

Wayside Board Meeting
January 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM.
Wayside: Eden Park Academy, 6215 Menchaca Road, Austin, TX 78745

Board Members Physically Present: David Dunn

Board Members Virtually Present: Glenda Ballard, Katie Herbek, Jesus Becerra, Elaine Candelas

Staff Members Physically Present: Matt Abbott,

Staff Members/Public Virtually Present: Halley Cade, Marcia Molinar, Lauren Whitfield, Maria Zimmerle, Hayley Lavender, Francisco Garcia, Kierstin Howard, Hope Astor, Rick Reyes, Jackie Hernandez

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 November 18, 2021

Katie Herbek moved to approve the minutes from November 18, 2021. Glenda Ballard seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

- a. 20-21 TAPR and the Federal Report Card for Academics
- b. IDEA-B ARP Funds Use Notification
- c. CDC Updates to Wayside's Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan
- d. CCMR Annual Update and Notice
- e. Notification of awarded TCLAS Afterschool Grant
- f. Contracts since the last board meeting
 - Rhithm Counseling Software (Free License via Region 13)

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

David Dunn asked to pull item "E" from the consent agenda for discussion.

Marcia Molinar presented information on TCLAS afterschool grant for option 11 that was recently awarded to Wayside. This grant allows Wayside to serve 300 scholars in elementary and middle school, or 75 per campus. The total grant award is \$1,042,500. This will allow Wayside to hire a program lead, add additional staffing for after school programs and tutoring, contractual support to help implement and design the program, and high impact tutoring and instructional materials. This program would begin in 22-23, and will be at least 4x per week, free, and a minimum of 3 hours long each day, with one hour being academic in nature.

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

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

Chief Executive Officer Update

a. Discussion and possible action on Draft 22-23 Academic Calendar

Matt Abbott presented the draft academic calendar for 22-23. The calendar is more closely aligned with a traditional calendar with the first day of school in August. The draft calendar is somewhat different from AISD during the winter break, whereas Wayside usually likes to align with AISD. However, it aligns with other districts in the region.

Matt Abbott presented that Wayside plans to put the draft calendar for public comment starting next week.

b. Discussion and possible action on changes to School Operations for 2021-22 due to COVID-19 including Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA and Local Policies for Operations

Matt Abbott stated that it has been challenging for Wayside to stay open each day due to staffing shortages. There is currently no option for remote learning or temporary closure through TEA.

Wayside's surge with Omicron began before Winter Break and has escalated since returning from break, with as much as 20% of scholars and 25% of staff absent. Due to staff shortages and shortage of substitutes, network staff have been helping cover classes. Fortunately, Wayside has seen a plateau in cases and Matt stated he believes the worst of the surge has passed.

Attendance is slowly increasing, however there are concerns over the impact to learning for scholars. Learning is still happening each day and Matt is confident Wayside will have improvements on academic performance this year, but he expects to see impacts on our upcoming assessments.

c. Discussion and possible action on authorization for Wayside Staff to work with TEA to Amend the Wayside Schools Charter as needed for operations in the 22-23 year and beyond.

Tabled for after executive session when the board reconvenes in open session.

d. Fundraising and Enrollment Update

Matt Abbott stated that fundraising has slowed due to Wayside's primary fundraiser being out for a family emergency.

Enrollment is stable.

Wayside has a strong start for the 22-23 school year application cycle, with an increase in applications. Halley Cade stated that Wayside has seen a record number of applications, and more than pre-COVID. She believes this is due to changes with Wayside's application and website to be more mobile friendly. In addition, Wayside has invested in more phone calls with the enrollment team to increase attendance at events to drive recruitment.

e. Discussion and possible action on Superintendent Performance Review (Executive Session)

Tabled for Executive Session

Chief Academic Officer Update

a. January Academic Report and Action Plan

Marcia Molinar presented the January Academic Report due to Susan Pommerening being absent.

For Common Assessment C, Wayside saw a large jump in 70/70 award winners and began to gain ground and momentum. However, for Common Assessment D/MOY, Wayside saw fewer teachers achieve the 70/70 goal.

Marcia said overall scholars didn't perform as well because they need more stamina practice. She also stated going forward scholars should have more ownership over their learning and set goals for themselves. In addition, teachers are undergoing more leadership training, including TIL.

Matt Abbott stated based on current projections, he believes Wayside will receive a C rating or better from TEA this year. He said TEA will only rate schools A-C, and below that will be "unrated."

b. 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. Statement of Activities as of 12/31/2021

Matt Abbott presented the Operations Update due to Francisco Garcia's illness.

Matt introduced two contractors, Jackie Hernandez and Rick Reyes, who are working with Wayside's finance team as part of CSS.

Matt presented the statement of activities as of 12/31/21. Things are tracking as expected. Our revenue is ahead of expenditures, which is a good sign. Matt stated that because our PPP loan was recognized as a grant this fiscal year, enhancing the schools financial position.

b. Discussion and possible action on FY22 Budget Amendment

Jackie Hernandez presented the proposed budget amendment for the FY22 budget. This included a drop in fundraising funds, EMAT funds and local funding. It also shows the PPP loan that has been forgiven. It is a total decrease of \$184,773.82 in revenue, which is largely due to EMAT. She stated that there is a drop in expenses of \$1,615,944.91, which is largely due to a drop in debt services.

Matt Abbott added that Wayside has had federal resources, including PPP, which have significantly offset low enrollment and lost funding. However, Wayside cannot count on the additional funding in future years.

David Dunn stated that while it looks like \$3.4M is being cut from the instructional budget, it is not, as it is being swapped with federal dollars.

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

Jesus Becerra motioned to adopt the budget amendment and seconded by Elaine Candelas, roll call vote and motion passed unanimously.

c. Discussion and possible action on Financial Updates

Nothing to discuss at this time

d. Discussion and possible action concerning specific personnel issues (Executive Session)

Nothing to discuss in Executive Session

Closed Session:

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

Katie Herbek motioned to exit the public session and enter into Executive Session and seconded by Elaine Candelas, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously at 7:31pm.

At 9:27 p.m., David Dunn asked for a motion to exit Executive Session. Katie Herbek motioned to exit the executive session and enter into Public Session. Elaine Candelas seconded, roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Return to Public Session:

The board held a discussion about agenda item C in the superintendent report.

David Dunn asked for a motion to authorize the Superintendent to investigate the possibility of a TEA amendment to add grade to elementary school campuses. Jesus Becerra motioned to approve and seconded by Glenda Ballard. Roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously. Jesus accepted amendment to change his original motion to add "and execute amendment upon final approval of Board President" with no objection.

Adjourn

David Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Glenda Ballard motioned to adjourn, Katie Herbek seconded, roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.