Chain of Thought: The document describes a meeting of the Wayside Board, held on January 28, 2021. The meeting was called to order by David Dunn at 6:04 pm. The minutes from December 17, 2020, were approved unanimously. Consent agenda items were approved, including updates to school operations for SY 20-21 due to COVID-19. Matt Abbott presented updates and possible actions related to school operations, including reopening plans, hybrid instruction, and district testing waivers. The meeting also included discussions about positive cases and remote learning, with an impact on scholars. The meeting ended with open board discussion around these issues.
b. Fundraising and Enrollment Update
Jessica Santos shared the fundraising report, highlighting the number of new donors this year and increased donor communication.

Halley Cade presented an enrollment update. The enrollment numbers are slightly elevated. The 21-22 Lottery deadline is February 12th. Marketing efforts are around the lottery and enrollment for next school year. 4 Pillars of messaging, Joy, Care, College and Family

Stacy Erb added that we should continue to share and reinforce care through onsite learning. David Dunn agreed that we should highlight the fact Wayside has been onsite since 9-9-2020.

Matt Abbott shared the “fireside chat” videos in English and Spanish to continue to show care and community.

c. Review of 21-22 Academic Calendar Options for board approval in February 2021
Matt Abbott shared the three draft options for the calendar for the 21-22 school year. This will be voted on for the February board meeting.

David Dunn asked for discussion on a more traditional calendar with a summer program versus the typical year round school calendar. Matt Abbott shared the advantages would be a robust summer program for scholars. Additionally, staff retention was increased with the later start in 20-21 and a one week fall break would lessen child care needs for families and help scholars keep cadence of learning.

The calendar options will be shared with the public the week of February 1st with expectation of public response on and before the next board meeting.

d. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent Performance Review
Tabled for Executive Session

Chief Academic Officer Update
Susan Pommerening presented the scores by grade levels and cohorts. The leadership at each campus has broken down data scholar-by-scholar to accurately understand where each scholar is academically to meet their needs. The resulting action will be an increased time for math instruction, individual reading intervention, and teaching untaught TEKS and improving scores at the Meets and Masters standard.

For Math, there are still expected deficiencies as expected due to the Covid slide, but there has been growth shown throughout the school year. Leadership has increased time for math to improve comprehension. For Reading, the disparities were less than math, but the scores were lower than desired. Certain grades and campuses are showing improvement when compared to last year and all grades are showing growth this school year. Teachers are doing a great job working with scholars and inspiring them to do the best they can do during the pandemic. Middle school decreased the non-participation rate from 69% down to 18%. The High School shows the greatest area of concern for Algebra I, but is not surprising due to pre-pandemic scholar performance and results of the pandemic. The staff is making great gains and large growth is expected. In English the work will be centered around teaching untaught TEKS and improving scores at the Meets and Masters standard. In US History, scholars scored better than expected and are growing rapidly.
These scores show work to be done, but are not unexpected during the pandemic and the amount of in-person school that has been missed. Through tutoring and intervention, an optional summer enrichment program, we will see growth that will continue through 21-22 and will continue intervening to address any gaps for scholars.

b. Update on Teacher Incentive Allotment
Susan Pommerening presented with help of Marica Molinar shares the incentive allotment program that categorizes reviewed teachers in performance three levels, with each receiving additional stipends to their salary between $4,000-$20,000. This program will begin with teacher appraisal in February and a full plan submission in April. In the 21-22 school year scholar performance data will be gathered, the plan is that the teacher appraisal will match growth levels, not scores, in scholars to avoid penalizing teachers. There will be committees to evaluate these procedures and practices.

David Dunn asked if the plan will be approved by the board and how the financials will be addressed. Susan answered it will need board approval. Matt Abbott answered it is a fully funded program, there is a cash flow implication in the first cycle due to post and not prepayment, there will also be 10% of allotted funds that may be used in other expenditures. David Dunn asked when teachers will first get these incentives. Marica Molinar answered the teacher would first receive these funds between April 2023-August 2023. There will be additional updates in the February and March board meetings with a plan for full TEA submission in April.

c. Discussion and Possible action on Board HB3 Early Childhood Literacy Goals
Marcia Molinar presented required action for house bill three. The purpose of these goals are to aggregate scholar growth on 3rd grade reading and math. Early Childhood Literacy and Math goals are individualized per campus, grade level, and language program. Each campus will be projected to have an 18% increase in performance by 2024. The COVID-slide is reflected by sustaining the current score for 21-22, and then increasing steadily through 2024.

The board must approve early literacy goals for 3rd grade STAAR. Progress will be monitored between PK-2nd grade to build a strong foundation for 3rd grade scholars to be at or above grade level. Highlights of Wayside Performance: White scholars perform higher, English speaking scholars perform higher, Performance of non-white sub-populations vary by campus, 3rd grade scholars who are continously enrolled (3+ years) perform better, Kinder performance is benefited from the PK-4 program.

Opened for board discussion prior to motion to vote. Educational committee reviewed the plan prior to the board meeting. Glenda Ballard stated that the plan is ambitious but the committee feel the plan is comprehensive and they are in agreement with the plan. Lillian Diaz-Gray asked for a clarification program and covid slide. Marcia Molinar answered by sharing the tools to be used at the PreK level and that experience of COVID on educational outcome in 20-21. Katie Herbek congratulated the growth of sustained scholars and the benefits of PreK.

Stacy Erb moved to approve the Board HB3 Early Childhood Literacy Goals, Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Discussion and possible action on Special Education Services concerning specific scholar(s)
Tabled for Executive Session
Sr. Director of Operations Updates
Francisco Garcia presented updates

a. Review Statement of Activities as of 12/31/2020
Currently 50% of fiscal year has passed and there will need to be a budget amendment for board consideration. Specific analysis includes, Technology, line 53, is higher due to technology purchase and debt service due to bond payments. Change in net assets is due to spent federal funds, there is a delay in TEA processing and only 34% of reimbursement funds have been received.
Finance committee had nothing to add to the report and the board had no questions.

b. Discussion and possible action on FY21 Budget Amendment #2
A budget amendment is being proposed due to enrollment being below projected 2,000 scholars. Currently Wayside is in a time of hold harmless from TEA and is reflected in the amended budget. Trends have seen lesser spending in certain areas, such as transportation, food services, unfilled position, and lack of sports programs. This is still a modest budget but should not hurt campuses.
Matt Abbott shared the commissioner should have an answer about hold harmless policy in February, but indicated it was likely to continue. A conservative budget is wise at this time, as it will only help us this year or next.

David Dunn asked if the commissioner is able to extend hold harmless, are there any of these budget reductions that will be regretted. Francisco Garcia said there will be no painful cuts, just line items that are trending below 50% due to being over budgeted. Glenda Ballard asked about instructional cuts and Francisco Garcia clarified that this is due to reimbursable federal funds and not stuff cuts. David Dunn encouraged maintaining conservative budgets at this time.

Noah Wittman moved to approve the FY Budget Amendment #2, Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Update on Financial Services Provider Vetting, PPP, and Facility Debt Refinancing
Currently interviewing financial services providers, currently with Charter School Success and their three year contract comes at an end this year. We are gathering three proposals, including current providers, and will bring a recommendation to the finance committee in February with a board vote. There are no updates on the PPP loan, it is still considered a loan at this time, but hopeful for forgiveness. Wayside will not be pursuing a second PPP due to hold harmless as we do not qualify at this time. 2020 Audit is complete and submitted to TEA and we are engaged with Sunflower Bank to refinance debt and currently in the review process.

d. Discussion and possible action concerning specific personnel issues
Tabled for Executive Session

Closed Session:
David Dunn asked for motion to move to executive session at 7:55pm

Melinda Smith motioned to move into executive Stacy Erb seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.
David Dunn asked for motion to exit executive session

Lillian Diaz-Gray motioned to exit the executive session and Noah Wittman seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn
Glenda Ballard motioned to adjourn the meeting, Noah Wittman seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm.