

Wayside Board Meeting
February 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM.
Wayside: Eden Park Academy, 6215 Menchaca Road, Austin, TX 78745

Board Members Physically Present: David Dunn, Stacy Erb, Glenda Ballard, Jesus Becerra, Elaine Candelas

Board Members Virtually Present: Katie Herbek

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

Staff Members/Public Virtually Present: Halley Cade, Marcia Molinar, Maritza Gladyn, Lauren Whitfield, Maria Zimmerle, Haylee Lavender, Kierstin Howard, Vanessa Ruiz, Tammy Underwood, Hope Astor, Ann Belcher, Jackie Hernandez

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Roll called to establish a quorum, and a quorum of board members were present and accounted for.

Scholar and School Feature - Wayside Spirit Week, 8th Grade Visit to STHS, and Athletics
2 Videos to showcase success of athletics department and Spirit Week

Public Comments: None

Meeting Minutes

Receive and approve Minutes from January 27, 2022

Stacy Erb moved to approve the minutes from January 27, 2022. Jesus Becerra seconded the motion, roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Wayside Schools 990
- b. Contracts since the last board meeting:
 - Facilities Agreement between Wayside Schools and Valor Public Schools
 - Vendor Agreement: Roland Edward Contracting for Drainage Maintenance Services

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

Glenda Ballard made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Elaine Candelas seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer Update

a. Board Applicant - Meredith Sembello

David Dunn presented Meredith Sembello, as recommended by current board member Katie Herbek. David Dunn reviewed her work in education and her credentials and the valuable addition they may add to the board.

Meredith Sembello introduced herself. Her career began as a teacher in education and she has experience in educational non-profits. Her speciality is talent acquisition and retention. Meredith attended undergrad at University of Texas and has lived in Austin for the past 10 years. She explained her passion for education and the work of Wayside Schools.

Katie Herbek spoke to affirm Meredith's qualifications and her value as a potential member of the Wayside School Board. Katie believes Meredith's experience as a mother of children in Austin adds to her qualifications and she highly recommends her.

The board introduced themselves to Meredith and shared their time served on the board and positions within the community.

David Dunn asks for a motion to approve Meredith Sembello as a new Wayside School Board Member.

Katie Herbek made a motion to approve Meredith Sembello, Jesus Becerra seconded, a roll call vote is taken and the motion passed unanimously.

b. 22-23 Academic Calendar

Matt Abbott presents the proposed Academic Calendar for 2022-2023 school year.

Halley Cade spoke to the survey sent out to staff and family. There was not a large response, which leads to the belief there are no major objections.

Matt Abbott shared how the proposed calendar allows for the Summer Enrichment program. The other key difference from the local ISDs is a slight shift in the December holiday break beginning 3 days earlier and returning after the New Year's holiday. The first week of July will remain a staff wide holiday where Wayside will be closed. The new teacher academy has also been expanded to offer additional support and training. Wayside will begin 1 week before local ISDs. This gives 174 scholar instruction days and 3 TEA waiver days. Susan Pommerening speaks to Summer Enrichment and support programs. The programs will be for English Learners, High School and Middle School credit recovery, and Literacy supports for struggling scholars.

At David Dunn's request, Matt Abbott spoke to the one week fall and spring break. While in years past two week breaks existed, the decision to remain at one week allows a more intensive summer program and teacher training.

David Dunn asks for a motion to approve the 22-23 Academic Calendar.

Stacy Erb made a motion to approve the 22-23 Academic Calendar, Elaine Candelas seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Changes to School Operations for 2021-22 due to COVID-19 including Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for TEA and Local Policies for Operations

There is nothing to bring forward at this time. Staff and scholar attendance has rebounded as of the end of February.

Martiza Gladyn presented covid updates. Daily testing was previously 30-50/day and currently only 1-3 tests per week. A vaccine clinic in March will be held for younger scholars.

d. Fundraising and Enrollment Update for FY 22 and FY 23

Maritza Gladyn presented an enrollment update. Enrollment is currently remaining steady. Next school year's enrollment is moving in a positive direction. There have been multiple events, including welcome day which hosted 70 families and had great feedback from attendees. Social media content is successful, creating better community engagement and scholar excitement. Google reviews have increased by over 100 reviews. Wayside is being advertised on the radio, street banners, google ads, and social media ads. Marketing efforts are being made to help increase scholar applications for 22-23 schools year. Retention efforts are being placed on current 5th and 8th grade scholars. There are currently 245 applications for next school year. Canvassing efforts are beginning with a separate QR code to measure web traffic. Matt Abbott spoke to enrollment and application trends, sharing how this is a busy season, followed by a summer slowdown, and pick-up again closer to the start of the new school year.

Stacy Erb spoke to the efforts and innovation of the marketing and enrollment team. Matt Abbott also spoke of the success of urgent deadlines for applicants creating a sense of urgency to secure enrollment.

Jessica Santos presented a fundraising update. Current plans for the Wayside Schools Foundation Gala are moving forward. The Foundation will host an in-person mixer and goodie bag pick-up on 5/3/22 and the gala will be on 5/5/22 virtually through the REMO platform. Wayside is a current finalist with the Hispanic Impact Fund.

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

Chief Academic Officer Update

a. February Academic Report and Action Plan

Susan Pommerening presents, beginning with announcing 54 70/70 winners in February. January presented some challenges with a large number of absences due to the Omnicron variant. Academic reports show secondary campuses show great growth and improvement. Reading, Math, Science and History. Mock STAAR will begin before Spring break on secondary campuses and elementary schools will begin after Spring break. There are currently two vacancies that need to be filled. Susan clarified that by raising STAAR scores will raise campus ratings and our focus is on increasing our domain one score.

b. Summer 22 Camps and Scholar Supports Preview
Discussed in CEO report

b. Special Education Services concerning specific student(s)
Tabled for Executive Session

Sr. Director of Operations Update

a. Statement of Activities as of 1/31/2021

Francisco Garcia presents. 58% of the financial year has been completed. All revenue of PPP and EMAT funds have been recognized. Federal Funds are now incorporated within expenses and no longer listed separately. Food and Nutrition services are being evaluated and ensuring we are receiving appropriate reimbursement. Charter School Success is helping to oversee these efforts. Overall expenses are being monitored closely and the budget appears to be on track.

b. Transportation and Free AfterCare for SY22-23

Francisco Garcia presents that these free services are being advertised to our Wayside community. Transportation update, accountability and monitoring software are being looked into to monitor scholar entry and exit on busing and parent notification. Francisco is working with TEA and will be putting out a RFP (request for proposals) for transportation vendors. After School care update. We are awaiting official award, but Wayside selection as a grantee is confirmed. The After School coordinator position is being investigated as to the benefits of hosting it in-house vs an outside contractor. The Enrollment team is using these care programs to recruit new families.

c. Concerning specific personnel issues
Tabled for Executive Session

Closed Session:

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

Glenda Ballard motioned to exit the public session and enter into Executive Session and seconded by Jesus Becerra, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously at 7:32 pm.

At 8:26 pm David Dunn asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session.

Stacy Erb motioned to exit the executive session and enter into Public Session. Jesus Becerra seconded, a roll call vote is taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Return to Public Session:

Adjourn

David Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jesus Becerra motioned to adjourn, Glenda Ballard seconded, a roll call vote is taken, the motion passed unanimously.

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.