

Wayside Board Meeting
September 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM.
Wayside: Eden Park Academy, 6215 Menchaca Road, Austin, TX 78745

Board Members Present: David Dunn, Stacy Erb, Glenda Ballard, Katie Herbek

Staff Members Physically Present: Matt Abbott, Francisco Garcia, Susan Pommerening

Staff Members Virtually Present: Halley Cade, Marcia Molinar, Maritza Gladyn, Maria Zimmerle, Tammy Underwood, Kierstin Howard, Lauren Whitfield, Haylee Lavender

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Roll called to establish a quorum, and a quorum of board members were present and accounted for.

Public Comments: None

Meeting Minutes

Receive and approve Minutes from August 26, 2021

Stacy Erb moved to approve the minutes from August 26, 2021 with revisions. Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

- a. **Contracts since last board meeting: MOU with Elite Learning After School Care (Harmony Foundation) for facility use, insurance requirements and terms and conditions.**

Matt Abbott presented consent agenda items to the Board President for consideration.

David Dunn recused himself from vote due to his consulting agreement with Harmony Foundation, the parent company of Elite Learning. He also stated for the record that he is not receiving any direct revenue from Elite Learning as a result of any agreement or MOU with Wayside Schools. Matt Abbott shared that families would pay Elite Learning directly for aftercare services, not Wayside, much like previous agreements with the YMCA and Extend-A-Care.

David Dunn asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Glenda Ballard made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously with David Dunn abstaining.

Chief Executive Officer Update

- a. **Discussion and possible action on changes to School Operations for SY 20-21 and 21-22 due to COVID-19 including Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA and Local Policy Operations**

Matt Abbott presented that Wayside is consistently having COVID-19 cases, but not to scale other schools have seen. He believes this is due to masking policies. Matt presented findings from his weekly calls with local health authorities, saying local hospitals are still inundated with COVID-19 cases. In addition, Matt said that Wayside has seen a labor shortage due to the pandemic, which extends to vendors, substitutes and staff. Matt also relayed that TEA's new remote learning bill is very narrow and

many scholars will not qualify. Due to this, and due to the fact most scholars have not seen academic success with remote learning, Wayside will not offer a remote program this school year but may consider it next year. Katie Herbek asked how this would impact scholars who qualify for Special Education services. Matt said that we have not seen many, if any scholars, who qualify for Special Education that want remote learning programs.

David Dunn asked how future vaccinations for children would be rolled out. Maritza Gladyn stated that we've hosted two successful vaccine clinics and will have a third in October. Each clinic has vaccinated 20-25 scholars and/or parents. We will continue clinics for younger scholars if and when the vaccine for children and boosters are approved. She is in touch with Austin Public Health and will relay information when available.

b. Fundraising and Enrollment Update

There is no fundraising update this month due to Jessica Santos, Wayside's fundraising manager, being out on extended leave.

Matt presented that enrollment has stabilized around 1650 scholars. We enrolled over 300 new scholars but saw a significant loss of scholars. We are focusing on retention with the principals to help keep scholars that are currently enrolled. In addition, the enrollment team is planning activities to build community among Wayside scholars and families.

Matt presented that he is currently evaluating factors that impact withdrawals, including transportation, to see if there is an investment that would keep scholars at Wayside.

Maritza Gladyn added that her team is immediately contacting new applicants and that schools are still enrolling new scholars, though it has slowed down since the start of the year.

Katie Herbek stated that she would like to see a focus group conducted with Wayside parents.

c. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent Performance Review

Tabled for Executive Session

Chief Academic Officer Update

a. August Academic Report and Action Plan (Informational)

Susan Pommerening presented accountability summaries for the network and outlined the grading rubric. She stated that TEA did not rate any schools in the 2020-21 school year due to COVID-19, but released raw score data which is used in the accountability score. In the 2021, Wayside saw a drop in accountability scale scores for STAAR overall, which is in alignment with the State during the pandemic. It saw a drop of only 2 points for College & Career Readiness, and maintained a 100% graduation rate. A full copy of the accountability summary can be found in the meeting documents. This presentation acts as the required public notice of 20-21 STAAR scores.

Susan presented data from Common Assessment and shared that schools with higher EcoDis have seen more negative impact in scores due to COVID-19. She said that STMS has seen large gains, but still needs to improve significantly. A copy of these scores can be found in the meeting documents.

Areas of concern include primary grade scholars and EcoDis scholars, who have been impacted by the pandemic. In addition, 9th grade is struggling more than upperclassmen. The middle school is still in recovery mode but is seeing improvement.

Susan presented that the Academics Team is working on their Wildly Important Wins. Campuses have had at least one teacher hit the WIW for CA-A. We are expecting significantly more with CA-B.

Susan presented plans for improvement, which includes classroom visits and daily work review data. Teams will shift from a reactive to proactive stance on Common Assessment C (CA-C).

Haylee Lavender, new Interim Principal of EPA, introduced herself to the board.

b. Discussion and possible action SY 2021 Academic Data via STAAR and other Assessments

20-21 STAAR Data was presented during the Academic Report. No action taken.

c. Discussion and possible action on Special Education Services concerning specific student(s)

Nothing to present at Executive Session at this time

Sr. Director of Operations Update

a. Review Statement of Activities as of 6/30/2021 and 7/31/21 (Informational)

Francisco Garcia presented the Statement of Activities. The Fiscal Year is 17% complete. He presented that finances are trending in the right direction. Data Processing is somewhat high due to our new IT manager and need to keep our former manager on a contract basis to assist the transition.

b. Discussion and possible action on ESSER II and III

Discussed as part of item C.

c. Discussion and possible action on Amendment to FY22 Budget (Actionable)

Francisco presented a proposed budget amendment that is needed due to low enrollment. The original budget was adopted based on 1950 scholars, but we must make cuts due to 1650 scholars. We will be re-coding some payroll expenses to ESSER II funds. David Dunn stated that we are using one-time funds and we will need to reevaluate in the future when these funds are no longer available. Matt Abbott stated that while our EOY finances may look stronger than in years past because we realized our PPP funds, we will have less cash on hand at the end of the year for FY 22.

Francisco presented budget cuts across different departments. These cuts do not represent any job cuts or layoffs, but rather based on lower than expected costs and not backfilling rolls and consolidating when possible (examples include transportation, food service and open positions).

David Dunn asked for a motion to approve the budget amendment.

Katie Herbek made a motion to approve the budget amendment, Stacy Erb seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

d. Discussion and possible action on Financial Updates including but not limited to the FY21 Audit and 2021 FIRST Appeal

Francisco presented that the audit is tracking correctly according to the timeline and it should be ready to present at the November meeting. No action required.

e. Discussion and possible action concerning specific personnel issues

Tabled for Executive Session

Closed Session:

David Dunn asked for a motion to exit public session and enter into Executive Session

Glenda Ballard motioned to exit the public session and enter into Executive Session and seconded by Stacy Erb, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously at 8:00pm.

At 9:00pm Katie Herbek motioned to exit the executive session and enter into Public Session. Glenda Ballard seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

David Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Stacy Erb motioned to adjourn, Glenda Ballard seconded, roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm.