WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026 6:00 PM Central

WESLACO ISD Board Room
319 West Fourth Street
Weslaco, Texas 78596

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKcpnUHEkDI



Benjamin Castillo:	Present
Armando Cuellar, Jr.:	Present
Marcos De Los Santos:	Absent
Isidoro Nieto:	Present
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez:	Absent
Eduardo Serna:	Present
Jaclyn Sustaita:	Present

Present: 5, Absent: 2.

- **TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA LOGGED ON TO THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**
- **THIS MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:55 PM BY BOARD PRESIDENT ISIDORO NIETO**

1. CALL TO ORDER

- **THIS REGULAR BOARD MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY ISIDORO NIETO, BOARD PRESIDENT, AT 5:50 PM**

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

- **A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED AT 5:50 PM**

3. **INVOCATION**

Mr. Daniel Budimir, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary School Leadership & Instruction

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & TEXAS PLEDGE**

Mr. Daniel Budimir, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary School Leadership & Instruction

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS BY ALEJANDRA MEREZ WHO RESIDES IN WESLACO, TEXAS, ADDRESS WAS PROVIDED ON THE ONLINE PORTAL (RE: BUDGET)**

6. **PRESENTATIONS**

- "Update on Upcoming Bond Projects" *by Mr. Abel Aguilar, Deputy Superintendent*
- "June 30, 2026 Financials" *by Mrs. Deborah Rodriguez, Executive Director for Payroll, Bond Management & Finance*

- **PRESENTATION DELIVERED BY ABEL AGUILAR, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT,**
- **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO COMMENTED ON HVAC PROJECT (CSP)**
- **TRUSTEE EDUARDO SERNA ASKED WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME A DESIGN BUILD PROJECT WAS DONE**

- AMERICO GARZA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS, ANSWERED THE QUESTION ON THE DESIGN BUILD
- TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA COMMENTED ON CSP/BUILD DESIGN
- TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA ASKED DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT ABEL AGUILAR ABOUT THE COMPANY THE DISTRICT IS WORKING WITH (PUTTING INFORMATION ONLINE/WEBSITE)
- ABEL AGUILAR, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, COMMENTED THAT THE MANAGEMENT GROUP WISD IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH HAS PROVIDED SOME SAMPLES OF ENHANCEMENT AND INTERACTIVE PORTFOLIOS
- PRESENTATION DELIVERED BY DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PAYROLL, BOND MANAGEMENT & FINANCE
- TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO ASKED ABOUT THE $9.3 MILLION
- DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ EXPLAINED THE SLIDE. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO HAD A QUESTION ON
- TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA COMMENTED REGARDING THE $66 MILLION
- ISIDORO NIETO, BOARD PRESIDENT, COMMENTED ON FUNDS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE
- DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ INFORMED THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING THE $66 MILLION AND FUNDS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE
- ISIDORO NIETO, BOARD PRESIDENT, SHARED COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF TRUSTEE MARCOS DE LOS SANTOS (NOT PRESENT)
- ARMANDO CUELLAR, JR., BOARD VICE PRESIDENT, COMMENTED ON THE $9.3 MILLION
- DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ INFORMED THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING EXPENDED AND ENCUMBERED PURCHASES
- TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA ASKED REGARDING SCHOOL SUPPLIES (FUNDS)
- DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ INFORMED THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE CAMPUSES ALLOCATED/BUDGETED THE FUNDS WHERE THEY WANTED TO SPEND THEIR FUNDS
- DR. RICHARD RIVERA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, COMMENTED THAT BOYS AND GIRLS COME FIRST; IF THEY NEED SOMETHING WHEN SCHOOL STARTS, IT WILL BE GIVEN TO THEM
- DR. RICHARD RIVERA MENTIONED THAT THERE IS A HEALTHY FUND BALANCE AND IF ANYTHING IS NEEDED, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.A. UPDATE ON TRAININGS, CONFERENCES, EVENTS, AND CONSIDER FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- DR. RICHARD RIVERA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, COMMENTED THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO DISCUSS FOR JULY

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

8.A. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS (TASB) POLICY UPDATE 127(LOCAL)
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVED THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM. This motion, made by Jaclyn Sustaita and seconded by Armando Cuellar, Jr., Carried.
Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea, Jaclyn Sustaita: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

- THIS ITEM WAS TABLED LAST MONTH BY TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA
- TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA COMMENTED THAT SHE HAD MET WITH DR. JANIE YBARRA-RODRIGUEZ, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES REGARDING THIS ITEM

8.B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2027 COMPENSATION PLAN

THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS DISCUSSED AFTER CLOSED SESSION. THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED. This motion, made by Benjamin Castillo and seconded by Armando Cuellar, Jr., Carried.

Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Jaclyn Sustaita: Abstain (With Conflict), Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

- **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO STATED THAT HE HAD A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GET LEGAL ADVICE ON (TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION)**
- **ISIDORO NIETO, BOARD PRESIDENT, ASKED REGARDING POSITIONS THAT WILL NOT BE FILLED AGAIN (ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES)**
- **DR. RICHARD RIVERA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, MENTIONED THAT WHEN THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTS, THEY WILL STUDY THE POSITIONS THAT WERE NOT FILLED AND SEE IF THEY ARE NEEDED**
- **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO, MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL AFTER CLOSED SESSION**
- **TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA SECONDED THE MOTION TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL AFTER CLOSED SESSION**
- **ALL TRUSTEES AGREED WITH THIS MOTION**

8.C. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE POSSABLE DREAM FOUNDATION AND THE WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR ADULTS UP TO AGE 50 TO COMPLETE THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND RECEIVE AN INDUSTRY CERTIFICATE

THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. This motion, made by Armando Cuellar, Jr. and seconded by Eduardo Serna, Carried.

Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Benjamin Castillo: Abstain (With Conflict), Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea, Jaclyn Sustaita: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

- **DANIEL BUDIMIR, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & INSTRUCTION, PRESENTED ON THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM**
- **TRUSTEE EDUARDO SERNA ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON THIS ITEM FOR THE PUBLIC**
- **DARCIA CUELLAR, SUPERINTENDENT OF THIS GROUP, ELABORATED ON THE PROGRAM**
- **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO HAD TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING AS THE MOU FOR THIS PROGRAM WAS DRAFTED BY HIM**
- **TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROGRAM**
- **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO EXPLAINED WHY HE HAD TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING AS HE REPRESENTS THE FOUNDATION**

8.D. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE A ONE-TIME INCENTIVE STIPEND OF $1,000.00 FOR FULL-TIME DISTRICT EMPLOYEES TO BE PAID OUT IN FALL 2026

THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. THE MOTION WAS CHANGED TO APPROVE THE $1,000.00 STIPEND, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING IT $1,000.00 FLAT, AS REQUESTED BY BENJAMIN

CASTILLO. ARMANDO CUELLAR, JR., BOARD VICE PRESIDENT AMENDED THE MOTION. This motion, made by Armando Cuellar, Jr. and seconded by Eduardo Serna, Carried.
Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Jaclyn Sustaita: Abstain (With Conflict), Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

- **DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PAYROLL, BOND MANAGEMENT & FINANCE, PRESENTED THIS ITEM**
- **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD LIKE FOR IT TO COME OUT OF THE 9.3 EXCESS FROM LAST YEAR**
- **DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ MENTIONED THEY WOULD PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THOSE NUMBERS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE**
- **ABEL AGUILAR, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, COMMENTED ON A WORST-CASE SCENARIO, BUT STATED THAT THE DISTRICT WILL CONTINUE WITH THE ATTRITION AND THE REDUCED SPENDING PLAN**
- **TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA COMMENTED REGARDING THIS ITEM**
- **TRUSTEE JACLYN SUSTAITA ASKED IF THIS COULD WAIT UNTIL WE ARE SURE THAT THE ADA AND THE ENROLLMENT ARE FINE TO GIVE THIS STIPEND INSTEAD OF GIVING IT BEFORE THESE GOALS HIT**
- **DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ INFORMED THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING THE ADA**
- **DANIEL BUDIMIR, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP & INSTRUCTION, ALSO COMMENTED REGARDING ADA**
- **ISIDORO NIETO, BOARD PRESIDENT, COMMENTED REGARDING THE PRESENTATION**
- **ABEL AGUILAR, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, COMMENTED REGARDING WORKING WITH PAYROLL TO GET IT OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**
- **TRUSTEE EDUARDO SERNA ASKED IF THIS STIPEND ALSO INCLUDED NEW TEACHERS COMING IN**
- **DEBORAH RODRIGUEZ AND ABEL AGUILAR CONFIRMED THAT IT WILL ALSO BE FOR NEW TEACHERS COMING IN**
- **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO ASKED IF IT COULD BE A FLAT AMOUNT AFTER TAXES - $1,000 FLAT (AFTER DEDUCTIONS)**
- **JACLYN SUSTAITA COMMENTED REGARDING THE $1,000 FLAT AMOUNT**

9. **CLOSED MEETING (PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION: §551.071 AND §551.074)**

- **AT 2:37:16 ON RECORDED VIDEO, DR. RICHARD RIVERA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ISIDORO NIETO, PRESIDENT, ARMANDO CUELLAR, JR., VICE PRESIDENT, BENJAMIN CASTILLO, TRUSTEE, EDUARDO SERNA, TRUSTEE, CONVENED IN CLOSED SESSION**

9.A. **PERSONNEL MATTERS (TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE §551.074)**

9.A.1. DISCUSSION REGARDING SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION OF CONTRACTS FOR CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, NON-CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, AND NON-CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL

9.A.2. DISCUSSION REGARDING RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, NON-CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, AND NON-CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL

9.B. **CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING (TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION: §551.071)**

9.B.1. PENDING OR CONTEMPLATED LITIGATION;

9.B.2. SETTLEMENT OFFER; OR

9.B.3. MATTER IN WHICH THE DUTY OF THE ATTORNEY OF THE WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS CLEARLY CONFLICTS WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE (TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE §551.071)

9.B.4. DELIBERATION REGARDING MATTERS INCIDENT TO SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (TEX. GOVT. CODE §551.072, §551.071)

9.B.5. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH BID BOND CLAIM MADE ON THE SURETY OF LMH & LMH, LLC D/B/A ABSOLUTE SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH CSP-26-02-26: FIRE ALARM SYSTEM UPGRADES AT CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND DR. R.E. MARGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (TEX. GOVT. CODE §551.071)

9.B.6. CONFER WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING HURRICANE HANNA CLAIM UPDATE UNDER GOVERNMENT CODE

10. **RECONVENE IN OPEN MEETING**

- **AT 7:51 PM, DR. RICHARD RIVERA, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ISIDORO NIETO, PRESIDENT, ARMANDO CUELLAR, JR., VICE PRESIDENT, BENJAMIN CASTILLO, TRUSTEE, EDUARDO SERNA, TRUSTEE, RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION**

10.A. POSSIBLE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED MEETING

10.A.1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION OF CONTRACTS FOR CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, NON-CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, AND NON-CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL
THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
This motion, made by Benjamin Castillo and seconded by Armando Cuellar, Jr., Carried.
Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Jaclyn Sustaita: Abstain (With Conflict), Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

10.A.2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, NON-CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL, AND NON-CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL
THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
This motion, made by Armando Cuellar, Jr. and seconded by Eduardo Serna, Carried.
Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Jaclyn Sustaita: Abstain (With Conflict), Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

10.A.3. POSSIBLE ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH MATTERS INCIDENT TO SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO MADE THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION TO SOLICIT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A REAL ESTATE AGENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTIES DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION. THIS MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ARMANDO CUELLAR, JR., VICE PRESIDENT THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. This motion, made by Benjamin Castillo and seconded by Armando Cuellar, Jr., Carried.
Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea, Jaclyn Sustaita: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

10.A.4. POSSIBLE ACTION ON SETTLEMENT OF BID BOND CLAIM MACE ON SURETY OF LMH & LMH, LLC D/B/A ABSOLUTE SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH CSP-26-02-26: FIRE ALARM SYSTEM UPGRADES AT CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL AND DR. R.E. MARGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT AS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION. SECONDED BY ARMANDO CUELLAR, JR., VICE PRESIDENT. THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED. This motion, made by Benjamin Castillo and seconded by Armando Cuellar, Jr., Carried.
Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea, Jaclyn Sustaita: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

10.A.5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING HURRICANE HANNA CLAIM UPDATE
TRUSTEE BENJAMIN CASTILLO MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE OUR LAW FIRM, WHICH IS HANDLING THE CLAIM, ALONG WITH OUR TWO LOCAL ATTORNEYS TO RESOLVE THESE CLAIMS AS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION. SECONDED BY ARMANDO CUELLAR, JR., VICE PRESIDENT. THIS BOARD ACTION ITEM WAS APPROVED. This motion, made by Benjamin Castillo and seconded by Armando Cuellar, Jr., Carried.
Marcos De Los Santos: Absent, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez: Absent, Benjamin Castillo: Yea, Armando Cuellar, Jr.: Yea, Isidoro Nieto: Yea, Eduardo Serna: Yea, Jaclyn Sustaita: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

August 17, 2026

WESLACO ISD - Board of Trustees
Executive Administrative Assistant

Date