nation by preparing graduates for career fields forecast to experience the largest and fastest growth in the next decade;

THEREFORE, I, Armando Cuellar, President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim February 2022, as **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH** in Weslaco, Texas and urge all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the career and technical education programs in this community and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual work skills and productivity.

>National Guidance and Counseling Week, February 7-11, 2022

WHEREAS, school counselors are employed in our schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, school counselors help parents focus in ways to further the educational, personal and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school and prepare for post-secondary education;

THEREFORE, I, Armando Cuellar, President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby support and proclaim February 7 – 11, 2022 as **NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING WEEK.**

><u>Family Career and Community Leadership Week, February 14-18, 2022</u>

WHEREAS, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, the national nonprofit student organization for Family and Consumer Sciences students through grade 12, helps youth assume their roles in society through Family and Consumer Sciences education in areas of personal growth, family life, vocational preparation, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, the organization extends classroom learning through chapter projects that develop leadership and initiative and helps young men and women learn how to plan, make decisions and carry out and evaluate programs of action as they work with other youth and adults in their school and community; and

WHEREAS, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, offers members an opportunity to work together for common purposes for the improvement of themselves, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the week of February 14 – 18, 2022 has been designated as **FCCLA LEADERSHIP WEEK.**

THEREFORE, I, Armando Cuellar, President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, hereby proclaim February 14 - 18 as FCCLA Leadership Week in Weslaco ISD and urge all citizens to acquaint themselves with the activities and values of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, to show interest in it and give help and encouragement to these young men and women who are working to achieve knowledge and experience that will help prepare them for future responsibilities as active and concerned adult and concerned adult members of society.

><u>Digital Learning Day, February 25, 2022</u>

WHEREAS, Digital Learning Day is an annual national and international celebration of technological and digital education in K-12 schools where teachers and schools across the country and around the world hold local activities supporting the event, offering new and exciting ways for students to learn daily; and

WHEREAS, teachers, students, and schools in Texas and across the nation are using innovation and technology to transform and improve education; and

WHEREAS, when used effectively, modern technology can make life more efficient, accessible, richer, and faster for all; and

WHEREAS, today's society demands our state and nation have a highly-trained workforce skilled in the use of technology and digital content in order to compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, Digital Learning Day provides an opportunity for the U.S. education system to embrace the effective use of technology in a positive and transformative manner; and

WHEREAS, it is important that any change in learning methods and infusion of technology in schools can be done in a high-quality manner that best helps every student.

THEREFORE, I, Armando Cuellar Jr., President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim February 25, 2022, as "**DIGITAL LEARNING DAY**."

VIII. Public Comments

>Diana Garza, 1011 East 10th Street, Mercedes, Texas

Mrs. Garza thanked the Board for the action taken on November 3, 2022, regarding an item they had discussed on multiple occasions. She said, "Thank you for doing what was right."

Mrs. Garza shared that she had received several phone calls on January 2, 2022 from multiple staff members of a physical assault of a special needs child that occurred at a particular campus. She had several questions regarding the safety procedures followed at this campus. She said, "You have a Safety & Security Director that was not informed of that physical assault of that special ed. child. There was a police officer assigned to that campus that was oblivious as to what was going on with that physical assault. Why do we have a Safety & Security Director and he was not part of the investigation? He had no clue of what transpired." She questioned why no one informed these employees of this incident. According to Mrs. Garza, a former employee of that school who is now a director was called to investigate and thus she is not even sure how legit that investigation was. Mrs. Garza said, "When I saw that video, it appeared to me that it was common practice, and when I got calls from staff members – and I will be emailing every single one of you on what was transpired from multiple staff members on what happens at that campus and how that campus is run and has been for years. So please follow up and bring justice to that child. It is a very sad situation." She asked the Board to reflect on the situation and to do what is necessary to advocate for the children, especially for the special ed. children who have no voice.

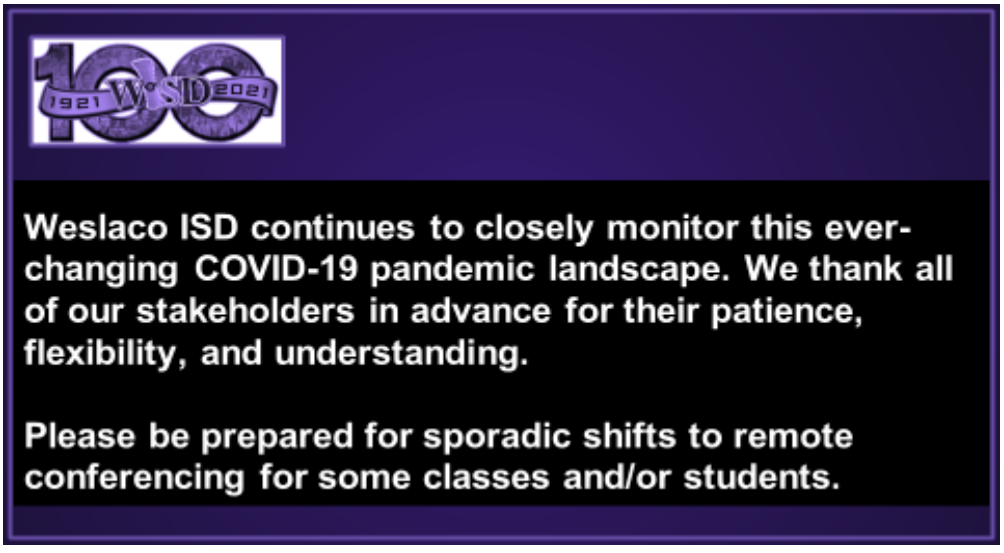
Mrs. Garza also shared that a student had passed away on January 6, 2022. She said, "There is need for our counselors to do what they were hired to do and not to be doing testing and putting counseling aside, like we have at a campus that I'm well aware of - where it's my campus, my rules, and I'm gonna do whatever I want."

Due to the 5-minute timeline for public comments, Mrs. Garza informed the Board that she would address her concerns via email to the Board. She concluded by thanking the board members for doing what is right and what they were elected to do.

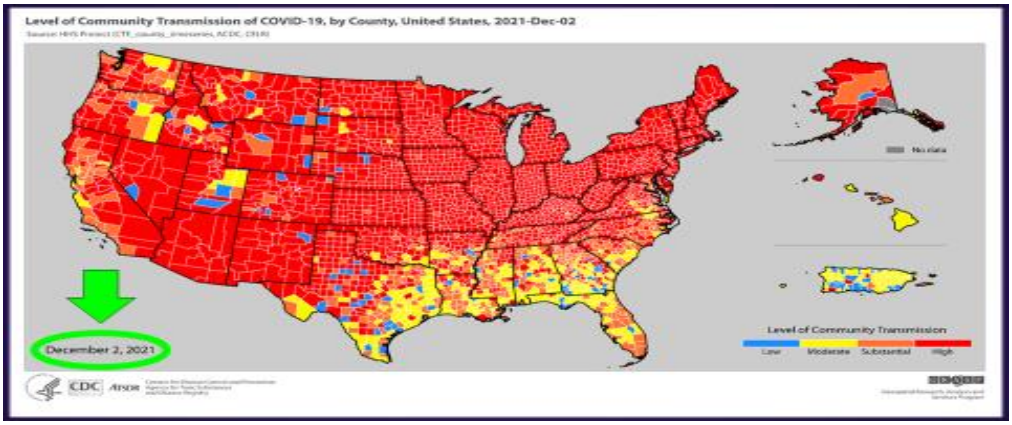
IX. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Valdez, Interim Superintendent, presented the following updates related to COVID-19.

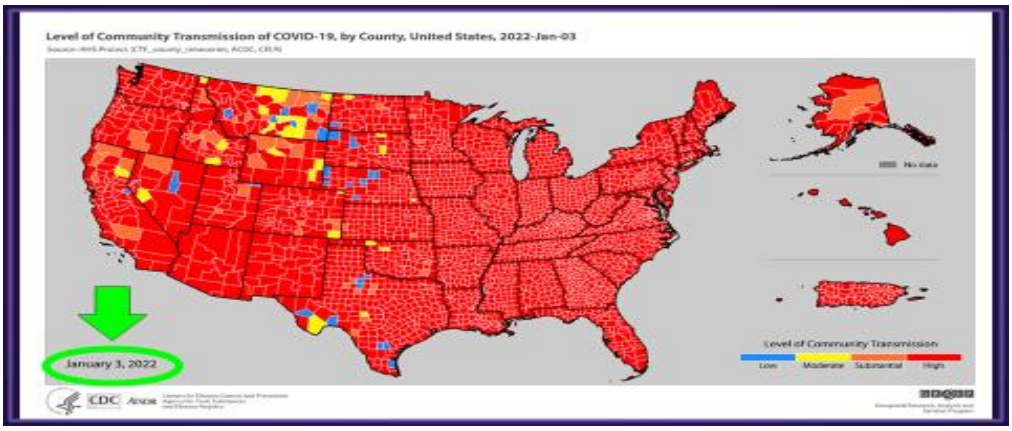
>The District will focus in monitoring this pandemic as cases continue to increase.
•WISD had to extend the winter break due to a spike in cases.



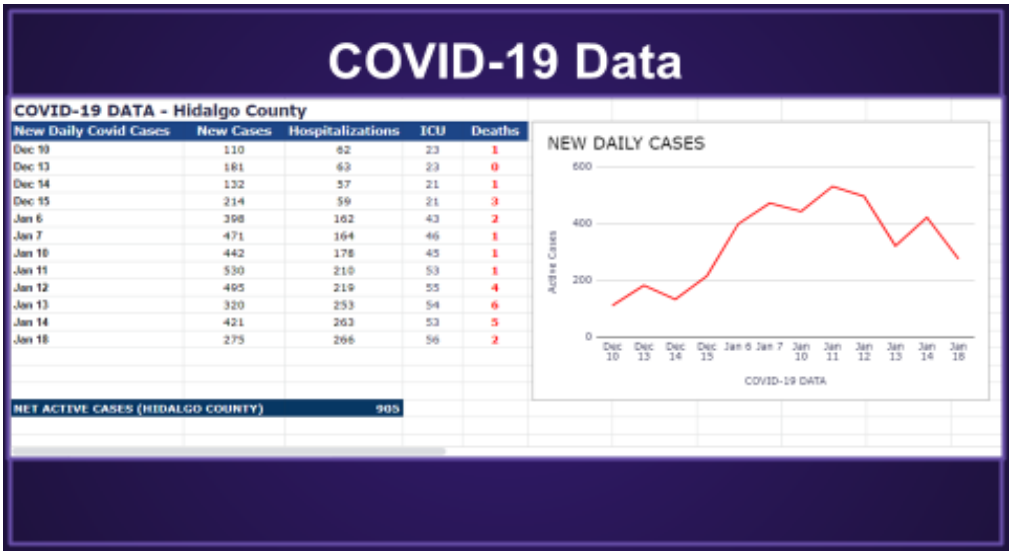
>As per the CDC, the map below indicates the cases throughout the country, from low to high as of December 2, 2021.



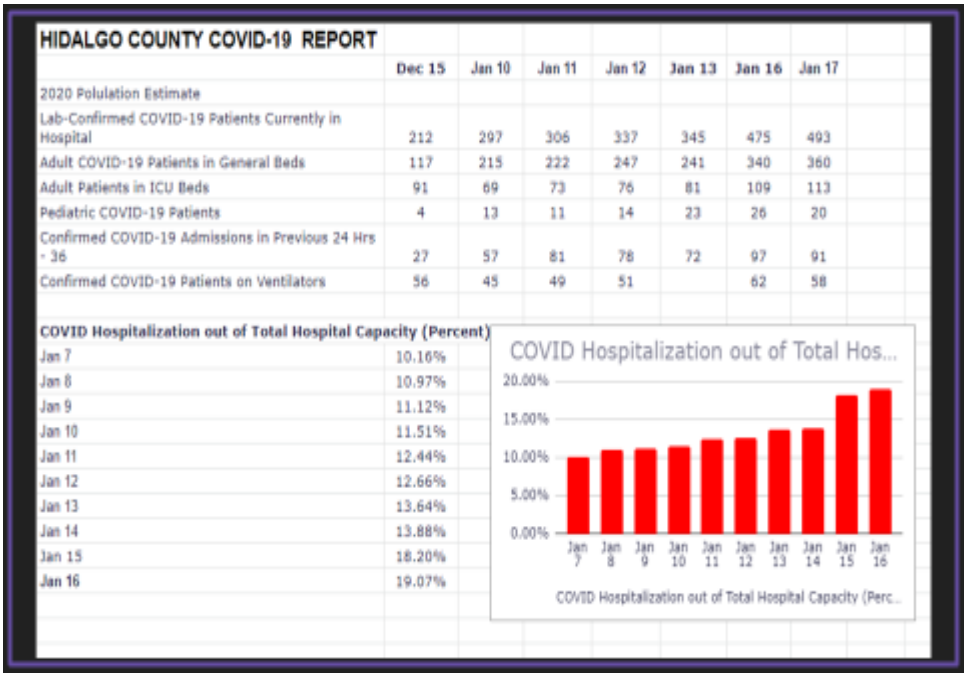
>The map below indicates the cases throughout the country as of January 3, 2022. Cases in our area went from moderate to high.



>The chart below reflects an increase of infections in Hidalgo County beginning December 10 through January 18, 2022.



>Below is a chart indicating the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

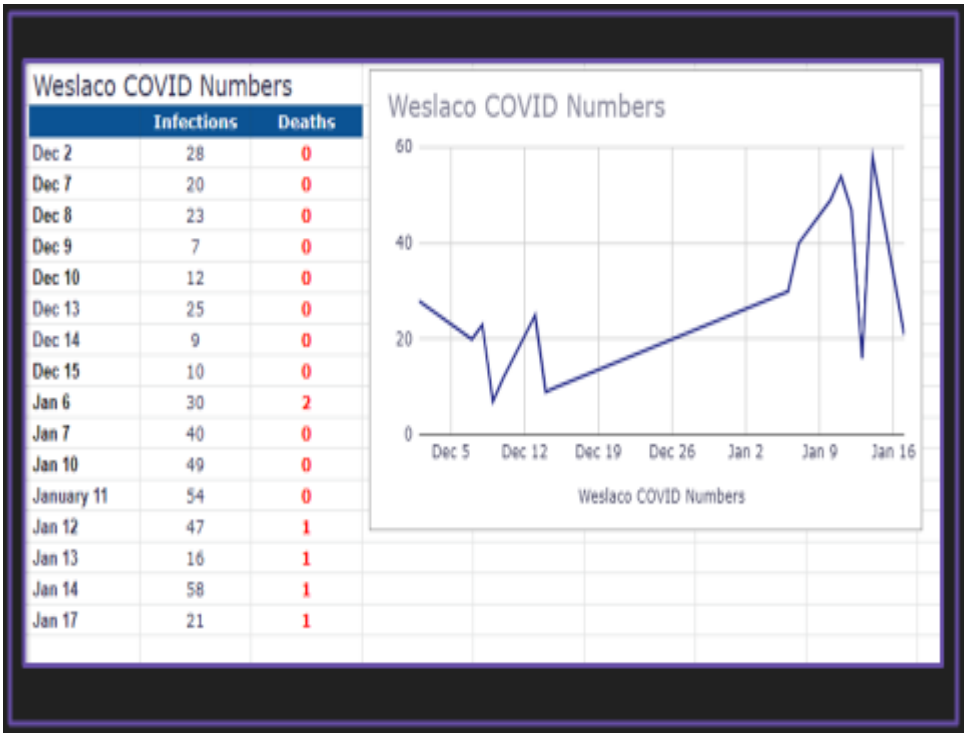


HIDALGO COUNTY COVID-19 REPORT

	Dec 15	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 16	Jan 17
2020 Polulation Estimate							
Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Patients Currently in Hospital	212	297	306	337	345	475	493
Adult COVID-19 Patients in General Beds	117	215	222	247	241	340	360
Adult Patients in ICU Beds	91	69	73	76	81	109	113
Pediatric COVID-19 Patients	4	13	11	14	23	26	20
Confirmed COVID-19 Admissions in Previous 24 Hrs - 36	27	57	81	78	72	97	91
Confirmed COVID-19 Patients on Ventilators	56	45	49	51		62	58

COVID Hospitalization out of Total Hospital Capacity (Percent)	
Jan 7	10.16%
Jan 8	10.97%
Jan 9	11.12%
Jan 10	11.51%
Jan 11	12.44%
Jan 12	12.66%
Jan 13	13.64%
Jan 14	13.88%
Jan 15	18.20%
Jan 16	19.07%

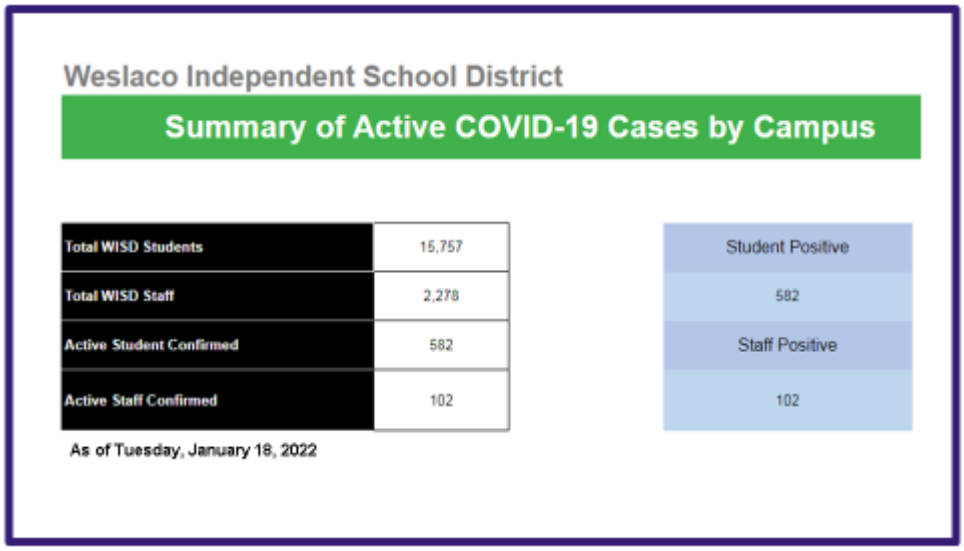
>The chart below reflects the number of COVID cases for Weslaco for the period of December 5, 2021 through January 16, 2022.



Weslaco COVID Numbers

	Infections	Deaths
Dec 2	28	0
Dec 7	20	0
Dec 8	23	0
Dec 9	7	0
Dec 10	12	0
Dec 13	25	0
Dec 14	9	0
Dec 15	10	0
Jan 6	30	2
Jan 7	40	0
Jan 10	49	0
January 11	54	0
Jan 12	47	1
Jan 13	16	1
Jan 14	58	1
Jan 17	21	1

>Below is a summary of active COVID-19 cases by campus as of January 18, 2022.



Weslaco Independent School District

Summary of Active COVID-19 Cases by Campus

Total WISD Students	15,757
Total WISD Staff	2,278
Active Student Confirmed	582
Active Staff Confirmed	102

Student Positive
582
Staff Positive
102

As of Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Weslaco I.S.D. COVID-19 Cases by Campus

SUMMARY BY SCHOOL & DISTRICT

School	Enrollment	Active Student Cases	Active Staff Cases	Total Cases
Airport Elementary	671	40	7	47
A.N. Tony Rico Elementary	701	35	2	37
Cleckler Elementary	864	37	9	46
Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary	868	12	5	17
Justice Raul A. Gonzalez Elementary	596	15	3	18
Memorial Elementary	965	42	7	49
North Bridge Elementary	662	15	5	20
PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary	480	23	6	29
Rudy Silva Elementary	507	16	4	20
Sam Houston Elementary	713	22	6	28
Early Learning Elementary	428	0	0	0
B. Garza Middle School	1017	14	4	18
Central Middle School	913	29	3	32
Cuellar Middle School	661	23	8	31
Mary Hoge Middle School	916	41	0	41
Weslaco High School	2489	114	12	126
Weslaco East High School	1912	94	17	111
South Palms Garden High School	76	0	0	0
Early College High School	250	10	3	13
Horton AEP Campus	68	0	1	1
Career and Technology (CATE)	N/A	0	0	0
Total	15,757	582	102	684

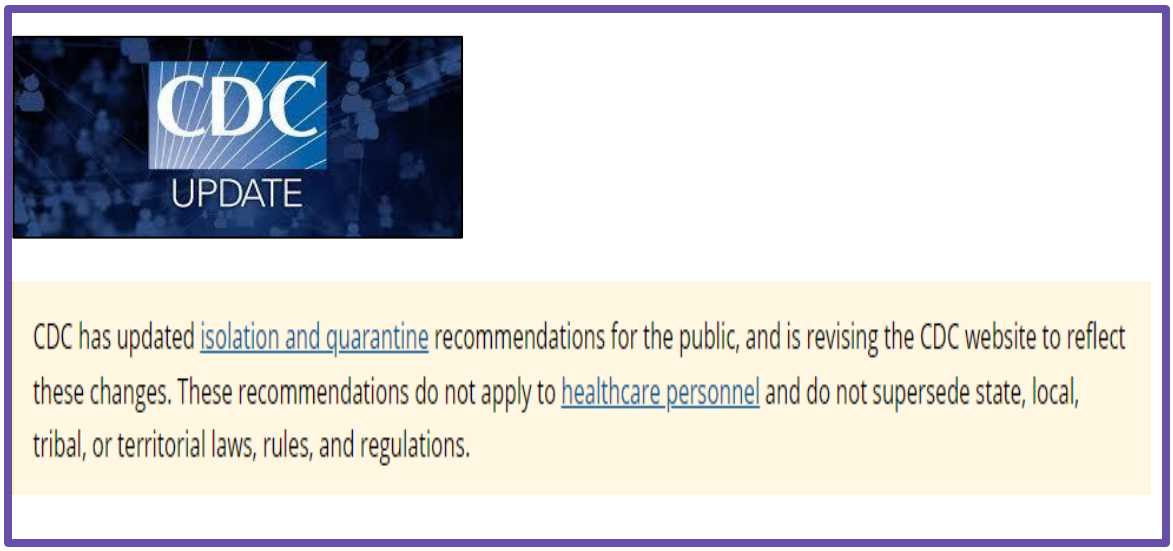
>Below is a summary of active COVID-19 cases in our neighboring school districts.
•All school districts are seeing a spike in cases.

The data table below indicates the number of COVID-19 cases in a few RGV districts.

	Harlingen CISD	Weslaco ISD	Donna ISD	McAllen ISD	Edinburg CISD	PSJA ISD	Brownsville ISD
Active # of Students Positive	424	582	552	791	1264	1333	1720
Active # of Staff Positive	115	102	155	177	212	280	356
Total	539	684	707	968	1476	1613	2076
Date of Report: 1/18/22							

>School districts implement protocols based on TEA guidance.





>It is state and local health departments that lead the way for our district protocols. On January 7, 2022, Texas Education Commissioner Morath held a webinar with all superintendents in the state and noted that school districts are to follow the Texas Public Health guidance provided by the Texas Education Agency and that the CDC recommendations are only a guide for school districts.

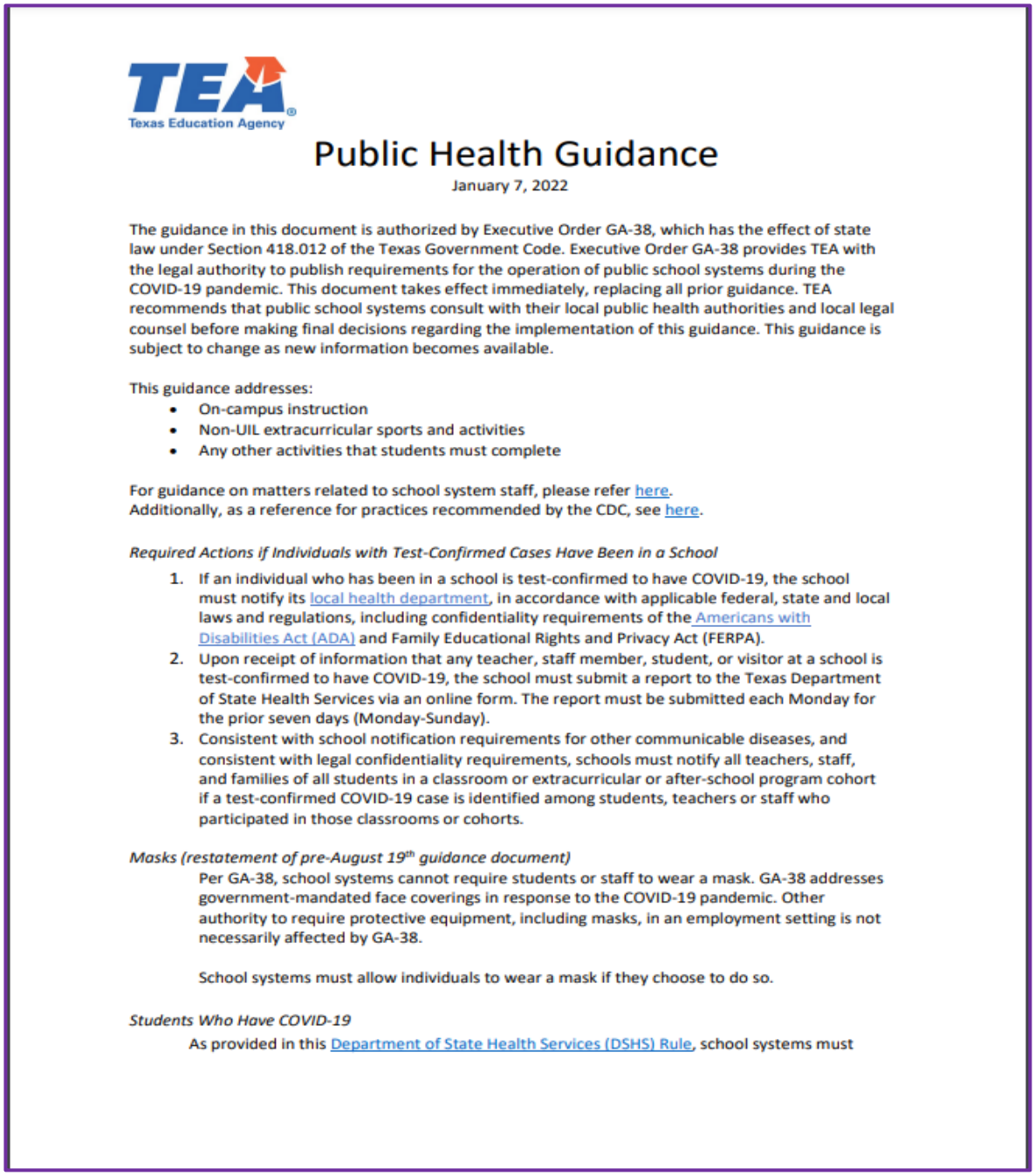
>School districts receive information and updates from the Texas Education Agency on a daily basis.

>The public is able to access additional information on the TEA's website as well.



>Public Health Guidance (Dated January 7, 2022)

- WISD is following this guidance, which is a combination of protocols.



Texas Education Agency

Public Health Guidance

January 7, 2022

The guidance in this document is authorized by Executive Order GA-38, which has the effect of state law under Section 418.012 of the Texas Government Code. Executive Order GA-38 provides TEA with the legal authority to publish requirements for the operation of public school systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. This document takes effect immediately, replacing all prior guidance. TEA recommends that public school systems consult with their local public health authorities and local legal counsel before making final decisions regarding the implementation of this guidance. This guidance is subject to change as new information becomes available.

This guidance addresses:

- On-campus instruction
- Non-UIL extracurricular sports and activities
- Any other activities that students must complete

For guidance on matters related to school system staff, please refer here.
Additionally, as a reference for practices recommended by the CDC, see here.

Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

1. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.

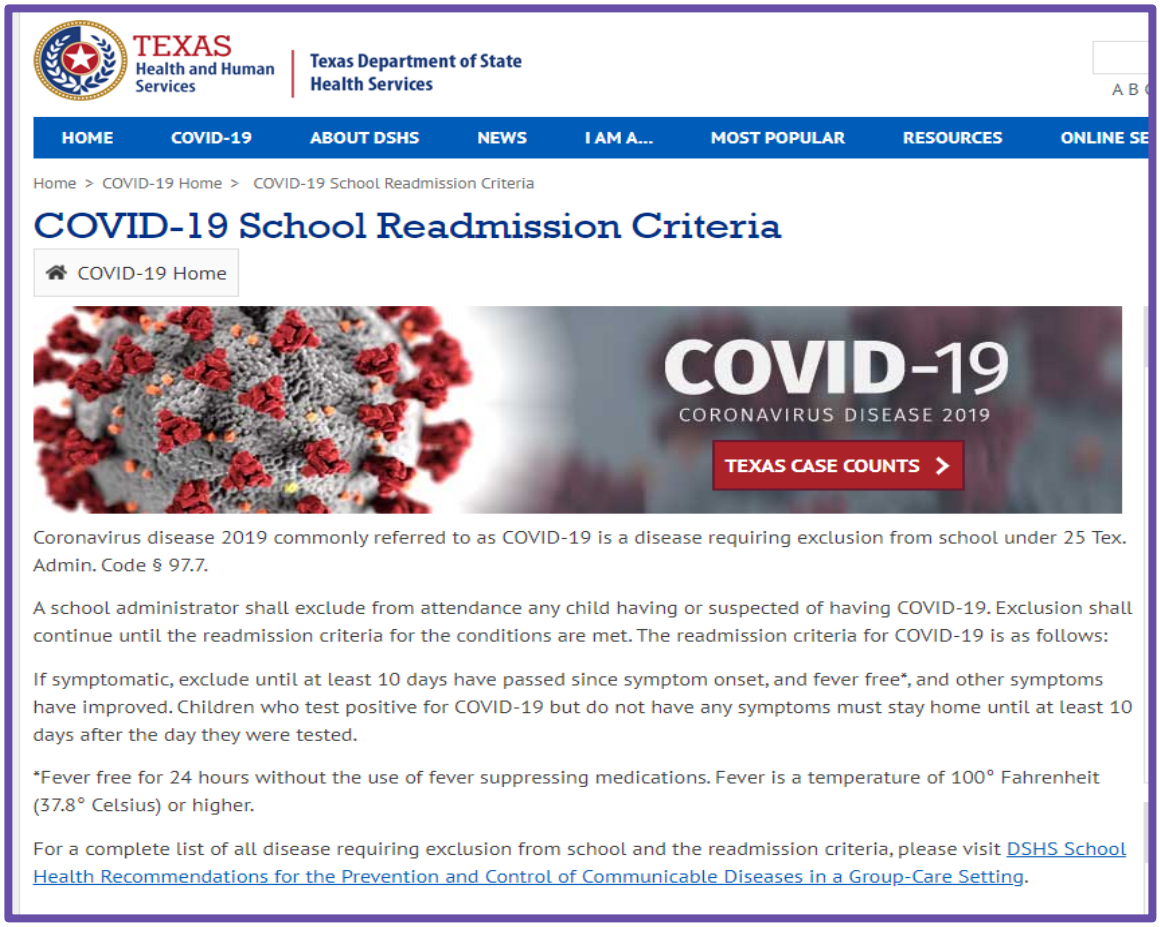
Masks (restatement of pre-August 19th guidance document)

Per GA-38, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-38 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Other authority to require protective equipment, including masks, in an employment setting is not necessarily affected by GA-38.

School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Students Who Have COVID-19

As provided in this Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Rule, school systems must



TEXAS Health and Human Services | Texas Department of State Health Services

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COVID-19 School Readmission Criteria

COVID-19 Home

Coronavirus disease 2019 commonly referred to as COVID-19 is a disease requiring exclusion from school under 25 Tex. Admin. Code § 97.7.

A school administrator shall exclude from attendance any child having or suspected of having COVID-19. Exclusion shall continue until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met. The readmission criteria for COVID-19 is as follows:

If symptomatic, exclude until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and fever free*, and other symptoms have improved. Children who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms must stay home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

*Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications. Fever is a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit (37.8° Celsius) or higher.

For a complete list of all disease requiring exclusion from school and the readmission criteria, please visit DSHS School Health Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in a Group-Care Setting.

If the individual has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 and wants to return to school <u>BEFORE</u> completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

(a) **Obtain a medical provider's note clearing the individual for return, or**

(b) **Obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.**

> Staff created flow charts to provide students and staff a better understanding of the isolation protocols.
•Every case is considered on a case-by-case basis because it depends on the individual's circumstances.

WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID STUDENTS PROTOCOLS



ISOLATION PROTOCOLS KNOWN CLOSE CONTACT

KNOWN CLOSE CONTACT DEFINED

- Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Adults who were within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, 3 feet for children in the classroom (K-12). *Excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

CLOSE CONTACT (STUDENTS)

YOU ARE CONSIDERED UP-TO-DATE WITH YOUR VACCINES IF YOU:

- Have received your booster OR
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR
- Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

Then:

- Quarantine is not required if you have no symptoms
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5.
- If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home until you meet the Confirmed or Suspected of having COVID-19 return to campus protocols below.

YOU ARE NOT CONSIDERED UP-TO-DATE WITH YOUR VACCINES IF YOU:

- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and have not received your booster
- OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine over 2 months ago and have not received your booster
- OR Are unvaccinated

Then:

- Quarantine for 5 days.
- Test on day 5.
- Return to work or school with a negative PCR test and/or a Doctor's release.
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days

STUDENTS CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED OF HAVING COVID-19

Symptomatic students:

- will be sent home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, are fever free, and other symptoms have improved.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms:

- MUST STAY home until at least 10 days after the day they were tested.

If the individual has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

(a) obtain a medical provider's note clearing the individual for return, or
(b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID STAFF PROTOCOLS



ISOLATION PROTOCOLS KNOWN CLOSE CONTACT

KNOWN CLOSE CONTACT DEFINED

• Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure: Adults who were within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, 3 feet for children in the classroom (K-12). *Excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

CLOSE CONTACT (STAFF)

YOU ARE CONSIDERED UP-TO-DATE WITH YOUR VACCINES IF YOU:

- Have received your booster OR
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR
- Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

Then:

- Quarantine is not required if you have no symptoms
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5.
- If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home until you meet the Confirmed or Suspected of having COVID-19 return to campus protocols below.

YOU ARE NOT CONSIDERED UP-TO-DATE WITH YOUR VACCINES IF YOU:

- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and have not received your booster
- OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine over 2 months ago and have not received your booster
- OR Are unvaccinated

Then:

- Quarantine for 5 days.
- Test on day 5.
- Return to work or school with a negative PCR test and/or a Doctor's release.
- Wear a mask around others for 10 days

EMPLOYEES CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED OF HAVING COVID-19

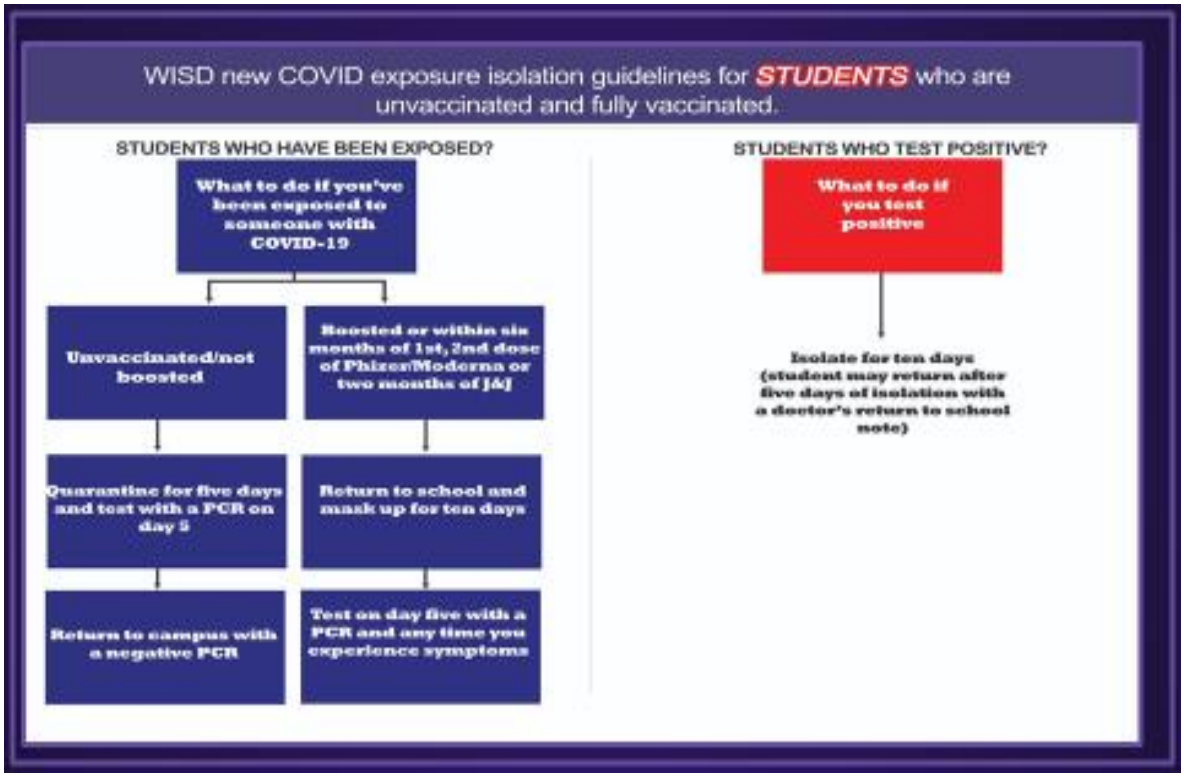
Staff who are COVID-19 positive or who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, may return when:

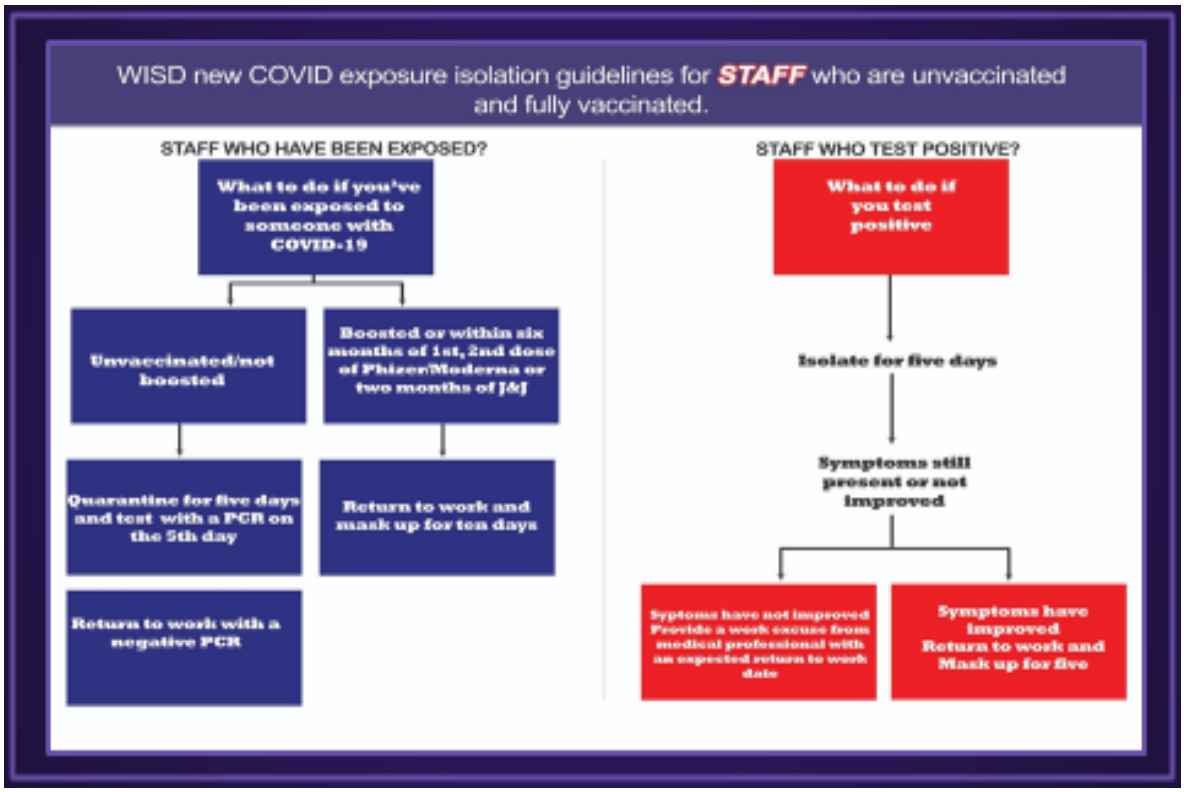
- If symptomatic, at least 5 days have passed since symptom onset, are fever free, and other symptoms have improved.
- For those with no symptoms, at least 5 days after the day they tested positive.
- Continue to wear a mask for five (5) additional days.

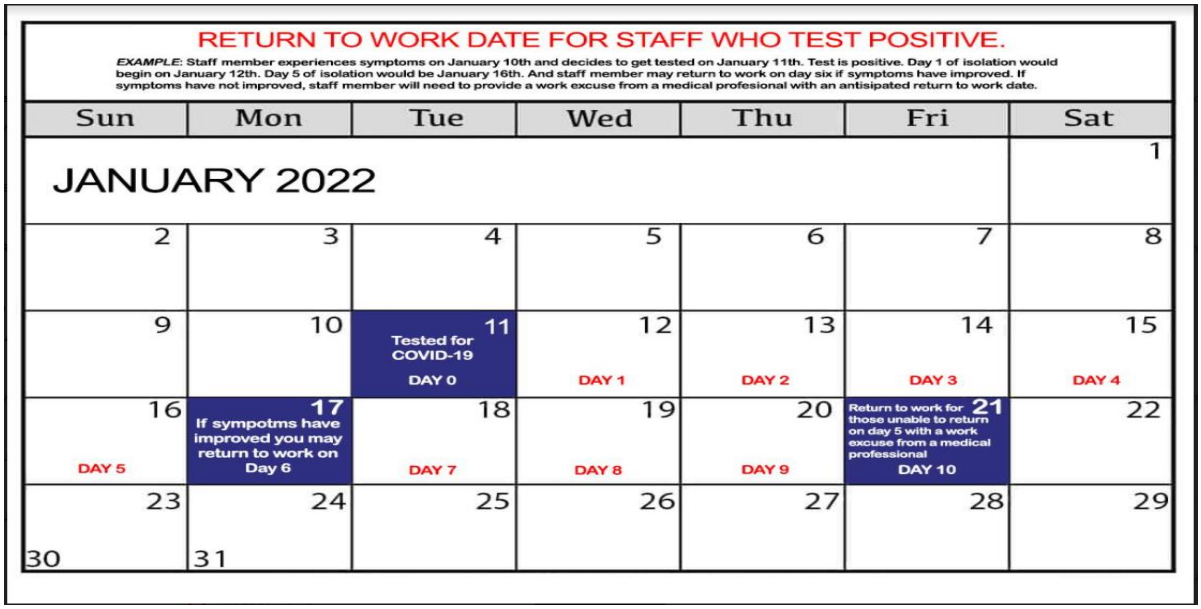
If the individual has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either:

(a) obtain a medical provider's note clearing the individual for return, or
(b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

>The charts below show the isolation guidelines that students and staff will follow when exposed to COVID-19.







>Dr. Valdez mentioned that the campus nurse provides guidance to students and staff.

>According to Mrs. Susan Strong, the nurses are doing contact tracing for every student who has tested positive. The nurses are working late and on weekends to inform everyone who has been in close contact with the student.

>ENROLLMENT/ADA

•Attendance is low.

•ADA is down by 3 percentage points.

District Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance Comparison

Campus	18th Week Enrollment			18th Week Average Daily Attendance (ADA)				
	2021	2022	Difference	2021	2022	ADA Diff	2021 ADA (%)	2022 ADA (%)*
Sam Houston Elementary	719	715	(4)	658	633	(25)	95.02%	94.32%
Silva Elementary	588	504	(84)	535	435	(99)	96.15%	92.81%
Gonzalez Elementary	653	596	(57)	569	493	(76)	91.77%	93.33%
Margo Elementary	911	863	(48)	845	742	(103)	94.67%	93.51%
Airport Elementary	753	669	(84)	677	560	(116)	95.34%	92.91%
Memorial Elementary	1014	959	(55)	934	815	(119)	97.53%	93.32%
North Bridge Elementary	707	667	(40)	626	572	(54)	91.44%	92.47%
Rico Elementary	747	698	(49)	659	584	(75)	93.65%	91.59%
Cleckler-Heald Elementary	896	866	(30)	851	761	(90)	97.79%	93.79%
Ybarra Elementary	542	479	(63)	474	404	(70)	92.61%	91.92%
Mary Hoge Middle School	969	915	(54)	906	818	(88)	95.35%	92.23%
Cuellar Middle School	763	661	(102)	735	588	(147)	96.69%	92.29%
Central Middle School	936	914	(22)	912	836	(77)	97.88%	94.08%
B. Garza Middle School	1095	1016	(79)	1049	922	(126)	96.55%	93.06%
South Palm Gardens	44	72	28	50	55	5	98.11%	94.95%
East High School	1988	1911	(77)	1797	1695	(102)	89.79%	89.25%
Weslaco High School	2544	2482	(62)	2464	2248	(216)	96.91%	90.84%
Horton	0	69	69	0	29	29	96.30%	87.23%
JJAEP – Student Alternative	4	5	1	4	1	(3)	90.96%	90.00%
Hidalgo County Bootcamp	10	9	(1)	12	8	(4)	100.00%	100.00%
Early College High School	262	250	(12)	248	233	(15)	94.47%	93.17%
21st Century ELF Academy	427	426	(1)	196	169	(27)	93.32%	82.64%
GRAND TOTAL	16573	15746	(827)	15198	13600	(1599)	94.93%	92.04%

January 14, 2022

Weslaco Independent School District
Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance Comparison

CAMPUS	18th Week Enrollment			18th Week ADA				
	2020-2021	2021-2022	Difference	2020-2021	2021-2022	ADA Diff	2021 (ADA) %	2022 (ADA) %
Elementary Schools	7530	7016	(514)	6827	5999	(828)	94.79%	92.76%
Middle Schools	3763	3506	(257)	3602	3164	(438)	96.61%	92.97%
High Schools	4838	4715	(123)	4559	4231	(328)	94.82%	92.05%
Alternative	14	83	69	16	38	22	95.75%	92.41%
ELF – Academy	427	426	(1)	196	169	(27)	93.32%	82.64%
GRAND Total	16573	15746	(827)	15198	13600	(1599)	94.93%	92.04%

Enrollment: Student Enrollment – Includes ALL students regardless of eligibility requirements.
ADA %: This is the percent attendance by campus and district

ADA includes 293 ADA days of Flex Attendance

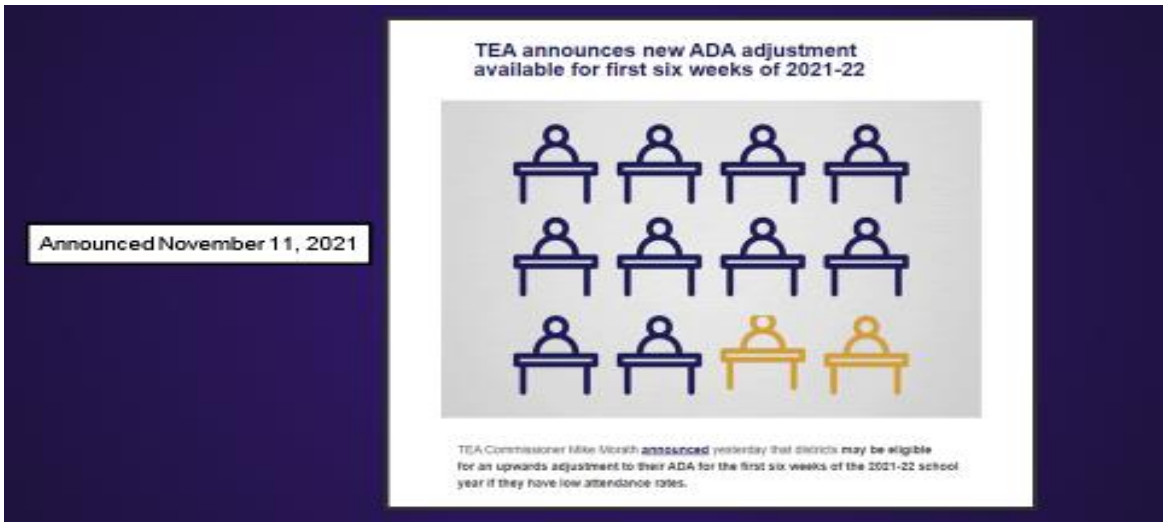
January 14, 2022

Average Daily Attendance

Average Daily Attendance (ADA) Budgeted for 2021-2022	15,200
Actual ADA for the First Three (3) Six-Weeks of School	14,009
Budgeted ADA Shortfall	1,191
There are budgeted teaching vacancies that have not been filled from the outside. Some are being filled from within the district.	
Property Tax collections in excess of amounts budgeted may assist to shorten the ADA funding deficit.	
TEA is working with school districts and charter schools to assist with the low attendance in the 2021-2022 school year. There will be an adjustment for the first six-week period based on attendance rates between 2019-2020 and 2021-2022. This is a one-time adjustment that will only be made for the 2021–2022 school year. Please note that this adjustment does not hold a district harmless for losses of ADA due to enrollment declines.	

Texas Education Agency

[1/13/22 update] LEAs have reported to TEA that attendance rate declines continue to occur due to COVID during the spring semester. As a result, the agency is exploring options to ensure school systems will not experience significant financial difficulties and the agency has temporarily closed the low attendance waiver. Please expect more on this at a future date.



><u>Two Options for Students to Receive Instruction:</u>

- Remote Conferencing
- (SB 15) Weslaco ISD Virtual Learning Academy (VLA)



>If a student test positive or is of known close contact, the parent should reach out to the school.
>The school is to provide remote conferencing.
>A student must meet the following requirements in order to receive remote conferencing.

Texas Education Agency

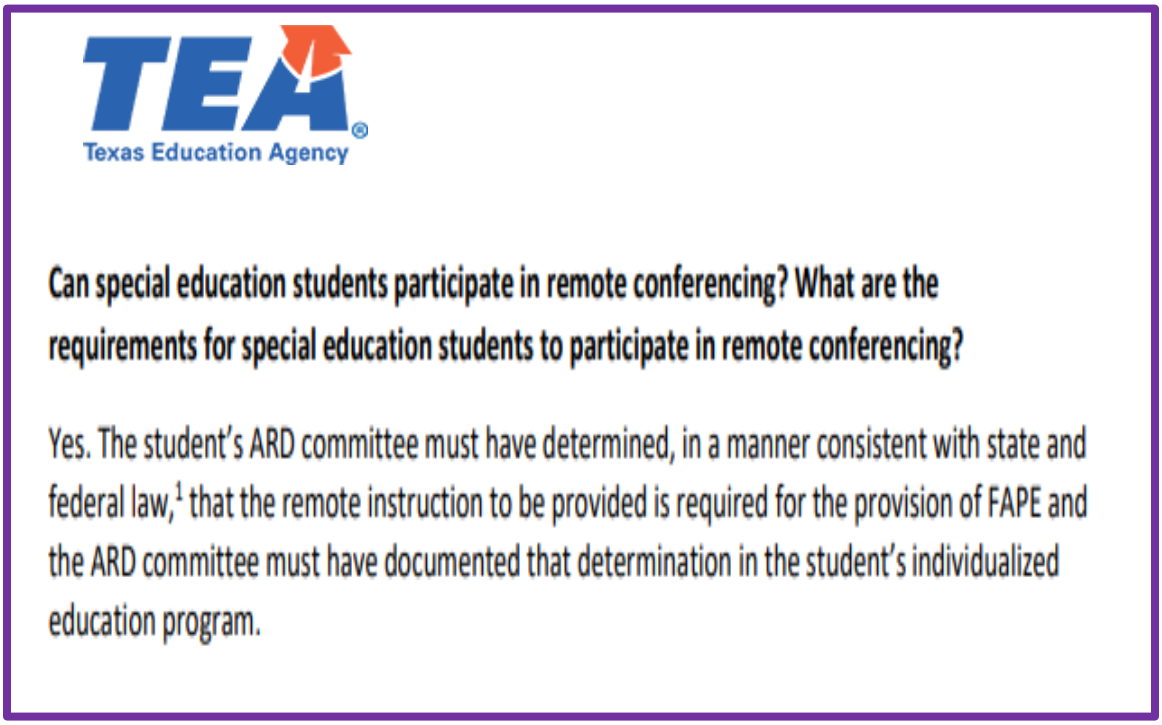
These two requirements must be met:

- The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition.[1]
- The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year.

In addition, one of the following requirements also must be met:

- The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital.
- The student has a positive test result for a communicable condition listed in 25 TAC §97.7.

>Special Education students can participate in remote conferencing if they meet certain criteria.



>Key Differences between Remote Conferencing & VLA



Key Differences Between Remote Conferencing & VLA

	Remote Conferencing	Local Remote Learning Program (SB 15)
Enrollment Cap	***No Cap*** *(However, if a student receives remote conferencing for more than 50% of their instructional days, they count toward the 10% cap within SB 15)*	***Up to 10% of LEA Enrollment***
Timeframe	Temporary Learning Option (Cannot exceed 20 instructional days without a waiver)	Can be used for temporary or long term remote learning
PEIMS Coding	PEIMS Attendance Code 1-6	PEIMS Attendance Code 1-6
Student Eligibility Criteria	These two requirements must be met: • The student is unable to attend school because of a temporary medical condition, and • The total amount of remote conferencing instruction does not exceed more than 20 instructional days over the entirety of the school year. In addition, one of the following requirements also must be met: • The student's temporary medical condition is documented by a physician licensed to practice in the United States. The documentation must include a statement from the physician that the student is to remain confined to their home or to a hospital, • The student has a positive test result for a communicable, condition listed in 25 TAC §97.7, or • The student has been identified as having been in close contact with COVID-19.	LEAs may only **count a student toward ADA if that student meets eligibility requirements in the following areas**: 1. *Based on student information from the preceding school year,* if a student received remote instruction for a majority of their instructional days in the previous school year, they also must have: a. Achieved satisfactory achievement or higher on each STAAR assessment administered. i. If a STAAR assessment was not administered, a different assessment can be administered that shows grade level proficiency in TEKS. b. Had a number of unexcused absences that is 10% or fewer out of all instructional days. c. Earned a grade of C or higher in the foundation curriculum courses taken virtually or remotely in the preceding school year. If a student did *not* receive a majority of their instructional time in the preceding school year via remote instruction, then the criteria noted above do not apply to determine student eligibility for remote learning. However, criteria noted in the next section apply to all students. 2. *Based on student information from the current school year:* a. The student is enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school. b. The student has reasonable access to in-person services at a district or school facility. c. The student has fewer than 10 unexcused absences while enrolled in local remote instruction over a six-month period.
LEA Eligibility	Available to all LEAs	***Only*** Available to LEAs with **C** or Higher Performance Rating
Mode of Instruction Constraints	Synchronous Instruction for a minimum of 2 hours for elementary students and 4 hours for secondary school students	Synchronous, Asynchronous, or Combination of synchronous/asynchronous, with requirements as defined in the SAAH
Concurrent Instruction	No Concurrent Instruction (teacher instructing remote and on-campus students at the same time, in the same class period)	

>The chart below shows the number of students participating in remote conferencing and the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA).

Remote Conferencing		
	Sem 1	**Sem 2**
Weslaco High School	123	334
South Palm Gardens	10	1
JJAEP	1	NA
Weslaco East High School	192	212
Horton AEP	6	NA
Early College High School	26	46
Mary Hoge Middle School	108	69
Cuellar Middle School	40	61
Central Middle School	98	134
B. Garza Middle Schol	80	101
Sam Houston Elementary	91	107
Silva Elementary	51	21
Gonzalez Elementary	53	34
Margo Elementary	81	74
Airport Elementary	58	41
Memorial Elementary	93	179
North Bridge Elementary	61	72
A.N. Rico Elementary	125	17
Cleckler/Heald Elementary	49	50
Ybarra Elementary	59	42
Grand Total	1405	1595

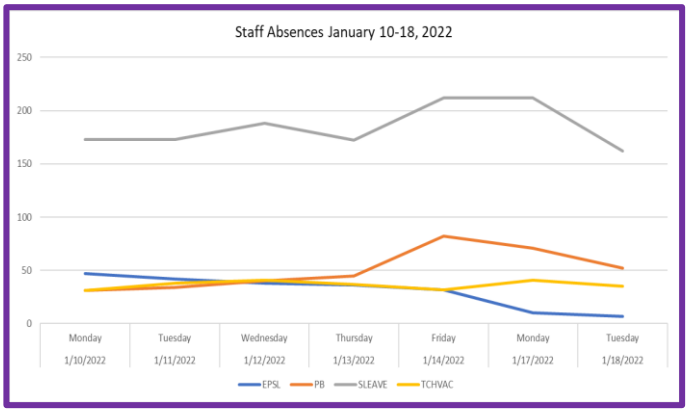
Virtual Learning Academy	
Elementary VLA	214
Middle VLA	53
High VLA	20

STAFF ATTENDANCE

>The chart below shows the number of staff absences beginning on Monday, January 10, 2022 through Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

>Central Office administrative staff assisted at the campuses as needed due to staff absences.

Dr. Valdez thanked campus and central office administration for working together through these sporadic shifts.



7-DAY TOTALS

EPSL: *COVID leave*	**212**
PB: *Personal leave*	**355**
SLEAVE: *Sick leave*	**1292**
TCHVAC: *teaching positions still unfilled*	**255**

DAILY JOB COUNTS	1/10/2022 Monday	1/11/2022 Tuesday	1/12/2022 Wednesday	1/13/2022 Thursday	1/14/2022 Friday	1/17/2022 Monday	1/18/2022 Tuesday
TOTAL JOBS	**299**	**307**	**356**	**354**	**416**	**359**	**292**
OPEN (unfilled)	**103**	**87**	**111**	**108**	**136**	**114**	**92**

>WISD continues to provide COVID-19 resources to employees and students.

DISTRICT COVID-19 RESOURCES

- **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan**
- **Student Protocols**
- **Staff Protocols**
- **Vaccination Clinics (Every 3 weeks at all campuses)**
- **K-12 COVID-19 Testing Project**
- **PCR Testing at USDA Building at SFA**
- **Desk Shields**
- **Face Masks**
- **Air Cleaners**
- **Cleaning and Disinfection**



X. Consent Agenda

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Jesse Trevino seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2021 and the Public Hearing of December 16, 2021

The Board approved the minutes as presented.

B. Approval of Out of Valley Trips

The Board approved the trips as presented:

Central Middle School

>The Band and Orchestra students will perform at Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio, Texas on April 30, 2022.

Weslaco East High School

>The Swim Team will compete at the Region 8 Championship Meet in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 3-5, 2022.

>The Tennis Team will compete at the 2022 Laredo Border Olympics Tournament in Laredo, Texas on February 24-26, 2022.

Weslaco High School

>The JROTC Panther Battalion Raiders Team will participate in the Raiders Competition at La Copa Ranch in Falfurrias, Texas on February 12, 2022.

>The Band students will perform at the TMEA All State Band Clinic/Concert at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas on February 9-13, 2022.

C. Approval of Policy Update 118 from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)

The Board approved Policy Update 118 as presented. First Reading of Policy Update 118 was presented to the Board for review during the December 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. The following topics are addressed through this update:

•CFD (Accounting: Activity Funds Management)
•CQB (Technology Resources: Cybersecurity)
•DFE (Termination of Employment: Resignation)
•DP (Personnel Positions)
•EHAA (Basic Instructional Program: Required Instruction – All Levels)
•EHBC (Special Programs: Compensation/Accelerated Services)
•EIE (Academic Achievement: Retention and Promotion)
•FDE (Admissions: School Safety Transfers)
•FEA (Attendance: Compulsory Attendance)
•FEC (Attendance: Attendance for Credit)
•FFG (Student Welfare: Child Abuse and Neglect)
•FL (Student Records)

D. Approval to Accept a Donation of a $300.00 Gift Card from TJMaxx and a $100 HEB Gift Card from Jesus Pena for a Family from North Bridge Elementary

The Board accepted the donation of a $300.00 gift card from TJ Maxx for school clothing and a $100.00 HEB gift card as presented. Staff distributed the gift cards to a selected family at North Bridge Elementary.

E. Approval to Accept a Donation in the Amount of $150.00 from Frost Bank for Cleckler-Heald Elementary Students

The Board accepted the $150.00 donation from Frost Bank as presented. The funds were used for the Christmas Toy Drive held in December for the students at Cleckler-Heald Elementary.

F. Approval to Accept a Wal-Mart Grant Award in the Amount of $1,500.00 for Cleckler-Heald Elementary Students

The Board accepted the Wal-Mart Grant Award in the amount of $1,500.00 for Cleckler-Heald Elementary students. Staff used the funds to purchase general supplies for instructional purposes during the 2021-2022 academic school year.

G. Approval to Accept Donations from Various Sponsors for Weslaco ISD Families:

The Board accepted the donations as presented.

1. Five (5) HEB Gift Cards from CrossRoads Community Church
2. Five (5) Walmart Gift Cards from CrossRoads Community Church
3. Ten (10) $100.00 HEB Gift Cards from The Love of Christ Lutheran Church
4. $1,000.00 from the Love of Christ Lutheran Church
5. One (1) $150.00 Gift Card from the Lulac Council 291, Clemente Del Campo
6. New School Clothes from Nick Carranza and Adrian Gonzalez for Three (3) WISD Families

Staff distributed the gift cards and school clothes to selected families of Weslaco ISD students. Staff purchased uniforms and school supplies for Weslaco ISD students with the funds donated by the Love of Christ Lutheran Church.

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

The Board approved the sole source purchase of the Imagine Learning Web-Based Interactive Learning System to provide a first language support to the migrant students in PK-12th grade, including Live Support for At-Home Practice. Overall, this program provides the critical systems necessary to ensure 21st century readiness for every Migrant student and ultimately produce outcomes that will allow the Migrant staff to meet the needs of migrant students and track their individual progress. The cost of this program is $37,500.00. ESSER III funds will be used for this purchase.

I. Approval of Summer Work Schedule/Vacation Schedule for Central Office and Campus Staff on Year-Round Contracts

The Board approved the summer work schedule/vacation schedule for Central Office and campus staff employed on year-round contracts.

Summer Work Schedule:

The summer work schedule will allow for a three-day weekend.

Monday thru Thursday	7:30 am – 12:00 pm
½ hour lunch	12:00 pm – 12:30 pm
	12:30 pm – 6:00 pm
Friday	Off

This schedule will not include personnel who work on an hourly basis such as custodians, maintenance, etc.

The summer work schedule will begin on Monday, May 30, 2022, and continue until Thursday, July 28, 2022. Regular work hours for Central Office and staff employed on year-round contracts will resume Monday, August 1, 2022.

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, Central Office staff and campus staff will work July 5-8, 2022 (Tuesday through Friday) for that week.

Vacation Schedule:

•Employees will be on vacation July 11, 2022 thru July 22, 2022
•Employees will return to work on Monday, July 25, 2022

J. Approval of Budget Amendments:

The Board approved the budget amendments as presented:

1. North Bridge Elementary – Local Fund to Pay for Registration Fees for Facilitators to Attend a Region One Virtual Workshop: $950.00
2. Athletics Department – Local Fund/Athletics Fund to Purchase Pole Vault and High Jump Pits for Weslaco East High School: $27,995.00
3. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Leadership – Local Fund to Cover Consultant Expenses from Region One for the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Trainings for Human Resources Staff and Other Central Office Administrators: $16,803.00
4. Business Office – Dyslexia Fund to Record Budget for the Dyslexia Fund Roll-Forward: $51,886.00

5. Business Office – Technology Special Fund to Record Budget for Capital Lease for Palo Alto Networks PA-5220: $161,475.00

K. Approval of Monthly Tax Adjustments for December 2021

This item was not approved by the Board because the monthly tax adjustments for the month of December 2021 were not presented.

L. Approval of Investment Activity Report for the Quarter Ended November 30, 2021

The Board approved the Quarterly Investment Activity Report for the quarter ended November 30, 2021 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 November 30, 2021 was higher than the book value of the investments, as required by law.

Fund Name	Book Value 11/31/2021	Ending Market Value 11/30/2021	Market Value is Higher (Lower) than Book Value By 11/30/2021	Accrued Interest @ 11/30/2021
Total First Public Investment Pool	$ 65,283,335.61	$ 65,283,548.24	$ 212.63	N/A
Total Texas Term Investment Pool	$ 11,401,948.77	$11,401,948.77	-	N/A
Total Tex-Pool	$ 6,121,615.16	$ 6,121,615.16	-	N/A
Totals – All Investments	$ 82,806,899.54	$82,807,112.17	$ 212.63	-

The investments earnings amount for the quarter ended November 30, 2021 was $12,119.65.

XI. Discussion Items:

A. Interim Financial Report for the Four Months Ended December 31, 2021

Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance reviewed the general fund expenditures for the four months ending on December 31, 2021.

>WISD receives money from local, state, and federal sources as follows:

Source	Adjusted Budget	Received	Variance	Percentage
Local	$ 26,317,952	$11,784,966	($14,532,986)	44.78%
State	$ 36,389,916	$53,858,889	($82,531,027)	39.49%
Federal	$ 14,574,519	$ 3,897,737	($10,676,782)	26.74%
Totals	$177,282,387	$69,541,591	($107,740,796)	39.23%

>General Fund Expenditures for the four months ended December 31, 2021

Function	Adjusted Budgeted	Expended or Encumbered	Variance	Percentage
Instructional Related (11, 12, 13, 31 & 95)	$ 117,630,262	$ 29,573,847	$ 88,056,415	25.14%
Instructional Support (32, 33, 34, 35 & 36)	$ 25,427,786	$ 10,342,481	$ 15,085,305	40.67%
Administration (C & I, Campuses, District) (21, 23, 41 & 99)	$ 13,386,319	$ 5,175,735	$ 8,210,584	38.66%
District Wide Support (51, 52, 53 & 61)	$ 21,959,611	$ 8,025,582	$ 13,934,029	36.55%
Debt Service (71)	$ 2,142,324	$ 142,009	$ 2,000,315	6.63%
Total	$ 180,546,302	$ 53,259,654	$ 127,286,648	29.50%

>General Fund Disbursements

Budgeted Expenditures Include:	Amount
Carryover State Allotment Funds	$ 6,625,081
Rolled forward Athletics & Technology Special Fund (Unfulfilled POs)	$ 215,434
Rolled forward Technology Special Fund	$ 15,499
Human Resources Administrator	$ 107,301
TASB Salary and Staffing Study	$ 51,500
WEHS Band Uniforms	$ 146,607

Budgeted Expenditures Include (Cont'd):	Amount
TDA NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant for Kitchen Equipment	$ 73,000
Child and Adult Care Food Program At - Risk Supper Program	$ 90,000
Rolled forward other minor Assigned Fund Balances (Unfulfilled POs)	$ 21,947
HR Consultant PO Rollforward	$ 12,726
HR Consultant Fees (Oct - Dec)	$ 8,000
Forensic Audit Final Invoice	$ 24,240

Budgeted Expenditures Include (Cont'd):	Amount
State Rider 78 Funds Roll-forward	$ 187,319
Mariachi Uniforms for WHS & WEHS	$ 16,500
HR Department - Office Supplies & Technology Equipment	$ 17,355
WISD Virtual Learning Academy - Strategist Extra Duty Pay Stipend	$ 17,500
ALIO Financial Management System Software Upgrade	$ 41,702
Total Budget Expenditures Added	$ 7,671,711

General Fund Disbursements

Reconciliation of Budgeted Expenditures	Amount
Original Budgeted Expenditures	$ 172,874,591
Total Budget Expenditures Added	$ 7,671,711
Total Amended Budgeted Expenditures Through December 31, 2021	$ 180,546,302

>Mr. Sanchez will reach out to the board members who serve on the Budget Committee to discuss the timeline for upcoming budget workshops.

B. Acknowledgement of Hidalgo County Tax Office Collection Report for December 2021: Current Taxes and Delinquent Taxes

Staff did not receive the Tax Collection Report from Hidalgo County and therefore no information was presented.

XII. Discussion and Possible Action Items:

A. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Change the Regular Board Meeting Scheduled on March 15, 2022

The regular board meeting in March is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Since this date falls during the week the school district is closed for Spring Break, Administration asked the Board to consider moving the board meeting before Spring Break or the week after staff has returned from the break.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to move the regular board meeting to Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Renaming the WISD Performing Arts Center to the Susan M. Peterson Center for the Performing and Visual Arts

According to the guidelines established by the Board in May of 2004, a timetable of not less than three (3) months shall be established before any school/major facility is named or renamed. During the August 11, 2021 board meeting, the Board discussed the recommendation to rename the WISD Performing Arts Center to the Susan M. Peterson Center for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Dr. Valdez, Interim Superintendent, said that Mrs. Peterson supported the fine arts program 100%, and therefore it would be a great honor to rename the facility in her name.

Mr. Nieto shared that he had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Peterson when they were both Principals and while she was as an Administrator at Central Office as well. He also felt this was a good tribute to Mrs. Peterson.

Board President Armando Cuellar said that Mrs. Peterson was a wonderful and caring person and very deserving of this honor.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the renaming of the WISD Performing Arts Center to the Susan M. Peterson Center for the Performing and Visual Arts. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Procurement Method of Construction for the Bobby Lackey Stadium Running Track Replacement:

1. Board Determination of a Procurement Method of Construction that will Provide the Best Value to the District for the Project
2. Board Determination to Retain the Authority to Rank the Proposals to be Received for This Project, **OR** Board Delegation of Their Authority to the Administration to Rank the Proposals to be Received, and
3. Approval of Criteria and Points to be Used for Ranking the Proposals

Dr. Valdez informed the Board that the track surface at Bobby Lackey Stadium is in need of replacement. Several areas around the track surface have detached from the asphalt base. The delamination presents itself in the form of bubbles/bumps on the track that create a safety situation for student athletes. Multiple repairs/patch work has been done in the past, but the concerns continue to occur on an annual basis. The asphalt base has been damaged due to the frequency of the problems experienced as well as a major flood event that affected the stadium within the past five years.

Mr. Jesse Trevino made the motion to approve the competitive sealed proposals, for the Board to retain their authority to rank the proposals, and to approve the criteria and points to be used for ranking the proposals. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion.

Questions from the Board:

>Where will the funding be obtained for this project?

- Funds will be obtained from the district's local maintenance fund's unassigned fund balance. The estimated cost for this project is approximately $500,000.00.

>What is the balance in the unassigned fund balance?

- $50 million

>When was the last time the track surface was replaced at the stadium? Is the district addressing the main issue through this work?

Mr. Desi Rodriguez explained that in 2017 the red surface on the track was removed and replaced. However, the major flood that occurred in 2019 has caused humidity to trap underneath the asphalt causing the formation of bubbles/bumps on the track. Several companies that have looked at the track have indicated that the main issue is due to the asphalt. Staff would like to start this project the first week of May to clear out some debris prior to graduation and then continue with the work and have it ready before the football season. Patchwork is being done at this time in order for the track to be used for the upcoming track meets hosted by WISD. The project should take about three months but if the project were to be delayed, Plan B would be to schedule some of the games away.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Mr. Jesse Trevino and seconded by Mr. Marcos De Los Santos to approve the competitive sealed proposals method of construction and for the Board to retain their authority to rank the proposals, and approve the criteria and points to be used for ranking the proposals.

D. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of an Order Authorizing the Issuance of an Amount Not to Exceed $12,735,000 "Weslaco Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2022"; Levying a Continuing Direct Annual Ad Valorem Tax and Providing for the Security and Payment Thereof; Prescribing the Form, Terms, and Conditions, and Resolving Other Matters Incident and Related to the Issuance, Sale, and Delivery of the Bonds, Including the Approval and Distribution of an Official Statement Pertaining Thereto and Authorizing the Authorized Representative to Approve the Amount, the Interest Rate, and Terms Thereof and Certain Other Procedures and Provisions Relating Thereto; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a Purchase Contract Relating to Said Bonds, a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement and an Escrow Agreement; Providing an Effective Date; and Enacting Other Provisions Relating to the Subject and Purposes of this Order

Dr. Valdez explained that the district has the opportunity to refinance a portion of its long-term unlimited tax debt for economic savings. Current low interest rates will allow the District to achieve debt service cash flow savings for immediate budget relief. The District can issue Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2022 (the "Refunding Bonds"). During the November 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, the Board approved the plan of finance and approved Estrada Hinojosa & Co., Inc. as the Underwriters for the sale of the 2022 refunding bonds. The administration recommended that the Board approve the Order authorizing the issuance of an amount not to exceed $12,735,000 "Weslaco Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding bonds, Taxable Series 2022."

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the Order as presented. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Mr. Chris Vela provided the following information in response to board member inquiries:
"Do the rates benefit the district?"

- The Refunding Parameters process delegates the execution of the refinancing to one or more 'pricing officers.' The pricing officer can be the Superintendent, District staff, or members of the Board.
- The parameters order has a life of six months after approval. The order will expire in July 2022.
  - Suggested Parameters:
    - Amount of 2022 Refunding Bonds not to exceed the amount of bonds to be refinanced (up to $12,735,000)
    - Final Maturity of 2022 Refunding Bonds no later than February 15, 2036 (existing maturity of the Series 2015B Bonds to be refinanced)
    - Minimum present value savings of $1,000,000
    - Maximum True Interest Cost of 3%
- It is designed to provide flexibility in the pricing in interest markets that are moving up or down.
- If the rates are too low within the six-month timeframe, staff does not have to come back to the Board. They can continue to monitor rates with the help of staff, pricing officers, financial advisor and the underwriter.
- The goal is to try to achieve a certain level of savings.
- The maturities cannot be extended for the 2015B bonds.

The estimated cash flow savings as of January 5, 2022 are approximately $1,337,000 and would provide budget relief in calendar years 2022-2025. The present value savings are currently estimated at $1,250,000 which represents 10.55% of the refunded bonds as of January 5, 2022. The District has traditionally executed bond refunding transactions when present value savings exceed 3% of the refunded bonds.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Andrew Gonzalez and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve the Order authorizing the issuance of an amount not to exceed $12,735,000 "Weslaco Independent School District Unlimited Tax Refunding bonds, Taxable Series 2022 as presented.

E. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Contract for the Hiring of Bond Counsel on a Contingency Fee Basis

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve a contract for the hiring of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP of Austin, Texas as Bond Counsel on a contingency fee basis.

Mr. Andres Sanchez informed the Board that in 2019, legislation was enacted to require issuers, such as the District, to post a particular form of notice and to formally approve the hiring of contingent fee counsel, which includes bond counsel. As required by this legislation, the required notice was posted along with tonight's board agenda.

Mr. Gregory Miller, Partner with Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, was present to answer questions from the Board. The bond counsel's fees and expenses in connection with the issuance of the Obligations will be payable at the time of the delivery of and payment for the Obligations, but their fees for these services are wholly contingent upon actual issuance of the Obligations. Should the Obligations not be issued, the District would be responsible only for payment of the costs of any newspaper publications or translation services incurred.

Questions/Concerns from the Board and Responses from Administration:

>Mr. Andrew Gonzalez: "Do we have to follow an RFQ?"

•The Board does not have to do an RFQ, as per the school attorney.

>Mr. Jesse Trevino: "Why is the Board not given options to select a firm?" He would like to see what else is out in the market and hear presentations from different firms. He requested that the Board be presented with options when bringing forth future agenda items.

•The district began the process with Mr. Vela and therefore the bond counsel on hand was asked to assist. The district does not have much time to invite other attorneys at this point since they are looking at selling the bonds by February 15, 2022.
•Based on market conditions, interest rates will be increasing and the district might end up paying a higher rate if they decide to wait.
•For the past year and a half, Mr. Vela and his firm have been keeping the district abreast of the ratings for the opportunity to refinance the bonds. According to Mr. Sanchez, staff did not bring up the refinancing due to the Forensic Audit that was taking place in the district.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the contract with Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP of Austin, Texas, as Bond Counsel on a contingency fee basis. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Mr. Gonzalez said that staff should have presented this information sooner in order for the Board to do an RFQ and have the opportunity to hear presentations from different firms. He requested that staff consider this process in the future.

Mr. Gregory Miller, Bond Counsel, informed the Board that they had already drafted the Order and prepared many documents for this transaction. They are ready to close the sale in February.

>"When was this firm hired?"

•This firm has been the bond counsel for the district since 2015 through an engagement agreement with the district. However, due to recent litigation, a renewal contract is necessary.
•This contract may be terminated by either the firm or the District at any time on 30 days written notice to the other party.

Mr. Trevino requested that the district go out for RFQ's in the future, instead of submitting automatic renewals to the Board.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Mr. Andrew Gonzalez and seconded by Mr. Isidoro Nieto to approve the contract with Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP of Austin, Texas as Bond Counsel on a contingency fee basis.

F. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Revisions to the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to Reflect Substitute Teacher Daily Rate and Director of Assessment & Accountability Extra Duty Stipend

Dr. Valdez recommended that the Board approve the revisions to the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for fiscal year 2021-2022. The revisions to the Compensation Plan reflects updates to the substitute teacher daily rate and the Director of Assessment & Accountability extra duty stipend.

Proposed Substitute Pay Increase

effective January 24, 2022 through May 26, 2022

Substitute pay rates for the 2022-2023 school year will be reviewed during compensation review in May 2022.

District	Certified	Degreed	60+ College Hrs.	Diploma / GED	Notes
Weslaco ISD Proposed	**$180**	**$150**	**$120**	**$105**	Proposed increase reflects a 1.5 markup from current rates
Donna*	$175	$120		$105	
PSJA*	$180	$125		$105	
Harlingen CISD	$120	$100		$65	
Mercedes ISD	$100	$75		$65	Also offers $200 for certified administrators and $275 for certified administrators with duties
Edinburg CISD*	$200	$160		$135	Rates effective January 17 - June 2, 2022
North Side ISD*	$120				*$150 for long-term and an extra $100 for working 20 days in a 9-week period; plus $20 more for working on a Friday
Grapevine-Colleyville*	$90		$85	$70	Long-term (31st day of same assignment): $154
Weslaco ISD (current)	***$120***	***$100***	***$80***	***$70***	

Recently advertised substitute pay increases.

>Director of Assessment & Accountability: $10,000.00 stipend to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Bilingual Director position for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the revisions to the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for fiscal year 2021-2022 to reflect the substitute teacher daily rate and the Director of Assessment & Accountability extra duty stipend as presented. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

The board members thanked staff for moving forward with the substitute pay increase because this will certainly attract more individuals to apply at WISD. Thus, students will continue to receive instructional learning when teachers are out ill during this pandemic. The pay increase will be effective January 24, 2022 through May 26, 2022.

Dr. Valdez said that the significant increase for substitutes surpasses the mid-valley market.

Mr. Jesse Trevino pointed out that some individuals who have reached out or applied, have not heard back from staff. He wanted to know if staff was following up on the phone calls and the status of the applications.

Mr. Budimir informed the Board that a staff member who monitors the substitutes was out for a week and the department has been swamped with calls. However, the reason for the delay is that many individuals do not complete the application process. Ninety-four applications are currently incomplete because they do not have the appropriate documents attached. Staff have been reaching out to the applicants to complete the application process in order to sign them up as soon as possible.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Mr. Andrew Gonzalez and seconded by Mr. Isidoro Nieto to approve the revisions to the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for fiscal year 2021-2022 to reflect the substitute teacher daily rate and the Director of Assessment & Accountability extra duty stipend as presented.

G. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Resolution Regarding Wage Payments to District Employees During District Closing from January 4, 2022 through January 7, 2022 Due to a Spike in COVID-19 Cases Within the Weslaco ISD Community

Due to a spike in COVID-19 cases within the Weslaco ISD Community, the Board of Trustees recommended the closing of the WISD from January 4, 2022 through January 7, 2022 for the safety and well-being of the community.

The resolution addresses wage payments to WISD employees (contractual and non-contractual, salaried and non-salaried) during the District closing from January 4 through January 7, 2022, and premium rate pay as stipulated on policy DEA (Local) for nonexempt employees who were required to work during the closing:

Department	Original Return Date	Revised Return Date	Premium Pay
Custodial	Tuesday, January 4, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
HVAC	Tuesday, January 4, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
Maintenance	Tuesday, January 4, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
Business Office	Wednesday, January 5, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
Food Service	Worked January 5, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
Human Resources	Worked January 5, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 5-6, 2022
Safety & Security	Worked January 5, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
Technology	Worked January 5, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
Transportation	Worked January 5, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022
Warehouse	Worked January 5, 2022	Monday, January 10, 2022	Worked January 4-7, 2022

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to approve the resolution regarding wage payments to district employees during district closing from January 4, 2022 through January 7, 2022, due to a spike in COVID-19 cases within the Weslaco ISD Community. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Mrs. Dora Zavala, Human Resources Director, pointed out that TASB recommended that the Board could also approve a timeframe on the resolution in case the district has to shut down again. This way, staff does not need to bring back another resolution to the Board for approval. Exempt and non-exempt employees would not have to make up days missed due to shutdowns resulting from additional spikes related to COVID-19 cases.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos rescinded his motion. He modified his motion to approve the resolution regarding wage payments to district employees during district closing from January 4, 2022 through January 7, 2022, due to a spike in COVID-19 cases within the Weslaco ISD Community, and to extend the timeframe from January 4, 2022 through May 27, 2022. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

H. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Budget Amendment in the Local Maintenance Fund to Allocate Funds in the Amount of $167,446 for the Payment of DR-1780, PW 289, 319 to Reimburse the Texas Division of Emergency Management for Federal FEMA Funds Deobligated as Part of Hurricane Dolly

Dr. Valdez explained that during July of 2008, Hurricane Dolly made landfall in Deep South Texas causing significant damage to the area. WISD suffered severe damage to many of its schools and other facilities. While the District did not carry property insurance, the district did apply for assistance from FEMA under DR 1780. In 2013, an audit was conducted of Project Worksheet (PW) 289 & 319 by Horne, an auditing firm representing the State of Texas, which disallowed the entire amount of the project as outlined in their findings in the amount of $56,250 and $111,195.45.

Mr. Jesse Trevino pointed out that the district has to pay a large amount of money for this “big mistake”. He questioned the work conducted and the reason for the overpayment.

Mr. Sanchez explained that shortly after Hurricane Dolly, a mitigation company was hired to conduct emergency clean up. While the mitigation services company was a member of the BuyBoard purchasing cooperative, the District issued a purchase order directly to the company and not through the BuyBoard who in turn would have contacted the mitigation services company. After several appeals, the Regional Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) upheld the audit findings.

Mr. De La Rosa clarified that the district has to follow rigorous procurement processes when applying for assistance through FEMA for sustained damages due to hurricane disasters. In 2008, there were 20 project worksheets (PW) and of the 20, FEMA noted that staff did not follow correct procedures for two PW's. Staff appealed the findings from the 2013 audit but did not hear back from FEMA until 2017. The District went back and forth with appeals; however, the letter received from FEMA advised the District to reimburse the excess funds received, or future federal funding and/or reimbursements might be held or denied if the disallowed amounts were not reimbursed.

Mr. Trevino requested that a workshop be scheduled to review the district's property insurance.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of $167,466 from the Unassigned Fund Balance in the Local Maintenance Fund to reimburse the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) for deobligated funds received by the District as part of Hurricane Dolly. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

I. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Resolution Designating Weslaco ISD as a Freeport Tax Exemption Entity and Ratifying Board Action Taken November 16, 2021 Regarding Same

During the regular board meeting held on November 16, 2021, the Board approved the Weslaco Independent School District to become a Freeport Tax Exemption Entity. The Weslaco Economic Development Corporation (EDC) requested the district to approve a resolution in support of this designation. Legal counsel reviewed the resolution.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to approve a resolution designating Weslaco ISD as a Freeport Tax Exemption Entity. Mr. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

J. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2021

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) by law requires that all school districts in the State of Texas hire an independent auditor (Certified Public Accountant) to audit the financial statements and financial records of school districts annually. The audit report must be completed, approved by the Board, and submitted to the Texas Education Agency within one-hundred-fifty (150) days from the end of the fiscal year (August 31), which this year is Friday, January 28, 2022, to be in compliance.

The Annual Financial and Compliance Audit Report is based on GASB 34 (Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34 Basic Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments). The report also reflects the effects of GASB 68 and GASB 65.

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) covers the fiscal year from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. The ACFR report includes the traditional audit report plus a supplementary statistical section that includes additional financial, economic, and demographic information.

<u>Highlights of the Audit Report:</u>

- The firm rendered an Unmodified opinion which is the highest audit opinion that can be issued. There was one finding, no questioned costs, and nine management letter improvement points' comments.
- Financial Highlights:
  - District's net position as of August 31, 2021 is ($3,675,298)

>Balance Sheet for All Governmental Funds

- Unassigned Fund Balance: $50,357,236

>Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds (Income Statement) – General Fund

- Total Revenues received from local, state, and federal sources: $183,489,254
- Total Governmental Funds (Including ESSER II, ESSER III, and Other Funds): $208,522,283
- Total Expenditures (General Fund): $169,720,400

All board members received a copy of the report for their review prior to the board meeting. A detailed report is on file.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to approve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year ended August 31, 2021. Mr. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIII. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 7:54 p.m. to discuss the following items:

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

1. Employment of Certified Professional Personnel
2. Resignations/Retirements
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)

1. Discussion with Attorney Regarding Incident at Mary Hoge Midde School, December 2021

XIV. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Employment of Certified Professional Personnel

Dr. Valdez recommended that the Board approve the contracts of certified professional personnel as presented.

Name	Position	Location
1. Judith Sierra	Licensed Professional Counselor	Student Support Services

ADDENDUM		
1. Charles A. Garza	History Teacher	Weslaco East High School
2. Aaron Moreno Montemayor	Math Teacher	Weslaco East High School

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

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Resignations/Retirements

Dr. Valdez recommended that the Board approve the resignations/retirements as presented.

Name	Position/Location	Reason/Effective Date
1. Hector P. Guerra	Homebound Teacher Special Education Department	Hector P. Guerra is retiring after 29 years in education, with 27 years of service at Weslaco ISD. His retirement is effective May 30, 2022.
ADDENDUM		
1. Diana Lucio	4th Grade Teacher Sam Houston Elementary Teacher	Diana Lucio is resigning to accept a promotion as Elementary School Counselor with another school district. Her resignation is effective January 28, 2022.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve the resignations as recommended. Mr. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.