WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
THE RIGHT CHOICE

Dr. Dino Coronado
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:	September 20, 2022
Time:	5:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ONLINE FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS. THE MEETING WAS LIVESTREAMED AT THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK: ***https://youtu.be/Y5z4kFCN2u4***

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, Secretary
Marcos De Los Santos, Trustee
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee

Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.
Mr. Andrew Gonzalez was absent.

III. Invocation

Belen Torres, Weslaco East High School Assistant Principal, delivered the invocation.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge

The following students from Weslaco East High School

>Catherine Lopez is the daughter of Rafael Lopez and Ofelia Soto. She is a senior at Weslaco East High School and the Head Drum Major for the Wildcat Regiment. Catherine plays the flute and is also a member of the Honors Band and law enforcement club. After graduation, Catherine plans to study veterinary medicine.

>Genesis Medrano is the daughter of Robert Medrano and Crystal Rocha. She is also a senior at WEHS and Assistant Drum Major. Genesis is also a member honors band and plays trumpet. After graduation, Genesis plans to attend to pursue a career in psychology.

V. Awards and Recognitions

Hispanic Scholars

Several Weslaco High School students were recently selected for the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program. These students scored in the top 2.5% in the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The 2022-23 National Hispanic Scholars are:

Diego Agado	Lily Ford	Alan Garcia
Eliza Gonzalez	Riley Gonzalez	Kaylee Luna
Matthew Moore	Esmeralda Perez	George Sander
Raymond Sanchez		

STAAR A Campus/Distinction Designations

Several schools were recognized for their tremendous success with the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness exams. This year Weslaco schools received 44 Distinction Designations for the 2021-22 school year. Our schools were compared to schools across the State according to size and type, and based on these comparisons they received a Distinction Designation in several categories.

>**Representing the Panther Line:**

- Weslaco High School: Postsecondary Readiness
- CTE Early College HS: Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness
- Beatriz G. Garza Middle School: Social Studies, Comparative Academic Growth Comparative Closing the Gaps
- Central Middle School: English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness, Comparative Closing the Gaps

Distinctions for Elementary schools:

- Rodolfo "Rudy" Silva Elementary: Comparative Academic Growth
- Cleckler-Heald Elementary: Reading/English Language Arts
- Sam Houston Elementary: Science, Postsecondary Readiness

Earned 5 out of 6 Distinctions:

- Justice Raul A. Gonzalez Elementary: Reading/English Language Arts, Math, Science Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness
- Memorial Elementary**:** Math, Science, Comparative Academic Growth, Closing the Performance Gaps, Postsecondary Readiness

>**Representing the Wildcat Line:**

- Dr. Armando Cuellar Middle School: Social Studies

Distinctions for our elementary schools are:

- North Bridge Elementary: Comparative Academic Growth
- A.N. (Tony) Rico Elementary: Science, Comparative Academic Growth
- PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary: Science, Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness, Closing the Performance Gaps

Received 5 out of 6 Distinctions:
•Dr. R. E. Margo Elementary: Math, Science, Top 25 Percent: Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness, Closing the Performance Gaps

Received all 6 out of 6 Distinctions:
•Airport Drive Elementary: Reading/English Language Arts, Math, Science, Comparative Academic Growth, Postsecondary Readiness, Closing the Performance Gaps

A+ Employee of the Month

Rodolfo "Rudy" Silva, Jr. Elementary assistant principal **Liz Treviño** is the first recipient of the WISD A+ Employee of Month for the 2022-23.

As a newly selected assistant principal, she took on a leadership role when her principal was away during a family emergency. She not only helped the new faculty open the campus, she hired staff and helped the school transition into a new academy.

VI. Proclamations

The Board proclaimed the following proclamations as follows:

>National Suicide Prevention Month (September)

WHEREAS, September is known around the United State as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to help promote awareness; and

WHEREAS, Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, each year more than 41,000 people die by suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among adults in the US and the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-24; and

WHEREAS, Weslaco is no different than any other community in the country, but chooses to publicly support in simply being available to one another; and

WHEREAS, local organizations are on the front lines of a battle that many still refuse to discuss in public, as suicide and mental illness remain too taboo to speak on; and

WHEREAS, every member of our community should understand that throughout life's struggle we all need the occasional reminder that we are silently fighting our own battles, and

WHEREAS, we encourage all residents to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and neighbors and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate, and

WHEREAS, we can all help prevent suicide; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Armando Cuellar, Weslaco ISD School Board President, do hereby support and proclaim September as **NATIONAL SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH.**

>National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September)

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the #1 disease related killer of kids and teenagers in the U.S. One in five children diagnosed with cancer will die within five years of diagnosis. In addition, 1 in 285 American children will be diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20. Cancer alone represents nearly half of the top seven causes of death by disease in children aged 0-19 years. The average age of death for a child with cancer is 8, causing a child to lose 70 years of expected life.

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is in the rise, with an estimated 17,293 children diagnosed every year (47 per day) in the United States alone. Childhood cancers and adult cancers are different, yet we continue to use the downsized adult cancer

protocols on kids with many times devastating effects. The lack of childhood cancer research has tremendous impact on kids and significant costs to society.

WHEREAS, 1,190 children (aged 0 – 14) and 540 adolescents (aged 15-19) are expected to die from cancer in 2022.

WHEREAS, the overall incident of childhood cancer is on the increase, averaging 0.8% increase per year since 1975.

WHEREAS, Children who survive the five years after cancer diagnosis experience a 15-fold increased risk of developing congestive heart failure and 7-fold higher risk of premature death due to cardiac causes. Survivors are also at increased risk for reoccurrence of the original cancer or of a secondary cancer.

WHEREAS, the financial toll that a childhood cancer diagnosis and treatment can take on a family is devastating. The average cost associated with childhood cancer for a single child is $833,000 in medical costs and lost parental wages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Armando Cuellar, Weslaco ISD School Board President, do hereby support and proclaim September as **CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH.**

>Dyslexia Awareness Month (October)

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, **I**, Armando Cuellar, President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim October 2022, as **DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH** in Weslaco ISD. I endorse the observance of Dyslexia Awareness Month and encourage recognition of the benefits of early identification and effective teaching to the quality of life of dyslexic students.

>School Custodian Appreciation Day, October 2, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, **I**, Armando Cuellar, President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim October 2, 2022, as **NATIONAL CUSTODIAL WORKER DAY.**

>Texas Education Human Resources Day, October 13, 2022

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Armando Cuellar, Weslaco ISD School Board President, do hereby support and proclaim October 13th, 2022 as **TEXAS EDUCATION HUMAN RESOURCES DAY** throughout the district. The Board also encourages students, staff and parents to express their appreciation to our human resources team members for their dedication and commitment to Weslaco ISD employees and students.

>Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31, 2022

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Armando Cuellar, Weslaco ISD School Board President, do hereby support and proclaim October 23 – October 31, 2022 as **RED RIBBON WEEK** in Weslaco ISD to encourage all Weslaco citizens to participate in drug and alcohol education awareness activities, making a visible statement that everyone is strongly committed to drug and alcohol free, healthy life-styles. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Weslaco Independent School District encourages all its citizens to pledge **"TO BE DRUG FREE".**

VII. Public Comments

Dr. Edith Trevino – 1521 Tierra Bella, Weslaco, Texas

"I want to share with you guys, maybe a day or two ago I made a post. I have a social media following, and I posted about a decision that was made by the Board four years ago on GPA student rankings. It was really just a question to ask the previous board as to why was that decision made, etc., etc., and you can go back and read the post. It was respectful; it was not negative. So today, I was in my office, and I keep getting these messages from people and some of them were crying and disturbing. Let me show you the story before I get into the actual reason I'm here. 'I'm being cussed at; I feel bullied'; the word shit has been said several times; the word crap has been said several times; 'I'm crying in my office, I want to quit; This is very unprofessional and it's a very unpleasant situation'. I have my daughter here – she's 10 years old; she's Alina. I'm a teacher for 25 years and I believe that every moment in our lives as educators is a teacher moment. I told her, 'you're gonna come with me because we're gonna talk about oppression, and she understands that as a young lady. What happened is that my post, instead of being looked at as how can we resolve this issue that happened four years ago and be proactive; instead, our leader, and I say our leader, because I'm a voter and I live here and I pay taxes, had a meeting with our counselors in our district which the majority are women. I don't know the numbers, but they're women, and ridiculed them and made them feel horrible." She turned to her daughter and asked, "Are your teachers allowed to say 'shit' at school? Are your friends? Does your counselor say 'shit'? Does your Principal say 'shit'? If they do, what would happen to them? But yet, here you have our top leader doing this while HR was there, and I don't know if HR was there but as HR, I would think, sir you're saying something that could cause problems, maybe somebody is going to file a grievance, maybe somebody is feeling like they're verbally abused. Again, our counselors, whether you believe it or not, are the heart of our district. They are! I have children of my own, and I've had students of my own that are alive today because of a counselor, and how dare you go and insult them that way. So, whether you're married to me, or you're my friend, or you don't like me or like me – I'm challenging you to go back there because they're watching and while we were here - she was like mommy, who's the one who said it. I said, 'That person'.

She said, 'He looks really nice', and I said you know what; oppressors can look really nice too. I don't know if there's anything in the handbook about profanity in meetings. I've been in the military too; yes, we have our time and a place where we cuss and we say bad words, but not to our counselors and not to our teachers. Would you have said those things if they were all men, it's my question – probably not, so that's why I'm here. You know, I believe firmly and my children know that, and my students know that as I taught, it's when we are silent, we're only helping the oppressor and this is not about liking or not liking, or being friends with people. It's because after the tenth text I was like, I can't do it. I'm supposed to be in a meeting right now for a huge job, and I'm going to be late to be here today so I'm holding all of you accountable on this Board to start setting standards, and HR, and I'm not trying to ridicule anybody, but what is wrong is wrong. When you see something that's wrong, just like me - if I were to say and offend people, you would stop me and you would say 'You're out of line ma'am'. How come nobody said to you sir, 'You're out of line'. So, the way that you said to the counselors today, 'You get it together'. Thank you."

Cleve Ford – 424 West Mile 11 North, Weslaco, Texas

"My wife Mariam and I have four kids, Cooper (a Weslaco ISD graduate – currently a sophomore at A&I); Lilly (a senior at WHS – Student Council President and FFA President); Cora (Sophomore at WHS and FFA Vice President); and Ella (5th grader at Memorial). We're very thankful for the opportunities that our kids have at Weslaco High School. Cooper was blessed when he graduated from Weslaco in 2021 with over $120,000.00 in scholarships. Both Cooper and Lilly are both Hispanic scholars. Lilly was recognized here tonight. That speaks volumes about the education they receive here. Obviously, my wife and I are passionate about our kids and their success. We know a thing or two about senior year, applying for scholarships, and applying to colleges. She's helped other seniors be very successful in their transition to college as well. I come to your tonight with deep concerns about a disservice that Weslaco ISD is doing to its current graduating seniors. This is not just about my kid; this is about every Weslaco ISD student that's applying to colleges and applying for scholarships that are available. I'm sad to inform you that the problem is because of a policy that this Board adopted when my daughter was an 8th grader. Let me be clear, this is a policy issue from the past administration; it's not a Dr. Coronado issue. He has to clean up the mess. This is a policy issue and it's met with a lack of leadership within the district. I truly believe that the campus leadership is doing everything possible to support the Weslaco ISD mission. However, when the policy is not aligned with the best interest of the students, the campus leaders' hands are tied. Years ago, the past Superintendent asked this Board to do away with the rankings for most high school students. The argument was there was too much focus on ranks and the kids were stressed, and I'll apologize for the directness and the word that was used earlier but it's a bunch of crap. The faster that these high schoolers realize that life is a competition, the better off and the more successful they'll be. Why do we have a million-dollar scoreboard? We have it to keep score. Why do we have job interviews for certain positions? We have it so we can interview and hire the best one off of a ranking. When we have a school board election, do we not just put everybody and let them share the seats? No, we have a vote and we rank them and the person that has the most votes is the winner. So, there's nothing wrong with a class rank for these graduating seniors. In fact, there's a lot of things wrong by not having one. Most Texas colleges will automatically accept a Texas graduating senior if they're ranked in the top 10 percent. Almost all scholarships will ask for a class rank. I serve on three scholarship boards and these kids are penalized if they don't give their class rank. If Weslaco ISD does not give these senior students their rank, they're doing a disservice to these seniors and they're putting them at a disadvantage compared to like seniors in other school districts. In fact, all WISD seniors are going to Weslaco East tomorrow for a College Fair and they don't have their rank to give to college recruiters. We were told earlier this year that Weslaco ISD will be ranking when we asked the question before filling out Lilly's A&M application. The A&M application opened on August 1st and to date, we still don't have a transcript and we still don't have a ranking. We have submitted everything we can now and are waiting on WISD. Some might say that they never had ranks prior to October - yes, that's partially correct; however, Cooper had his year-end junior year rank that he could submit, but these students don't. Every day that ticks by there are spots filling up and equally qualified WISD kids are not being considered because they don't have the information they need.

We have been given many excuses for not being completed. The individuals we're talking to are taking the heat for the problem that they did not create. Now they have to get it done. We were promised September 16, but now we're being told September 23. This can't keep getting pushed back. No student should be waiting on WISD to have the information they need for their future success. I ask you to make sure these seniors get what they need. Without this, their success is being limited by Weslaco ISD and I don't think that anyone here wants the responsibility of holding these kids back. Lastly, I implore you to right this wrong, right this incorrect action, and return WISD to a district that ranks throughout high school. Thank you."

Jennifer Sander – 205 Southgate Blvd., Weslaco, Texas

"I am the mother of four children who are either currently in the school district or has graduated from the school district. I'm following Mr. Ford because I want you to know that he is not the only parent that's concerned about the class rank situation. As parents of seniors, we hear numerous conversations about confused and stressed-out parents and students. The decision to do away with the class rank for the Class of 2023 and beyond was made by the school board four years ago. We were notified of the change, but not given a clear explanation of the rationale. Depending on who you ask, we were given a different reason. However, as parents of eighth graders at the time, we had no clear idea of the ramifications of these decisions for our students. They were eighth graders, we weren't fired up about it, now we know. My son George is trying to complete his college applications as early as possible for several reasons: early admissions, rolling admissions, and competitive programs like engineering. The earlier you apply, the earlier you get accepted; but, he's at a roadblock. He can't go any further because we don't have a transcript of a class rank and he doesn't have a junior class rank to go on, as Mr. Ford explained that children in years past had. So, the students were told that they could fill out a request on a google form for a class rank however, they have to upload proof that they need the class rank from one of their applications so the process is this - they're online going through these applications page by page and can't move to the next page till you complete one. They get to the point where it asks for class rank. Then they have to take a screenshot, upload it to the google form to request their class rank and then wait for it to be given to them. Our poor counselors are stressed and scrambling to do the best they can but the withholding of class rank for the last three years has created a problem now that could very well cost my son one of his desired college programs. Class rank is a metric that has traditionally been used for college admissions scholarships etc. because it's not hard to interpret. Number 37 out of 550 is easy for anyone to wrap their head around, but magna cum laude, summa cum laude, can mean different things for different institutions. Does that mean all A's, all grades above 86, and does it mean GPA above 90, because I've seen it all three ways? Our children have to promote themselves solely on paper but how can they do that with these vague designations beyond the immediate need to provide a class rank for college applications is my concern that we are failing to acknowledge the students. I've always taken pride in our school district and have been so impressed with the links that the district goes to recognize the accomplishments of the students. Unless you live under a rock, our students are everywhere. They're on social media, billboards, the scoreboard, and K-WES broadcast and they're even on the side of school buses. However, this year I feel that we're taking two steps back. In May we are going to be attending the graduation ceremonies for WISD, but the top 25 students will not get any public recognition for their academic excellence; no special stole, nothing at all. As we all know, academics does not have a season like basketball. These kids have worked hard for the last four years, some of them five if they took high school courses in middle school and they deserve public recognition for their academic success. We will see the district's winners in every sport, Band, and FFA. We'll even see the teachers of the year on the billboard, but not our top 10 students. Without a class rank, there can't be a top 10. Last May, around graduation time I was driving from Port Isabel all the way to Rio Grande City and noticed every small town had a billboard recognizing their top students. I think Donna still has theirs up, but this year I'm afraid that Weslaco is going to be the only school district with no top 20 students on the billboard and we have three high schools to pull top students from. So, it's sad - no billboard recognition. As a school district, our number one priority is education so please change this policy and bring back the celebration of academic success.

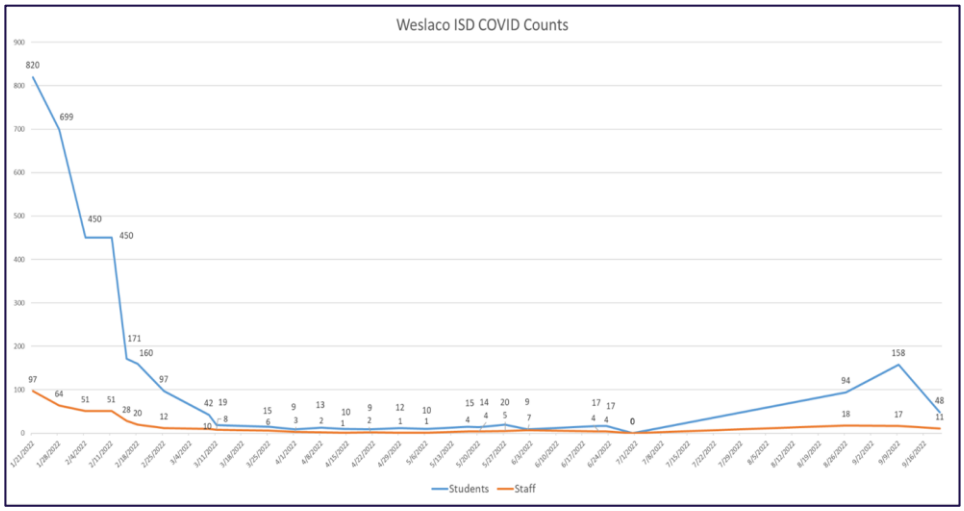
Diana Garza, 1011 10th Street, Mercedes, Texas

"As Mr. Ford was saying, I agree 200% with what they're saying because I've been an educator here for 33 years, we pay a lot of attention to sports, you know – the biggest jumbotron, etc., etc. I don't know of any athlete, and maybe somebody can enlighten me, that has gone to make a living from playing a sport from the valley. So, I think we need to pay attention to academics right - so you know, thank you for coming up because that makes a lot of sense, student success – academics, so we need to pay attention to that. I'm very sad with what happened today because I'm a counselor. I am a counselor, and to have my colleagues being treated like zeros by you know the dream team, slash leadership team, is unacceptable. You all are on borrowed seats. I plead with you that you take action because I never thought that we could be using that word right, and I'm so sad and I wish I would have been at that meeting because I would have gotten up and walked away. Nobody deserves to be treated like a zero, regardless of your title. That is abuse of power and you need to put a stop to that – every one of you that's elected, right, elections are coming up, take your job seriously. You're here for the community, for staff, for students, and that's unacceptable, the use of that word, so Dr. ET, I thank you for coming. She beat me to it, but you know what, how can our counselors - I'm a counselor, how can we meet the needs of students when we're being treated like zeros, okay? Do you know what that did to their emotions – I got calls, I'm a nobody, but they know that I'll come up here, right, so shame. Another thing I was gonna say is that um, the convocation was about building relationships, right, and about being kind; so how does that play into the equation of treating people and employees like zero, okay? With that being said, let me go on because I'm gonna run out of time. The next thing, in my new job, uh, you know what - we have amazing teachers here. We have amazing teachers. We saw all the awards, right, amazing. We have a group of teachers that are second to none; yet, in my new position, I have come across two phone calls where there's been at the elementary-level teachers bullying kids. So later on, I know I tried to get a hold of our leader; I called twice. Uh, you know what, my emails, my phone calls are not being answered but thank you, Mr. Aguilar, we're gonna be meeting on that so I can give you details and that can be addressed because as a counselor our kids come, and our parents send our kids to school; it's not for them to be bullied by staff members and mistreated. They're going through a lot. There's other students bullying them and then we come to school, the parents send them to school for them to be bullied – that's unacceptable and I know, once again, and I love what you said, I use it all the time Mr. De Los Santos, 'borrowed seats'. Those are your words. I hope that you all that are on borrowed seats demand the changes come to play for where that's going to be unacceptable, right, because we throw the book at the students. We send them to DAEP when they do something bad. What's gonna happen with those teachers that are here obviously for the paycheck and there's very few because like I said, we have amazing teachers as was evident with all those awards that were given out today. Let me see what else - there's a total break of communication. Not just my - I feel good when I tell some co-workers, you know what, my email wasn't answered, my phone call, but I'm glad I'm not the only one. The leadership team, slash dream team, whatever they call themselves, the elite team; they are not responding to emails and phone calls so that we can share concerns, so I guess I'll continue to come up here and share concerns publicly, right? Mr. Aguilar, I thank you again because we're gonna have a meeting right? I took half a day to be with my family because that's more important so we will meet soon so I can give you that. I thank God publicly that he put me in this new position. Dr. Coronado, thank you so much for placing me in this position where I can make an impact throughout the whole district and find out some more stuff so that I can advocate at a bigger level, WISD, at a huge level. You know what, that was God, so I'm finding out some more stuff. I'm not gonna keep quiet as I told you in the summer when you reassigned me. I will continue to advocate for kids no matter what, so parents out there, call me. I'm gonna give you my number again – my personal number (956-246-1361), because I am very passionate obviously, about what I do. Thank you so much, and remember, always be kind and let's build relationships."

VIII. Superintendent's Report

>COVID-19 Updates

Superintendent Dr. Coronado reported that the number of COVID cases had decreased.



>The chart below reflects the number of COVID-19 cases by campus.

Weslaco Independent School District

Summary of Active COVID-19 Cases by Campus

Total WISD Students	16,514
Total WISD Staff	2,118
Active Student Confirmed	48
Active Staff Confirmed	11

Student Positive
48
Staff Positive
11

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	777	2	1	3
A.N. Tony Rico Elementary	761	1	1	2
Cleckler Elementary	943	2	1	3
Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary	924	1	1	2
Justice Raul A. Gonzalez Elementary	613	2	0	2
Memorial Elementary	1069	1	0	1
North Bridge Elementary	687	2	1	3
PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary	518	0	0	0
Rudy Silva Elementary	592	0	0	0
Sam Houston Elementary	749	1	0	1
Early Learning Elementary	423	0	0	0
B. Garza Middle School	956	5	0	5
Central Middle School	977	6	2	8
Cuellar Middle School	629	3	0	3
Mary Hoge Middle School	928	5	0	5
Weslaco High School	2560	5	1	6
Weslaco East High School	2002	12	0	12
South Palms Garden High School	64	0	0	0
Early College High School	245	0	0	0
Horton AEP Campus	59	0	3	3
Career and Technology (CATE)	N/A	0	0	0
Total	16,514	48	11	59

>The data table below indicates the number of COVID-19 cases in comparison to other school districts in the Rio Grande Valley.

	Weslaco ISD	PSJA ISD	Donna ISD	Brownsville ISD	Edinburg CISD	Harlingen CISD
Active # of Students Positive	48	96	97	263	263	0
Active # of Staff Positive	11	21	25	not updated	30	0
Total	59	117	122	263	293	0
Date of Report: 9/20/2022						not updated

Mr. John Garlic provided an overview of ESSER II and ESSER III spending.

>The costs for COVID-19 expenditures (health/testing) will be reimbursed to the district from ESSER II funds.

>Learning Loss: This amount will increase in the coming months due to parent concerns regarding band instruments.

COVID - ESSER II (30 September 2023)

• Total Allocation:	$28,143,334
• Indirect Costs (9.348%):	$ 2,630,839
• ADA Hold Harmless:	$ 3,607,000
• COVID-19 Health Costs:	$ 2,641,236
• COVID-19 Testing Costs:	$ 898,594
• Learning Loss:	$ 887,599
• Staffing:	$ 105,724
• Safety/SEL Recommendations:	$ 150,000
• 2022-2023 Recruiting/Retention Stipend ($5,000 for all staff) [2146]	$10,889,977
• 2021-2022 2nd-4th Grade Teacher Salaries (150 Teachers Feb-Mar)	$ 3,021,066
• ESSER II Reserve	$ 3,311,299

>Construction (Pre-Awards):

•Includes the cost for the installation of bottled water filling stations and HVAC repairs done prior to the grant award.

> Staffing:

•The total amount listed below is projected for ESSER III, which includes the medical assistants, 6 LPC's, and extra learning aides (23) to help with learning loss. Some of these positions are for two years and will phase out at the end of this year and some are for the life of the grant.

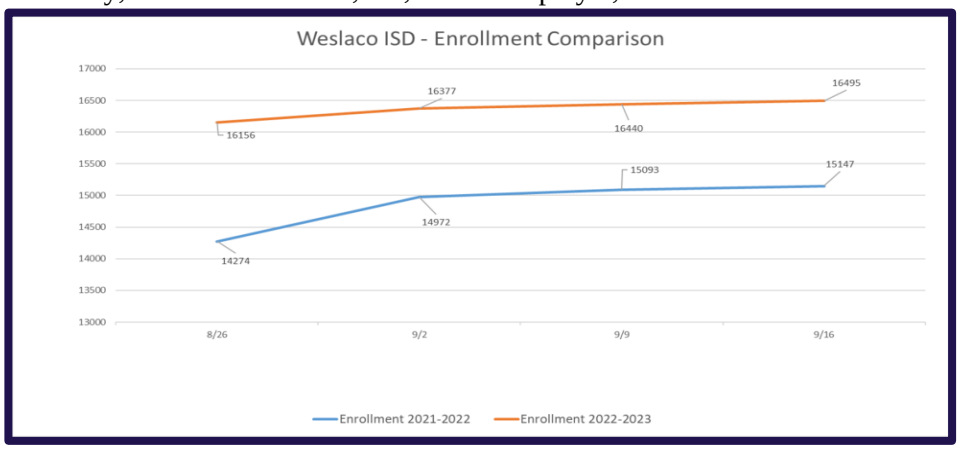
•The aides will be distributed based on identified need.

COVID - ESSER III (30 September 2024)

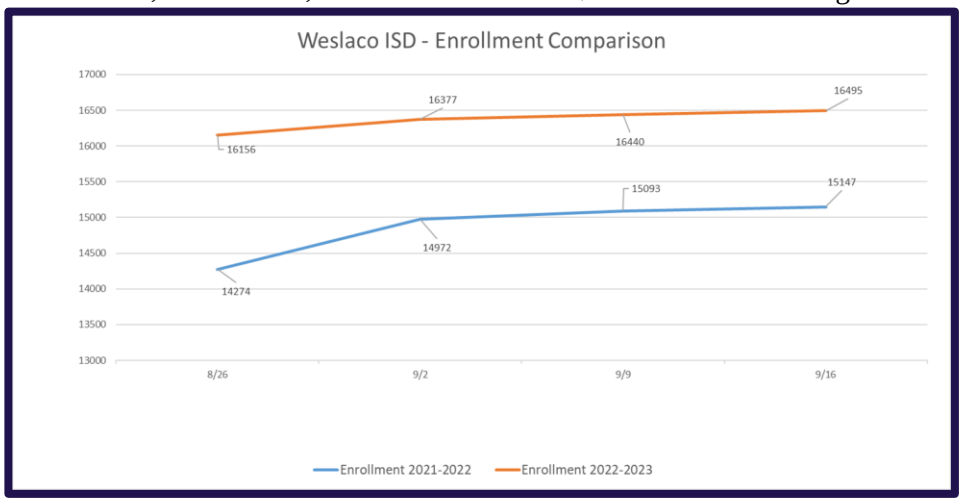
• Total Allocation:	$63,226,351
• Indirect Costs (9.348%):	$ 5,835,348
• Pre-Award Costs:	$ 2,705,014
• Construction (Pre-Awards):	$ 802,858
• Learning Loss (22.8%):	$14,391,103
• Staffing:	$ 6,958,836
• Safety/SEL Recommendations:	$ 2,933,632
• 2021-2022 Recruiting/Retention Stipend ($3,000 for all staff)	$ 6,667,412
• 2021-2022 Vaccine Stipend ($500 for all staff)	$ 1,043,730
• ESSER III Reserve	$21,888,418

>**Enrollment**

•As of today, enrollment is at 16,514, which is up by 1,367 students.



>ADA is at 1,700 students, which will add about $15 million to the budget.



District Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance Comparison

>Two schools have met their ADA goals: Cleckler-Heald Elementary and CTE ECHS

>Overall, the ADA has improved in comparison to last year's ADA.

Campus	4th Week Enrollment			4th Week Average Daily Attendance (ADA)				
	2022	2023	Difference	2022	2023	ADA Diff	2022 ADA (%)	2023 ADA (%)
Sam Houston Elementary	673	745	72	603	652	49	94.15%	94.61%
Silva Elementary	472	588	116	407	505	97	92.68%	93.68%
Gonzalez Elementary	519	614	95	446	528	82	93.18%	93.37%
Margo Elementary	794	924	130	687	794	107	93.59%	94.83%
Airport Elementary	609	778	169	508	666	158	93.23%	93.78%
Memorial Elementary	912	1067	155	781	930	148	93.61%	93.38%
North Bridge Elementary	623	686	63	530	594	64	90.23%	94.37%

Rico Elementary	651	762	111	531	646	116	89.78%	93.98%
Cleckler-Heald Elementary	827	943	116	715	844	129	91.71%	96.05%
Ybarra Elementary	455	514	59	377	448	71	90.64%	93.92%
Mary Hoge Middle School	877	932	55	770	861	92	91.17%	93.98%
Cuellar Middle School	640	625	(15)	572	578	6	91.78%	94.61%
Central Middle School	882	979	97	801	929	128	92.85%	95.50%
B. Garza Middle School	997	956	(41)	892	901	9	92.16%	94.61%
South Palm Gardens	65	63	(2)	42	55	13	90.36%	95.38%
East High School	1982	1993	11	1702	1824	122	88.70%	93.19%
Weslaco High School	2496	2554	58	2229	2353	124	90.71%	93.27%
DAEP	14	58	44	4	40	35	96.39%	93.06%
JJAEP – Student Alternative	0	35	35	0	32	32	0.00%	96.68%
Hidalgo County Bootcamp	7	14	7	8	15	7	100.00%	100.00%
Early College High School	256	245	(11)	231	238	7	93.25%	95.38%
21st Century ELF Academy	396	420	24	137	208	70	76.98%	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL	15147	16495	1348	12976	14642	1666	91.33%	94.17%

Weslaco Independent School District
Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance Comparison

CAMPUS	4th Week Enrollment			4th Week ADA				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	Difference	2021-2022	2022-2023	ADA Diff	2022 (ADA) %	2023 (ADA) %
Elementary Schools	6535	7621	1086	5587	6607	1020	91.94%	94.42%
Middle Schools	3396	3492	96	3034	3269	235	92.01%	94.69%
High Schools	4799	4855	56	4205	4471	266	90.75%	94.31%
Alternative	21	107	86	12	87	75	65.46%	96.58%
ELF – Academy	396	420	24	137	208	70	76.98%	100.00%
GRAND Total	15147	16495	1348	12976	14642	1666	91.33%	94.17%

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

Sept 16, 2022

Response to Inquiry on Attendance:

- By law, a student must be in school at least 90% of the time to earn credit for attendance. It would still be counted as an absence regardless if the absence is excused or unexcused.
- In situations with COVID, students can do remote conferencing to receive credit for attendance.

>STAAR/STAAR EOC: Performance and Ratings

2022 "A" Rated Campuses

•The schools listed below received an "A" rating.

•South Palm Gardens received a perfect rating of 100.

Campus	Overall Rating	
South Palm Gardens	**100**	**A**
Ybarra Elementary	**95**	**A**
Memorial Elementary	**94**	**A**
Airport Elementary	**92**	**A**
Weslaco 21st Century CTE ECHS	**92**	**A**
Margo Elementary	**91**	**A**
North Bridge Elementary	**90**	**A**
Raul Gonzalez Elementary	**90**	**A**

2022 Campus Distinction Designations

•The chart below lists the schools with the number of distinction designations received.

•Airport Elementary received all six (6) Distinction Designations.

Campus	Distinction Designations
Airport Elementary	6/6
Margo Elementary	5/6
Memorial Elementary	5/6
Raul Gonzalez Elementary	5/6
Ybarra Elementary	4/6
Rico Elementary	2/6
Sam Houston Elementary	2/6
Cleckler-Heald Elementary	1/6
North Bridge Elementary	1/6
Rudy Silva Elementary	1/6
Central Middle School	5/7
B. Garza Middle School	3/7
Weslaco 21st Century CTE ECHS	2/7
Cuellar Middle School	1/7
Weslaco High School	1/7

><u>Notice of Intruder Detection Audits</u>

- The Texas School Safety Center, in coordination with TEA, is conducting random external audits on school districts. An inspector will conduct the audit by checking interior/exterior doors, notebooks, etc., to ensure safety measures are in place and being implemented at the campuses. School districts need to present a high-level summary when a campus a goes through an audit. Cleckler-Heald Elementary was audited and received a "No Findings Documented" for having everything in order and meeting the safety and security requirements.

IX. Consent Agenda

The Board pulled the following items for discussion: IX-I, IX-P, and IX-R. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Item IX-I, IX-P, and IX-R. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 16, 2022 and the Special Meeting of August 31, 2022

The Board approved the minutes as presented.

B. Approval of Out of Valley Trips

The Board approved the trips as presented.

<u>Central Middle School</u>

•The Junior Thespian Society will attend the Broadway Tour Performance of Aladdin the Musical in San Antonio, Texas on February 10, 2023.

<u>Weslaco East High School</u>

•The Boys Cross Country Team will attend the 2022 UIL Region 4 Meet in Corpus Christi, Texas on October 24-25, 2022.
•The Girls Cross Country Team will attend the 2022 UIL Region 4 Meet in Corpus Christi, Texas on October 24-25, 2022.
•The Swim Team will attend the La Copa Laredo Invitational Swimming Meet in Laredo, Texas on November 19, 2022.

<u>Weslaco High School</u>

•The Varsity Football Team will travel to Laredo, Texas on September 23, 2022 to play against United South High School.
•The Boys Cross Country Team will compete in the UIL 6A Region IV Championship at Corpus Christi, Texas on October 23-24, 2022.
•The Girls Cross Country Team will attend the Regional Cross Country Meet at Corpus Christi, Texas on October 23-24, 2022.
•The Varsity and JV Cheerleaders will travel to Laredo, Texas on September 23, 2022 to attend the Laredo vs. Panther football game.
•The Band, Dreamettes, and the Student Council will travel to Laredo, Texas on September 23, 2022 to perform at the Varsity football game against Laredo United South.
•The Gear Up students will travel to San Antonio, Texas on October 12, 2022 to participate in college visits to Texas A&M University and Southern Careers Institute.
•The Swim Team will attend the La Copa Invitational Meet in Laredo, Texas on November 19, 2022.

Weslaco High School/Weslaco East High School

•The FFA students will participate in the Junior Livestock Show and Speaking Events at the State Fair of Texas Livestock Show to be held September 28 – October 3, 2022, and October 9-13, 2022.

WISD Students

•The Theatre students from Weslaco High School, Weslaco East High School, Central Middle School, Cuellar Middle School, Mary Hoge Middle School, and Margo Elementary will travel to San Antonio, Texas on November 12-15, 2022 to attend the Texas Thespian Society State Festival.

C. Approval to Accept Donations from Various Sponsors to Purchase Backpacks for the Back-to-School Bash:

1. $500.00 from SJ Hospice
2. $300.00 from Commissioner Leo Munoz
3. $250.00 from First Care EMS
4. $250.00 from Texas National Bank
5. Backpacks (Value of $500.00) from Commissioner David Fuentes, Precinct 1

The Board accepted the donations as presented. The backpacks were given to WISD students at the Back-to-School Bash held on August 18, 2022 at Cuellar Middle School.

D. Approval to Accept Donation in the Amount of $5,000.00 from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries for the PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary School Library

The Board accepted the $5,000.00 donation as presented. The Laura Bush Foundation Grant will fund the purchase of library books to expand, update, and diversify the reading book collection currently at this campus.

E. Approval to Accept Donations in the Amount of $550.00 from Various Sponsors for Mary Hoge Middle School Teachers:

1. $250.00 from Weslaco Vision Source
2. $200.00 from American Bookkeeping & Tax Services LLC
3. $100.00 from Woodmen of the World

The Board accepted the donations as presented. The funds will be used for incentives for teachers for their hard work and dedication throughout the school year.

F. Approval of Membership Renewal Fee to Participate in the Mexican American School Boards Association (MASBA) for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

The Board approved the $1,500.00 membership renewal fee to participate in the Mexican American School Boards Association. As a MASBA member, the District receives beneficial information such as newsletters and online resources. Paid membership allows the entire board and superintendent to attend all TEA recognized CEC sessions at the Annual Conference, and free access to other MASBA events held throughout the year.

G. Approval of Membership Renewal Fee to Participate in the South Texas Association of Schools for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

The Board approved the $5,744.00 membership renewal fee to participate in the South Texas Association of Schools. The primary purpose of this organization is to represent the member districts

before the legislature, State Board of Education, and the State Board of Education Certification. The Association provides continuous communications on the activities of these state organizations to all

of the members. The Association is also in continuous contact with the legislators representing our area and someone is always in attendance at all legislative meetings that impact public schools and by communicating with and updating superintendents on proposed finance changes with the intent that superintendents will share this information with their respective representatives and senators.

H. Approval of Agreement with Region One ESC to Provide Bilingual Instructional Coaching for Middle School and High School Teachers for the 2022-2023 School Year

The Board approved the agreement with Region One ESC to provide necessary bilingual instructional coaching for middle school and high school teachers serving Emergent Bilingual students through an ESL exception in order to deliver high quality, effective and efficient instruction for all Emergent Bilingual students. This purchase will cost $31,500.00 and will be funded with State Bilingual Education Allotment funds. The term of contract is from September 2022 through December 2022.

I. Approval of Agreement with ZTASTIC Solutions to Provide Training for Teachers who are Under the Bilingual Education Exception or ESL Waiver Serving Emergent Bilingual Students in Elementary and Secondary Schools for the 2022-2023 School Year

This item was pulled for discussion.

J. Approval of the Consultant Contract with Sharon Wells Mathematics Curriculum Inc. for Professional Development Training Services for Math Teachers at Nine (9) Elementary Schools for the 2022-2023 School Year

The Board approved the consultant contract with Sharon Wells Mathematics Curriculum Inc. to provide professional development training services to Math teachers at nine (9) elementary schools for the 2022-2023 school year. This program will support and supplement WISD's instructional curriculum and serve as a significant resource for addressing learning loss sustained as a result of the pandemic. The schools requesting this service are Airport, Rico, Cleckler-Heald, Margo, Gonzalez, North Bridge, Ybarra, Silva, and Sam Houston. The cost for this service is $41,765.00, to be paid with ESSER III funds. WISD has worked with Sharon Wells since 2013.

K. Approval of Renewal of Subscription for Unique Learning System and NEWS2YOU, Two On-Line Resources Designed to Be Used with Students in Special Education Self-Contained Classes for the 2022-2023 School Year

The Board approved the purchase for the renewal of subscriptions for Unique Learning Systems and News2You from n2y, LLC of Huron, Ohio at a cost of $28,090.02. These online resources will be used to improve the achievement of students with disabilities in Special Education Self-contained classrooms.

L. Approval of Interlocal Agreement Between Weslaco Independent School District and the City of Weslaco Parks and Recreation for the 2022 School Year

The Board approved the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Weslaco Parks and Recreation for the use of the baseball/softball fields located at Harlon Block Park on 18th Street. Student athletes in middle school will use the fields for games and practice sessions as agreed by both entities. There is no cost for the use of the facilities.

M. Approval of Interlocal Agreement Between Weslaco Independent School District and the City of Weslaco for the Use of Communications Equipment Under the COPS Office School Violence Protection Program

The Board approved the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Weslaco for the use of communications equipment under the COPS office school violence protection program. The grant will provide funding to update the district's two-way radio system for Safety & Security, Transportation, and Administration. The district will receive 255 two-way handheld radios. In an active threat scenario, campus security or administration will have direct communication with the Weslaco Police Department dispatch for assistance through the two-way radios. Police officers on patrol will be able to hear the call for assistance and respond cutting down responding time.

N. Approval of Renewal Purchase of Eduphoria Software Maintenance and Support for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

The Board approved the purchase of the annual renewal of maintenance and support for the District's Eduphoria System from Eduphoia! Inc., located in Plano, Texas. The Eduphoria suite is an integrated web-based application used district-wide to aid teachers, administrators and staff to monitor student learning progress, aide in teacher lesson planning, manage and track staff development and provide an education platform for educational professionals. WISD has used this system since 2010. The cost for the software license renewal, maintenance, and support for 2022-2023 is $52,683.20.

O. Approval to Provide Superintendent or Their Designee the Authority for the Approval and Submission of Individual Student Waivers for Remote Conferencing and Remote Homebound Instruction for the 2022-2023 School Year

The Board approved to provide the Superintendent or Designee the authority for approval and submission of individual student waivers for remote conferencing and remote Homebound Instruction for the 2022-2023 school year. The Texas Education Agency requires individual waivers for students that meet eligibility requirements for remote conferencing beyond twenty days. Waivers are also required for students who meet eligibility requirements for General Education and Special Education remote homebound instruction.

P. Approval of Revisions to the 2022-2023 WISD Student Handbook

This item was pulled for discussion.

Q. Approval of Revisions to the 2022-2023 WISD Student Code of Conduct

The Board approved the revisions to the Student Code of Conduct as presented. The district will retain the option to expel a student under discretionary expulsion for a first offence if/when a student is charged with assault under Penal Code Section 22.01(a) (1) against a school district employee or volunteer – TEC §37.007(b)(2)(C) as allowed by Chapter 37. It was an oversight that a progressive matrix was included in the guidelines for this type of offense. The current guidelines for DAEP Placement and Expulsions lists a second offense as an allowable expulsion. Presently, the district would not be able to expel a student for a first offense of assaulting a teacher. The revisions will allow for a first assault offense on a school district volunteer or employee to possibly result in a discretionary expulsion after due process has been afforded to all parties involved.

R. Approval for Weslaco ISD to Submit Waiver Requests to TEA for:

1. Class Size Limit Exemption Waiver
2. Emergency Certification Waiver

This item was pulled for discussion.

S. Approval to Adopt the District's Updated Emergency Operation Plan

The Emergency Operation Plan is a working document that outlines our emergency response procedures in the district for various emergency situations (fire, emergency medical services, severe weather watch, abduction, assault, lock down procedures, etc.). The guideline will be regularly updated to address changes in procedures and/or requirements. Staff is working to include additional components to the guide that will assist to provide the safest environment possible for all students. The document is on file.

T. Approval of Agreement for Contracted Services Between Weslaco Independent School District and TEA Vetted Technical Assistance Provider, ED Direction, for the Strong Foundations Literacy Framework Development Grant

The Board approved the contracted services with Ed Direction to provide required services in support of the Strong Foundations Literacy Framework Development Grant from September 20, 2022 to June 30, 2023. TEA provided direct award funds in the amount of $125,000 of which 70% is allotted for a vetted assistance provider. WISD will contract with a technical assistance provider to support the District in completing the step by step process of building a literacy framework: building a roadmap, creating a communications plan, drafting a scope and sequence for collective learning, developing a framework, implementing the framework, and developing a case study. The services will be paid for by the state grant.

U. Approval of Extension of Proposal Award for Letterman Jackets (Proposal #21-09-04)

The Board awarded the one-year award extension for letterman jackets district-wide to Texas Chenille & Embroidery, Inc. for the school year 2022-2023. The district has been doing business with this vendor from 2007-2009 and 2011-2022. The company has provided good service to the Athletic Department and has delivered a good product. The cost of this purchase cannot be determined at this time because it is not known how many students will be eligible to receive a letterman jacket. The term of contract extension will be for one (1) year effective September 21, 2022.

V. Approval of Proposal Awards:

1. Automotive & Bus: Parts & Supplies (Proposal #23-09-12)

The Board awarded the proposal for Automotive & Bus – Parts & Supplies district-wide to the vendors listed below.

Recommended Vendors	Location	Category	Category	Ranking
LMG Sales	McAllen, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Burton Companies	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
O'Reilly's Auto	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Arnold Oil Company	Corpus Christi, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary

Chalk Truck Parts	Houston, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Advance Stores Co.	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Bill Bunton Auto Supply	Mercedes, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Payne Auto Parts	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Escobar's Auto Electric	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Texas Alternator Starter Services	Austin, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary
Longhorn Bus Sales	La Feria, Texas	Automotive	Bus	Primary

The Transportation Department purchases parts, equipment, supplies, and related items that are used for the repair and maintenance of the district's bus and vehicle fleets throughout the school year.

- If the purchase amount is $500.00 or less, then the purchase can be made from any of the eleven (11) primary vendors with only one quote;
- If the purchase amount is greater than $500.00; then three quotes must be obtained from any of the eleven (11) primary vendors.

2. HVAC Filters (Proposal #23-09-13)

The Board awarded the proposals for HVAC filters to the first three (3) vendors listed below:

Vendor	Location	Rank	Awarded Points
Superior Filtration Product, Inc.	North Salt Lake, Utah	Primary Vendor	300
Tex-Air Filters	San Antonio, Texas	Secondary Vendor	237
Joe W. Fly Co., Inc.	Harlingen, Texas	Secondary Vendor	222
Filterbuy, Inc.	Talladega, Alabama	No Award	48

HVAC filters are used throughout the district for the maintenance of the HVAC systems. The HVAC Department will purchase all of the filters from the Primary Vendor; however, if the items are not available or cannot be delivered on a timely manner by the Primary Vendor, then the purchase will be made from any of the Secondary Vendors after obtaining a quote.

3. Demographic Services (Proposal #23-09-15)

The Board awarded the proposal for Demographic Study Services to David Demographics MGT, LLC., located in Tampa, Florida. This company will analyze the existing district's population and projected growth along with other key trends that can assist the district in making decisions. The term of contract will be for one year. The total cost for this service will be $48,000.00.

W. Approval of Budget Amendments

1. A.N. Rico Elementary & Rudy Silva Elementary – Local Fund to Budget Funds for Copier Capital Lease: $6,500.00
2. Weslaco High School & Central Middle School – Local Fund to Cover Maintenance and Repairs of Security Guards Golf Carts: $5,350.00
3. Reading & Language Arts Department – Early Education Allotment Fund to Pay for Texas Reading Academies Enrollment Fees: $6,000.00
4. Bilingual Department – State Bilingual Fund to Pay for Consultant Services Throughout the School Year to Comply with Bilingual State Requirements for Teacher Trainings: $40,000.00
5. CTE Department – State Vocational Fund to Purchase Mini Blinds to Cover the Classroom Windows that Have an Exterior View at the CTE Complex, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, and Agriscience Classrooms: $1,500.00

6. Fine Arts Department – Local Fund to Pay for Membership Dues in the Following Disciplines: Theatre Arts, Music, and Visual Arts: $4,067.00
7. Instructional Programs Department – Local Fund to Set Up the Science Fair Budget for the 2022-2023 School Year: $70,000.00
8. Technology Department – Local Fund to Pay for Motorola Radio Communications Sub-System City of Weslaco: $35,674.00
9. Parent & Family Engagement Department – Local Fund to Roll-Forward Budget for Donation from Love of Christ Lutheran Church. Funds will be Used to Purchase Uniforms for Students at North Bridge Elementary: $1,000.00
10. Business Office – Local Fund to Record Budget for Property Value Audit Fees: $45,333.00
11. Safety and Security Department – Local Fund to Hire Off-Duty Police Officers to Patrol the Ten Elementary Schools, CTE Early College HS, South Palm Gardens HS, DAEP Program at the F. D. Roosevelt Campus, and the Joe Calvillo CTE Complex. Additional Funds are Needed to Cover the Inter-Local Agreement with the City of Weslaco for Eight Resource Officers and One Sergeant: $151,000.00
12. Athletics Department – Athletics Fund to Set Up a Budget for the New Skeet Shoot Program: $40,000.00
13. Technology Department – Technology Special Fund to Record Budget for Roll-Forward. Funds will be Used for Instructional Computer Repairs at Individual Campuses: $13,388.00

X. Approval of Monthly Tax Adjustments for July 2022 and August 2022

The Board approved the monthly tax adjustments for July 2022 and August 2022 as recommended by the Hidalgo County Tax Office. The Hidalgo County Appraisal District has the authority to correct, adjust, and supplement the certified tax roll.

All the tax adjustments are listed in the monthly tax collection report summarized by tax year (current & prior years) and is further broken down by the tax involved (M&O, I&S, etc.) The total tax adjustments for July and August are as follows:

JULY 2022				
Type of Tax	**Current Levy**	**Prior Years Levies**	**Roll Back Taxes**	**Total**
M & O		($ 128,343.10)		($ 128,343.10)
I & S		($ 6,378.92)		($ 6,378.92)
Total Adjustments		**($ 134,722.02)**		**($ 134,722.02)**

AUGUST 2022				
Type of Tax	**Current Levy**	**Prior Years Levies**	**Roll Back Taxes**	**Total**
M & O		($ 5,314.31)		($ 5,314.31)
I & S		($ 226.22)		($ 226.22)
Total Adjustments		**($ 5,540.53)**		**($ 5,540.53)**

ITEMS PULLED OUT FOR DISCUSSION:

I. Approval of Agreement with ZTASTIC Solutions to Provide Training for Teachers who are Under the Bilingual Education Exception or ESL Waiver Serving Emergent Bilingual Students in Elementary and Secondary Schools for the 2022-2023 School Year

The Board approved the agreement with ZTASTIC Solutions to provide the necessary training for teachers who are under the Bilingual Education Exception or ESL Waiver serving Emergent Bilingual

students in elementary and secondary schools. For the past three years, WISD has submitted a request for bilingual exceptions to TEA. The number of teachers on a bilingual/ESL exception has declined over the three years from 78 to 71 and 66 this past school year. This purchase will cost $34,500.00 and will be funded with State Bilingual Education Allotment funds. The term of contract is from September 2022 through May 2023.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto wanted to know if the district had to ask for another waiver next year for individuals who do not meet the bilingual certification this year.

Mrs. Gomez replied that the district would have to continue to apply for a waiver until there are no teachers in need of a bilingual/ESL exception. There is no limit to apply.

P. Approval of Revisions to the 2022-2023 WISD Student Handbook

The Superintendent recommended the following revision to the Student Handbook:

>The wordage "All Grade Levels" on Award and Honors (page 40) will be removed because the Latin Honors designation currently indicated on the document apply only to the high schools. Elementary and Middle schools have different requirements for students to earn Latin Honors designation since their grades are not weighted. It is highly recommended that the district continue to use the awards and honors for Elementary and Middle Schools to provide opportunities for students to receive the Latin Honors designation at the end of the six-weeks grading period and at the end of the school year.

Mrs. Sustaita addressed concern on approving the handbook pending possible revision to local policy regarding class rankings. She preferred not to approve the handbook at this time.

Dr. Coronado explained that all students will still get a ranking but it would not be recognized as such. The district will not recognize the top 10% of students for graduation purposes. However, per statute, the district still has to honor a ranking system to identify the top 8% for automatic admission to UT.

Legal counsel pointed out that the Board needed to be careful in addressing items brought up in public comments that were not included on the agenda. She informed the Board that they did not have to approve the student handbook because it was procedure and not policy. Since the handbook has to be aligned with policy, the Board could address the policy regarding the class ranking at a future board meeting based on public comments and general interest.

Dr. Coronado clarified that this item reflects a correction on the verbiage as follows:

- From "All Grade Levels" to "High Schools"

R. Approval for Weslaco ISD to Submit Waiver Request to TEA for:

1. Class Size Limit Exemption Waiver
   - Staffing allocations for the 2022-2023 school year were made at 22:1 student ratio as approved by the Board. Due to unpredictable enrollment patterns, there will be multiple classrooms above the standard 22:1 ratio. Classes with above 22:1 ratios will not exceed 24:1.

   Mr. Jesse Trevino addressed concern on overloading teachers due to exceeding enrollment at some campuses. He felt that the open enrollment process created some issues with the class ratios and believes that the district will need to return students back to their respective zones.

   Dr. Coronado said that the district received a tremendous response at the Pk-3 level, and the district's enrollment is now over 16,500. He explained that there was open enrollment, but there was no procedure to manage registration. Students who live close to Memorial did not register because they were zoned to this campus; however, there were students who were being transferred to this

campus and therefore enrollment exceeded the student ratio. Staff did not want to turn these students away. He pointed out that the Board could either approve the waiver or send these students back to their zoned school. According to Dr. Coronado, zoning is an issue which has to be revisited, as well as the space at some of the campuses. The plan for the coming school year is to have current students who have transferred to Memorial register by the end of March 2023; otherwise, they will have to go to their zoned school. For this school year, he wants to make sure teachers who have a 24:1 ratio receive the extra support and instructional aides to assist them.

Mr. Daniel Budimir clarified that the district will be applying for a waiver for only one classroom at Memorial Elementary, which has exceeded the 22:1 ratio. Memorial Elementary has an enrollment of over 1,000 students in Pk-5. All classrooms are at a 22:1 ratio. According to Mrs. Beatriz Solano, Administrative staff is making sure the classrooms that exceed the ratio receive the instructional assistance support and necessary resources so they can continue to be successful and increase their performance to achieve an 'A' rating.

2. Emergency Certification Waiver
   - The district has a vacancy for a Special Education Visually Impaired teaching position. In an effort to service the VI special needs students, there is a need to hire a teacher under a Teaching Emergency Certificate. The applicant holds a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Special Education and is enrolled in a master's program with specialization in visual impairment. The applicant also holds a SBEC certification in Special Education EC-12.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board submit a request to TEA for a teacher emergency certification for the 2022-2023 school year. TEA will review the application and will decide if the district can hire the teacher. If approved, the HR Department would have to monitor the teacher's performance during the waiver period until her certification is acquired.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve Item I & R. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jacklyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita made motion for no action on Item P. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jacklyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

X. Discussion Items:

A. First Reading of Revisions to Policy DC (Local): Employment Practices

Trustee Jaclyn Sustaita placed this item on the agenda. Mrs. Sustaita pointed out that some district policies need to be revisited and updated in order to stay up to date and continue to respond to community needs and concerns.

Mrs. Sustiata requested that WISD add verbiage to Policy DC (Local) regarding the hiring relatives of Administrators. According to Mrs. Sustaita, many school districts in the valley had a common subsection in their policy: "Hiring Relatives of Administrators", or "Employing Related Employees", or "Assignment of Relatives". She stated, "The purpose of adding verbiage to the policy is to have clarity and details to what is already stated in our policy; it is not to "change" what is already there".

She also addressed the section 'Posting Vacancies'. She wants to ensure that the district is posting positions to ensure that all employees receive an equal opportunity to apply.

Concerns addressed by the Board:

- Board Member Jesse Trevino pointed out that in past situations, employees who were related to subordinates and worked under their supervision/department, were not held accountable for any wrongdoing and kids were placed in harm's way. He would like to see the policy amended.

Legal counsel advised the Board that a policy could be revised and amended as long as it is aligned within the same legal policy and does not conflict with other board policies. She recommended that the revisions go through TASB since TASB does provide good suggestions as to what is legal and not legal.

For the public's awareness, Mrs. Sustaita clarified that legal policies could not be changed and stated, "All school districts in Texas have the same legal policies that talk about the penal code, statutory law, what happens, and what you can and can't do." The local policies can be changed, revised, and amend according to the needs of each school district.

Non-action item.

B. First Reading of Revisions to Policy DK (Local): Assignment and Schedules

Mrs. Sustaita placed this item on the agenda for discussion due to concern of the verbiage included in local policy.

The subsection titled "Assignment of Relatives" explains that the Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to the assignment of relatives if three (3) things are justified and in writing as listed below:

1. A family member is the only applicant for the job or is clearly more qualified than any other applicant.
2. The educational or organizational objective or purpose of a task is clearly enhanced by the family relationship.
3. The duration or nature of a family member's employment is such that any adverse consequences from the employment are clearly minute.

According to Mrs. Sustaita, WISD is the only district in Texas that has this type of verbiage in its local policy. Her recommendation was to update this policy since it had not been updated since 2014.

Mrs. Sustaita recommended the following change to the policy: "Reassignment shall be defined as a transfer to another position, department, or facility that does not necessitate a change in the employment (wages – hourly/salary, days worked) of contractual or non-contractual personnel."

- Add: Relatives of Administrators to DK Local

  For purposes of this policy, "administrators" shall include principals, assistant principals, deans of instruction, curriculum assistants, coordinators, directors, supervisors, the chief of police, the captain of police, the assistant fine arts director, the athletic coordinator, head coaches, assistant superintendents, executive officers, chiefs, and the Superintendent.

  An employee who is related by consanguinity (blood) within the second degree or by affinity within the second degree to a campus or departmental administrator shall not be assigned to a position on the campus or in the department that is under that administrator's direct supervision.

  An employee who is related by consanguinity (blood) within the second degree or by affinity within the second degree to the Superintendent shall not be assigned to a position on that campus or in that department that is under the Superintendent's direct supervision. These provisions shall apply to substitute teachers and other substitute employees.

Comments/Concerns addressed by the Board:

>This policy change will be good for the district as a protective measure and for transparency.
- It will ensure that the district follows policy and is hiring highly qualified individuals in the future.

>The Superintendent has the power to do transfers on a lateral move as long as it does not affect the contract.
- A lateral transfer means no change in salary (days and pay remain the same).
- The salary should not increase for employees who get reassigned.
- Any change in salary adjustment should be presented for board approval.

>A non-contractual employee who is making more than a teacher should be given a contract.

>Policies need to be followed.

Non-action item.

C. Interim Financial Report for the Two Months Ended August 31, 2022

The Board acknowledged the Interim Financial Report for the two months ended August 31, 2022. WISD receives money from local, state, and federal sources as follows:

Source	Budget	Received & Receivable	Variance	Percentage
5700 Local Source	28,055,091	272,809	(27,782,282)	0.97%
5800 State Source	136,516,055	10,997,864	(125,518,191)	8.06%
5900 Federal Sources	14,381,858	19,778	(14,362,080)	0.14%
Totals	**178,953,004**	**11,290,450**	**(167,662,554)**	**6.31%**

- Of the total revenues budgeted of $178,953,004; the district received $11,290,450, which represents 6.31% of the budget.
- Of $180,069,688 in budgeted expenditures, the district expended or encumbered $14,724,204, which represents 8.18%.

Questions from the Board:

>Why is the district lowering taxes but yet taking out funds from the general fund to make up the difference for the deficiency of $1,520,134 in the I&S fund?
- Andres Sanchez explained that, as per the Tax Assessor Collector, the district has to use the balance in the debt service fund to pay debt prior to raising taxes. The district will probably have to raise taxes next year to come up with the amount needed to pay the $3.7 million of bond debt.

>Why did the district not raise taxes this year? Why is the district delaying to do what needs to be done?
- According to Mr. De Los Santos, the I&S tax rate was not managed properly. All funds were in the M&O and never transferred funds to I&S. He pointed out that all school districts have funding in I&S.

- Mr. Sanchez said that in past years it has been beneficial for the district to leave a higher M&O and then transfer to I&S because the M&O brings in more funds. The state allowed districts to do this for many years until the legislature said that it could no longer be done. As per House Bill 3, districts cannot raise taxes in excess of what they need until they pay their debt.

Dr. Coronado recommended that the district have a bond referendum to move existing debt from M&O to I&S. He explained that the reason the I&S had dropped was because the district did not have enough debt, so it had to be moved over to I&S. Thus, by moving $28 million over to I&S will free up about $2.5 million in M&O, to the equivalent of about 42 teacher salaries. According to Dr. Coronado, this will be a tremendous help to the district and the tax rate will remain stable.

After further discussion on the possibility of raising taxes next year (2023-2024), Mr. Jesse Trevino requested a workshop to review the M&O and I&S tax rates and get a better understanding of what needs to be done in the near future.

D. Acknowledgement of Hidalgo County Tax Office Collection Report for July 2022 and August 2022: Current Taxes and Delinquent Taxes

Section 31.10 Property Tax Code, requires the Tax Assessor/Collector to submit to the governing body of the taxing unit a written report made under oath accounting for all taxes collected for the unit during the preceding month.

Listed below is the July 2022 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office.

	Original Tax Levy	Taxes Collected To Date	Tax Modifications (Adjustments) to Date	% Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2022-2023	% Tax Collections 2021-2022	2022-23 Versus 2021/2022
Current Taxes							
Delinquent Taxes Prior Years Levy	4,150,278	244,187	(134,722)	3,771,369	6.08%	26.82%	20.74% Lower
Rollback	58,698			58,697	0.00%	45.38%	
Totals	$4,208,975	$244,187	($ 134,722)	$ 3,830,66			

- The collection of current taxes for fiscal year 2022-2023 through July 31 is 20.74% lower than the delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2021-22, as presented. However, the July 31, 2021 collection figure and percentage represent eleven (11) months compared to only one (1) month for July 31, 2022 due to the change in fiscal year cycle to 10 months for 2021-2022.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in their July 2022 report.

Listed below is the August 2022 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office.

	Original Tax Levy	Taxes Collected To Date	Tax Modifications (Adjustments) to Date	% Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2022-2023	% Tax Collections 2021-2022	2022-23 Versus 2021/2022
Current Taxes							
Delinquent Taxes Prior Years Levy	4,150,278	396,824	(140,263)	3,613,191	9.90%	28.89%	18.99% Lower
Rollback	58,698			58,697	0.00%	56.72%	
Totals	$4,208,975	$396,824	($ 140,263)	$ 3,671,888			

- The collection of delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2022-2023 through August 31 is 18.99% lower than the delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2021-22. However, the August 31, 2021 collection figure and percentage represent twelve (12) months compared to only two (2) months for August 31, 2022 due to the change in fiscal year cycle to 10 months for 2021-2022.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in their August 2022 report.

E. Presentation of Annual Tax Collection Report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) by the Hidalgo County Tax Office

Mr. Pablo Villarreal Jr., Tax Assessor Collector, gave a brief overview of the tax collection report for the period September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

•Base Amount: $26,861,042.82
•Penalties & Interest: $648,174.62
•Attorney Fees: $191,269.63
•Total Collected 2021/2022: $27,700,487.07
•Disbursements: $27,700,487.07
•Total Collections to Date:
›2020-2021 - $25,061,474.44
›2021-2022 - $25,989,535.16
›Difference Collected: $928,060.72
•Percent Collected
›2021-2022 – 95.26%
›2020-2021 – 96.28%
•2021 Current Tax Collection: 95.26%
›Outstanding: 4.75%

Board President Cuellar asked for Mr. Villarreal's opinion on the status of collections for Weslaco ISD in the coming year.

Mr. Villarreal Villarreal responded that the district would have a lead way in moving the tax rates if the values go up. He stated, "If the values go up, you can always lower your tax rate, but if the values go down, then you have to move it up. Weslaco ISD has been the only school district that has the lowest tax rate, so if you're able to do that, then that is great for the taxpayer. But at the same time, if you have some needs for the future then at that point is when you maintain your tax rate at a certain level where it doesn't come up as a hit." He pointed out that next year's values will not be going down.

F. Discussion Regarding the Weslaco ISD Spending Plan for the Teacher Incentive Allotment Stipends for Cohort E 2022-2023 Data Capture Year

The Texas Legislature created the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) as part of House Bill 3 to help recruit, retain, and reward effective educators in the classroom at high-needs campuses. The TIA will provide additional funding to eligible teachers who earn local designations through this allotment system. On April 15, 2022, WISD applied to TEA to participate in the TIA Cohort E. After review of the application and teacher buy-in survey, the state approved the district's participation on May 31, 2022.

Mrs. Janette Z. Standard, Teacher Incentive Allotment Coordinator, provided an overview of the Spending Plan for the TIA stipends. The designation of teachers is contingent upon the results of T-TESS (Texas Teacher Evaluation Support System); teachers must enhance their instructional methods to exceed the proficiency level impacting the student growth on the NWEA MAP assessment. As voted by the committee, T-TESS scoring will count 40% towards the weight of the teacher designation and 60% of the student growth measure will count towards the teacher designation. The payout school year is 2023-2024. Designated teachers will receive funding for five (5) years. The allotments are recalculated annually and range as follows:

•Recognized: $3,000 - $9,000
•Exemplary: $6,000 - $18,000
•Master: $12,000 - $32,000

The teachers of WISD voted to allocate 80% of the TIA allotment to be distributed directly to the TIA-designated teachers minus the fees for TRS and benefits. 10% of the TIA allotment will be allocated to other certified teachers at the designated teachers' campus who are coded 087 and teach face-to-face instruction. The other 10% will be allocated to the district to provide professional development and resources needed to assist teachers who have not earned a designation.

Eligibility

•Teachers who are coded 087 – (certified teachers have to be teaching in an actual class)
•Teacher of record
•Evaluated through T-TESS appraisal system
•Assessing student through NWEA MAP to monitor student growth
•Teaching face-to-face instruction

G. Update on Training, Conferences, Events, and Consider Future Agenda Item Requests by Board Members

Superintendent Dr. Coronado provided the board members information on upcoming conferences and events.

>TASA/TASB Conference begins on Thursday, September 22, 2022
>Board members need to complete School Safety Training by September 30, 2022
>Staff Development Day: Monday, October 10, 2022
>Town Hall: Wednesday, October 12, 2022
>Early Voting: Starts Monday, October 24, 2022
>Fall Seminar at South Padre Island: Saturday, November 19, 2022

Agenda Item Requests as per Mrs. Sustaita: Include Policy DC (local) and Policy DK (local) on the October agenda for board approval as well as Policy EIC (local) as discussed.

XI. Discussion and Possible Action Items:

A. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Change the Regular Board Meeting Scheduled on December 20, 2022

The regular board meeting in December was originally scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 20; however, this will be the last day before the Christmas break begins. Therefore, Administrative staff recommended that the board meeting be rescheduled to Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to change the regular board meeting to Tuesday, December 13, 2022, as recommended by the Administration. Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were: Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Mr. Jesse Trevino did not vote as he had stepped away from the meeting. Motion carried.

B. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Modifications of the November 8, 2022 Election Order to Reflect Updated Polling Locations and Early Voting Dates

At the August 16, 2022 regular board meeting, the Board approved an Order calling for the November 8, 2022 WISD School Board Election for the purpose of electing four (4) members of the Board of Trustees of the Weslaco ISD: Place 4, Place 5, Place 6, and Place 7. The modifications to the Order are as follows:

- Hidalgo County Elections Department moved the polling place originally designated at Stephen F. Austin (located at 514 W. Fourth Street) to the Central Middle School Gym (located at 503. E. 6th Street) to serve as a polling place on Election Day.
- PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary School was requested as an additional polling place located north of the expressway to serve as a polling place on Election Day.
- Early Voting Period: Monday, October 24 through Friday, November 4, 2022

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve the modifications of the November 8, 2022 Election Order to reflect updated polling locations and early voting dates as set forth by the Administration. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Concerns addressed by the Board:

- Marcos De Los Santos preferred to keep the polling location at Stephen F. Austin instead of moving it to Central M.S. due to security and safety concerns for the students.
  - Preferred to keep Stephen F. Austin because it is isolated and there are no children on site
- He was not in favor of having early voting at Ybarra Elementary or Central Middle School because voters would be going in and out of the school while students are on campus.
- He requested that Administration look at the risk levels and review alternate locations.

Mr. Aguilar informed the Board that the Principal at Central Middle School had made arrangements for the students to be at the PAC Center on Election Day and therefore students would not be at the gym.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Isidoro Nieto to approve the modifications of the November 8, 2022 Election Order to reflect updated polling locations and early voting dates as set forth by the Administration. Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustiata, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos voted against the motion. Motion failed.

Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita made the motion to postpone and reevaluate alternate locations for polling places. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

C. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the Weslaco Independent School District and the City of Weslaco to Share Joint Polling Location for the November 8, 2022 Election

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the Interlocal Coooperation Agreement with the City of Weslaco for shared polling location, pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act and §271.002 (d-e) and §271.004 of The Election Code.

Weslaco ISD will hold a school board election on November 8, 2022, for the purpose of electing four (4) members of the Board of Trustees of the Weslaco ISD: Place 4, Place 5, Place 6, and Place 7. In accordance with Texas Education Code §11.058, the voters of the joint election shall be served by common polling places and a common ballot consistent with Texas Election Code §271.003(b). The shared polling location is the Weslaco Business Visitor & Events Center located at 255 South Kansas.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Weslaco ISD and the City of Weslaco to share joint polling location for the November 8, 2022 Election. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

D. Discussion and Possible Action to Contract with the Hidalgo County Elections Administration to Conduct the November 8, 2022 Weslaco ISD School Board Election

Weslaco ISD and the City of Weslaco have contracted election services with the Hidalgo County Elections Administration since 2010, pursuant to Texas Election Code Section §271.004 and as mandated by Texas Education Code §11.058. Weslaco ISD will hold a school board election for the purpose of electing four (4) members of the Board of Trustees of the Weslaco ISD: Place 4, Place 5, Place 6, and Place 7. The estimate provided by the Hidalgo County Elections Department is based on 100% voter turnout. However, the invoice submitted after the election will reflect actual costs. The contract and estimate also reflect additional voting equipment, an additional laptop, and all personal protective equipment for poll workers at no additional cost.

Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita made the motion to contract with the Hidalgo County Elections Administration to conduct the November 8, 2022 Weslaco ISD School Board Election. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

E. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Resolution to Designate Authorized Administrators to Initiate Banking Transactions with Texas National Bank

Texas National Bank requires a board resolution authorizing individuals who can initiate banking transactions such as wire transfers, ACH transactions, request intra-bank transfers to withdraw or deposit funds as needed for the District's operations, as well as request any other information, in person or over the telephone, that may be necessary for the District's banking operations on various accounts.

The following Administrators will be authorized to initiate banking transactions with Texas National Bank:

- Andres Sanchez Jr., Executive Director for Business and Finance
- Jesus Fonseca, Payroll and Business Operations Manager
- Javiel Ruiz, Budget Manager
- Rene Cavazos Jr., Accountant (new)

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the resolution designating the authorized administrators to initiate banking transactions with Texas National Bank. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

F. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Resolution to Designate Authorized Investment Officers

Per Board Policy CDA (Legal), a district shall designate by rule, order, ordinance, or resolution, as appropriate, one or more officers or employees as investment officer(s) to be responsible for the investment of its funds consistent with the investment policy adopted by the Board [Gov't Code 2256.005(f)]. WISD invests district funds in the following Board authorized investment pools: 1) Lone Star (Firs Public) Investment Pool, 2) Texas Range Investment Pool (formerly Texas Term Investment Pool), and 3) Texpool Investment Pool.

Below are the individuals designated as Authorized Investment Officers of the district:

- Andres Sanchez Jr., Executive Director for Business and Finance
- Jesus Fonseca, Payroll and Business Operations Manager
- Rene Cavazos Jr., Accountant (new)

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the resolution designating authorized investment officers. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

G. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Adopt a Resolution to Consider the Designation for the Weslaco Independent School District to Become a District of Innovation (DOI)

Education Code 12A.001 provides that a district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance. The Board's adoption of this resolution initiates the process under Education Code Chapter 12A to become a District of Innovation. The next step would be to create a committee which would also include some members of the community. The committee is tasked in finding information on whether, or not, it is in Weslaco's best interest to become a District of Innovation. The district will come back to the Board for board approval of the local innovation plan.

According to Eliza Gomez, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, 80% of Texas school districts have become a District of Innovation. To name a few are Brownsville, Los Fresnos, Harlingen, Raymondville, La Feria, San Antonio, Austin, El Paso, and Houston.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to adopt the resolution to consider designating Weslaco ISD to become a District of Innovation. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

H. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Second Reading to Board Policy FDB (Local): Admissions-Intradistrict Transfers and Classroom Assignments

Board Policy FDB (Local) outlines intra-district transfers and classroom assignments. The proposed amendment refines the policy and includes a regulation outlining the procedures for the facilitating intra-district transfers and classroom assignments.

Dr. Coronado explained that parents who transfer their children to a school outside their zone have until March to register. If they do not register by March, they are going to be on a waiting list.

Mrs. Dora Lisa Zavala clarified that the proposed revisions (outlined in red) will go into the regulation which does not require board approval. The deadline for registration for transfer students will allow the principals ample time to look at classroom capacity and teacher needs in order to decide on whether to allow the transfers requested to their campus.

According to Mr. Daniel Budimir, the online registration process will be modified to correct some of the enrollment issues that occurred this school year. Parents will have to register students at their home campus first, and then put in a transfer request. They will have until March 2023 to register their children. The receiving Principal will have the right to accept or deny a transfer request.

Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita wanted to know the last time the district had rezoned.

According to Mr. Abel Aguilar, Deputy Superintendent, a group of administrators visited the rezoning back in 2012; however, there were no changes made at that time.

Superintendent Dr. Coronado pointed out that staff will be forming a committee to look at the rezoning once they receive data from the demographer study. The study will take about two to three months.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the second reading to Board Policy FDB (Local): Admissions-Intradistrict Transfers and Classroom Assignments. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

I. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Second Reading to Board Policy Update 119

The first reading of Policy Update 119 was presented at the regular board meeting held on August 16, 2022.

Board Policy Update 119 (Local) includes policy updates as mandated by legislative regulation. Legal updates do not require board action. Policies addressed on this update are as follows:

>CPC(Local): Office Management – Records Management

>DMA(Local): Professional Development – Required Staff Development

>EHAA(Local): Basic Instructional Program - Required Instruction (All Levels)

>EHB(Local): Curriculum Design – Special Programs

>EHBAA(Local): Special Education – Identification, Evaluation, and Eligibility

>EIF(Local): Academic Achievement – Graduation

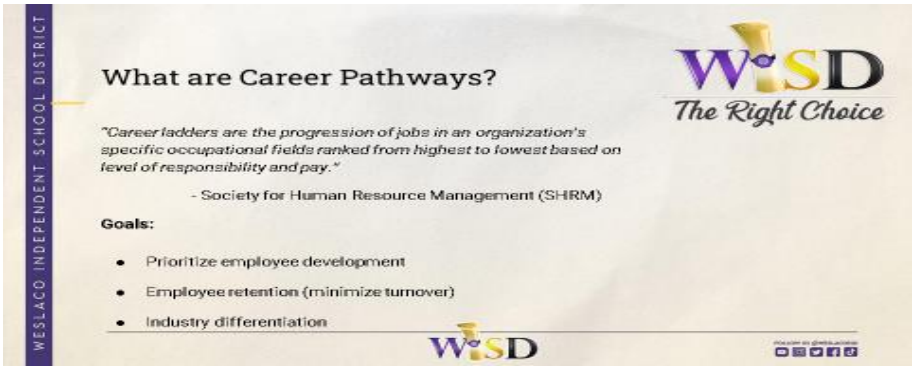
>FFFBA(Local): Crisis Intervention – Trauma-Informed Care

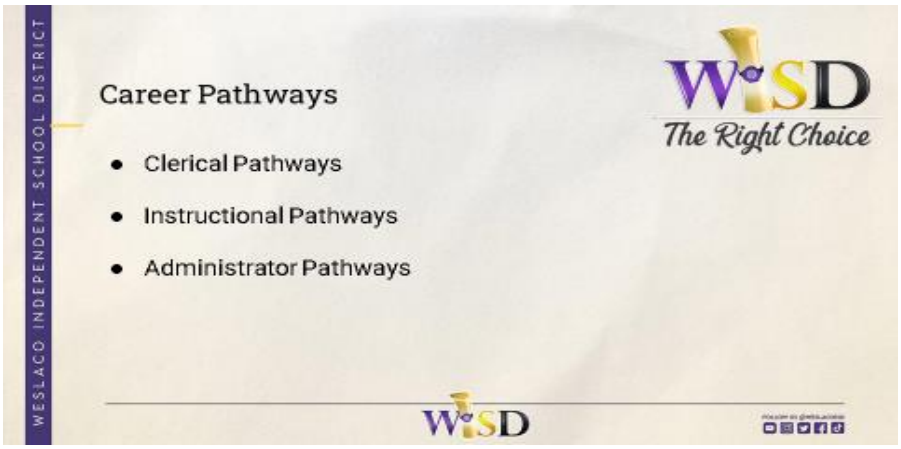
>FFH(Local): Student Welfare – Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

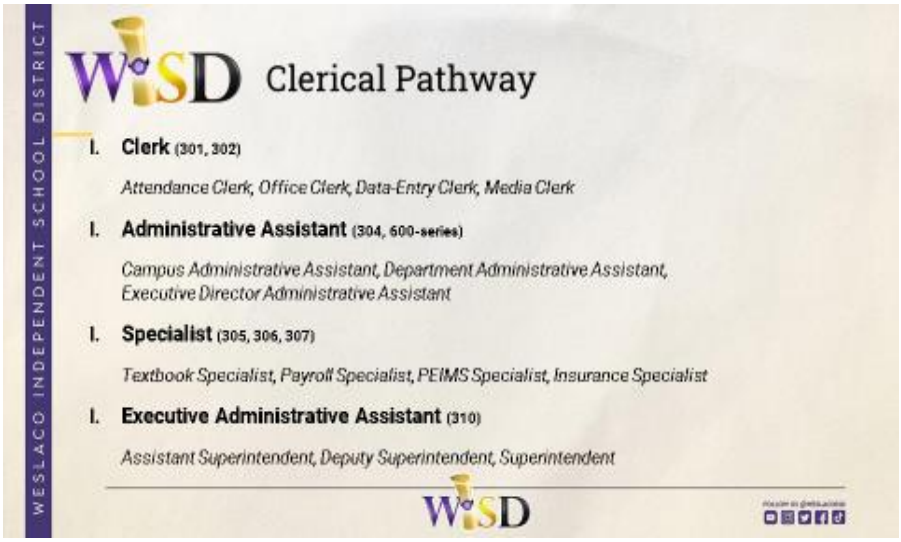
Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita made the motion to approve the second reading to Board Policy Update 119 as presented. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

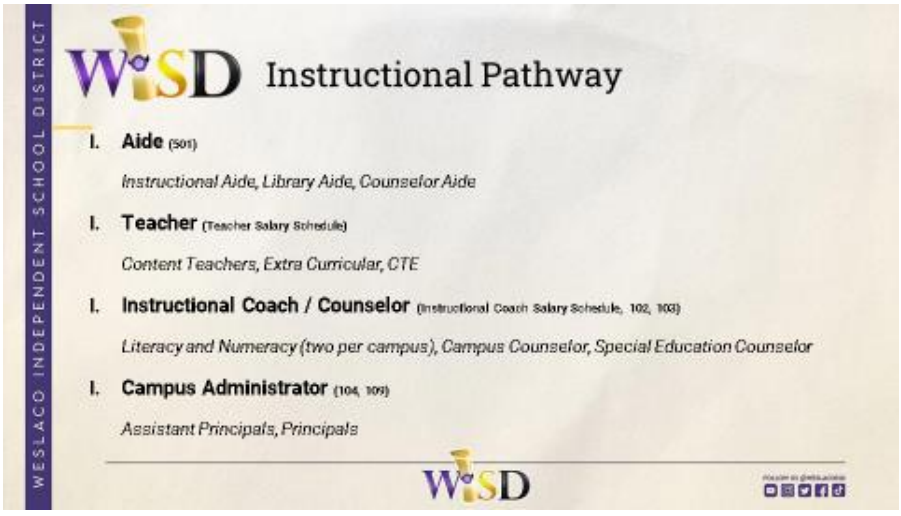
J. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Updates to the 2022-2023 Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan

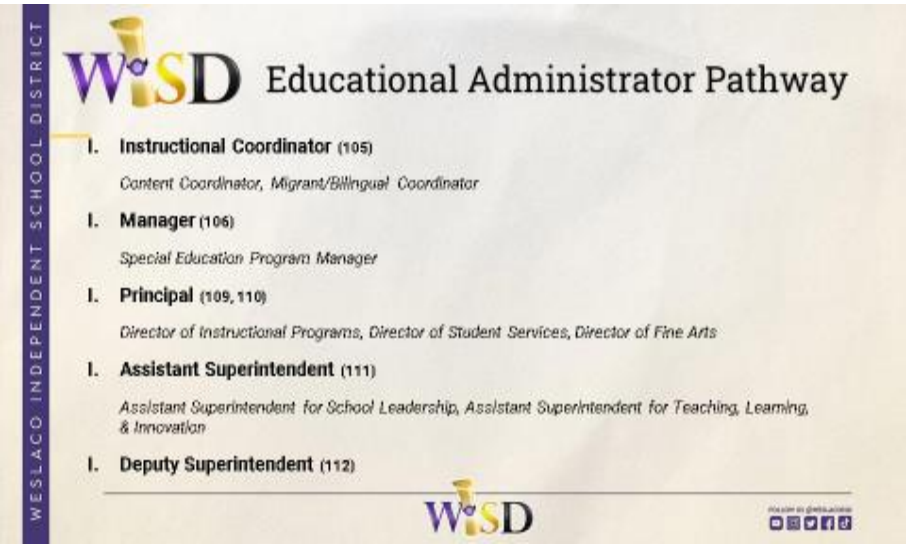
Dr. Coronado recommended that the Board approve the updates to the 2022-2023 WISD Compensation Plan. The changes were made in an effort to establish career pathways to allow for promotional opportunities within the district for the employees.




WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Career Pathways
WISD
The Right Choice
• Clerical Pathways
• Instructional Pathways
• Administrator Pathways
WISD


WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
WISD Clerical Pathway
I. Clerk (301, 302)
Attendance Clerk, Office Clerk, Data-Entry Clerk, Media Clerk
I. Administrative Assistant (304, 600-series)
Campus Administrative Assistant, Department Administrative Assistant, Executive Director Administrative Assistant
I. Specialist (305, 306, 307)
Textbook Specialist, Payroll Specialist, PEIMS Specialist, Insurance Specialist
I. Executive Administrative Assistant (310)
Assistant Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Superintendent
WISD


WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
WISD Instructional Pathway
I. Aide (501)
Instructional Aide, Library Aide, Counselor Aide
I. Teacher (Teacher Salary Schedule)
Content Teachers, Extra Curricular, CTE
I. Instructional Coach / Counselor (Instructional Coach Salary Schedule, 102, 103)
Literacy and Numeracy (two per campus), Campus Counselor, Special Education Counselor
I. Campus Administrator (104, 109)
Assistant Principals, Principals
WISD





Mr. Nieto made a motion to approve the updates to the 2022-2023 WISD Compensation Plan as presented. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion.

Concerns Addressed by the Board:

- Can the district hire a consultant firm to collect the data and speed up the process in correcting the discrepancies?
- Board has received complaints that employee calls are not being answered and that staff is not courteous when they are attended to.
- New employees are making the same salary as some employees who have many years of experience.
  - Staff needs to make sure this is not happening.
- Some employees are overpaid and some are underpaid.

Responses to Inquiries from the Board:

- Teachers who qualify for the National Board Allotment receive a $2,000 stipend.
- Substitutes have been receiving the Category II long-term daily rate when assigned to a long-term assignment that meets or exceeds 18 consecutive work days or more in the same assignment.

- Campus Administrative Assistant: HR staff will work on the charts to reflect the annual salary and bring back to present to the Board at next month's meeting.
- Staff is trying to remove the redundancy of the titles of some positions.
- The goal is to review every employees' salary by March 2023. HR staff will start visiting the campuses on October 11.
- HR staff will continue to review the employees' years of service and correct any discrepancies identified. Staff has already identified 315 salary discrepancies.

Dr. Coronado asked all employees to be patient because it is going to take some time for staff to review every employee's salary and their years of service.

Voting in favor of the motion made by Mr. Nieto and seconded by Mr. Marcos De Los Santos to approve the updates to the 2022-2023 WISD Compensation Plan were Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Mr. Nieto had stepped away from the Boardroom and did not vote. Motion carried with a 4/0 vote.

K. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Procurement Method of Construction for the Installation of a Scoreboard at the Weslaco East High School Stadium and the Repairs of the District Billboard

1. Board Determination of a Procurement Method of Construction that Would 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

The Superintendent informed the Board that the scoreboard at the stadium was beyond repair and in need of replacement. Due to excessive corrosion and deterioration of the existing scoreboard, the Administration recommended that the existing scoreboard be removed along with the structural supports and proceed with the installation of a new scoreboard.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the competitive sealed proposals method of construction, delegate the Board's authority to the Administration to rank the proposals to be received, and approve the criteria and points to be used for ranking the proposals. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

<u>Concerns Addressed by the Board</u>:

- Trustee De Los Santos addressed concerns on the process used by the committee members for ranking construction projects. He wants to make sure a strict process is in place and is being followed. Mr. De Los Santos has served on committees where the following process has been used.
  - •The rankings are done individually.
  - •A code of silence is followed.
  - •An observer is usually present.
  - •Some school districts have legal counsel present to ensure the process is in order.
- Mr. Trevino and Mrs. Sustaita also expressed concern on the process.
- The Board requested that a process be established and put in place.

Dr. Coronado informed the Board that the Administration would establish a process prior to moving forward on any construction project.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Mr. Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve the competitive sealed proposals method of construction, delegate the Board's authority to the Administration to rank the proposals to be received, and approve the criteria and points to be used for ranking the proposals. Voting against the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion failed.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to postpone the approval of the procurement method for the construction of the Construction for the Installation of a Scoreboard at the Weslaco East High School Stadium and the Repairs of the District Billboard. Mr. Jesse Trevino seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

L. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Hire the Services of a Structural Engineering Firm for the Installation of a Scoreboard at the Weslaco East High School Stadium and the Repairs of the District Billboard

Non-action item.

M. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve a Retroactive Amendment to the Resolution Regarding Extension of Leave for COVID-19

At the August 16, 2022 regular board meeting, the Board approved a resolution approving leave for COVID-19 to be effective August 22, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This amendment will include retroactive paid leave from August 1, 2022 and will expire on June 30, 2023.

With the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, employees who have a lab confirmed, positive COVID-19 were being directed to stay home until they met the return to work protocols outlined by the CDC. This resolution will provide five (5) days of paid leave, per employee, to be used if an employee has a lab confirmed, positive test for COVID-19 throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve a retroactive resolution extending leave for COVID-19. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

Trusteee Isidoro Nieto left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

XII. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 9:45 p.m. to discuss the following items:

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

1. Discussion Regarding Superintendent's Recommendation on Certified Professional Personnel

2. Discussion Regarding Superintendent's Recommendation on Resignations/Retirements of Certified Professional Personnel

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

    a. Discussion Regarding Superintendent's Recommendation for Termination of the 2022-2023 Probationary Contract of Employee

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)

XIII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 10:58 p.m. to take action on the following items:

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

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Superintendent's Recommendation on Employment of Certified Professional Personnel

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as discussed in closed meeting.

NEW EMPLOYMENT		
Name	**Position**	**Location**
1. Barco, Gloria	6th Grade Language Arts Teacher	Central Middle School
2. Cantu, Cassandra	7th Grade Math Teacher	B. Garza Middle School
3. Cisneros III, Miguel	Assistant Principal	Weslaco High School
4. Garcia, Maria I.	6th Grade Math Teacher	B.Garza Middle School
5. Jasso, Debra	Choir Teacher	Mary Hoge Middle School
6. Martinez, Emily	RLA Coordinator	Instructional Programs
7. Martinez, Juan	Programmer Analyst	Technology Department
8. Martinez-Hernandez, Monica	6th Grade ELAR Teacher	B. Garza Middle School
9. Morales, Felipe	Counselor	Mary Hoge Middle School
10. Salazar, Mariela	7th Grade Science Teacher	Central Middle School
11. Perez, Juan Manuel	Social Studies Teacher	Mary Hoge Middle School
12. Vallejo, Anika	Assistant Principal	A.N. Tony Rico Elementary School

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Superintendent's Recommendation on Resignations/Retirements of Certified Professional Personnel

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as discussed in closed meeting.

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS		
Name	**Position/Location**	**Reason/Effective Date**
1. Elisa Martinez	Counselor Dr. Armando Cuellar Middle School	Mr. Martinez is retiring for personal reason, effective December 31, 2022.
2. Juan Paulo Echeverria	Teacher – DAEP	Mr. Echeverria is resigning for personal reasons, effective September 19, 2022.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, and Mr. Marcos De Los Santos. Motion carried.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Superintendent's Recommendation for Termination of the 2022-2023 Probationary Contract of Employee

   Non-action item.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 p.m.