

**Wayside Board Meeting  
March 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

Wayside: Eden Park Academy, 6215 Menchaca Road, Austin, TX 78745

Board Members Physically Present: Glenda Ballard, Jesus Becerra, Elaine Candelas, David Dunn  
Meredith Sembello

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

Staff Members/Public Virtually Present: Halley Cade, Dawn Fair, Kierstin Howard, Martina Gladyn,  
Melinda Gardner, Rick Reyes, Elizabeth Zimmermann, Estralla Amezola, Katie Nelson, Marcia Molinar,  
Lauren Scott, Haylee Lavender, Choi Hick, Alfredo Garcia

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm. Roll called to establish a quorum, and a quorum of board members were present and accounted for.

Scholar and School Feature – Say Yes to the Dress

Elizabeth Wrona and Lauren Scott presented about a recent event at the high school. Junior and Senior girls shopped for free prom dresses donated by Revelry and jewelry donated by Kendra Scott. Elizabeth and Lauren shared that they hope this will become a new tradition.

Public Comments

None

Meeting Minutes

Receive and approve minutes from February 23, 2023.

David Dunn asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Elaine Candelas moved to approve the minutes from February 23, 2023. Meredith Sembello seconded the motion, roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

a. Consent Items:

- 10 Year Charter Renewal Contract with TEA
- Board Secretary Appointment
- COVID Safety Plan 6 Month Review (RIPICS)
- Wayside Schools 990
- Wayside Schools Employee Handbook Update
- Wayside Schools Scholar Handbook Update

b. Contracts since the last board meeting:

- Aaron Martinez - Individual Contractor for Data Analytics for Enrollment
- ATLAS Agreement - Annual Asbestos Consulting/ Training
- Explore Austin - Leadership Mentoring Program for Scholars

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

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

Consent Agenda Items Pulled for Discussion:

- Board Secretary Appointment:  
David Dunn made a motion to appoint Elaine Candelas as the interim secretary. Jesus Becerra seconded the motion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

#### Chief Executive Officer Update

a. Changes to School Operations for 2022-23 due to COVID-19 including Waiver(s) and Resolution(s) for No new information at this time.

#### b. Fundraising and Enrollment Update for FY 23 & FY 24

Martiza Gladyn presented about enrollment. There are currently 280 applications for next year. Enrollment is currently working with 65 families that have one child enrolled in Wayside and are working to get the sibling enrolled in Wayside. Martiza presented the Lottery Summary Chart which explained the breakdown of the students that are enrolled for next year. Martiza explained how they are reaching out to families that have already let Wayside know that they are not returning next year.

Matt Abbott explained that Wayside is having a summer program and Lauren Whitfield is assisting with it. There will be required programming for the summer school but there will be other programming to make it fun. In June, the summer program will be a summer camp that Wayside is running. In July, Wayside will be partnering with other programs to offer this programming to families on a sliding scale. Meredith Sembello asked about the different partner organizations. Lauren explained that there will be different partnerships. There will be teachers running programs, film camp, science camp and Elite Learning will be providing after care.

Elizabeth Wrona presented about fundraising. Elizabeth explained that Amplify Austin was March 1<sup>st</sup> and Wayside raised over \$10,820. She presented the Sci-Tech High School Say Yes to the Dress Event. \$33,650 has been raised in sponsorship and table sales for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Elizabeth explained that by the end of Q3, Wayside will have an additional \$130,000 in grant funding submitted.

#### c. Legislative Update

Matt Abbott explained what is currently happening in the Legislative Session. There is currently a bill with an increase on the allotment that is the 300-500 range. The average per student would increase and if there was an enrollment shortfall it would help. David Dunn has been following the school safety legislation. There are additional facilities requirements for safety required in the next year. Wayside: Eden Park Academy would be the facility that would likely need the most changes. Texas Public Charter School Association is following the facilities funding, cities that are limiting the growth of charter schools and as bills are moving along, they are playing defense.

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

#### Chief Academic Officer Update

##### a. March Academic Report and Action Plan

Susan Pommerening presented the Academic Report. Susan explained that testing has been broken up due to testing fatigue. Wayside only tested Language Arts before Spring Break. Susan explained that the Reading TEKS has improved and that there has been improvement in writing. She explained that Reading and Math were the focus and last year was getting caught up. This is the first year that the focus has been on writing.

A full report can be found in the Chief Academic Officer folder.

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

Chief Operating Officer Update

- a. Statement of Activities as of 2/28/23

Francisco Garcia presented the Statement of Activities. He explained that the budget is 67% complete. Revenue is a little over 67%. Transportation costs increased due to adding transportation for Buddy Day, early testing in the high school, and transporting students between schools. Athletics is finishing up sport seasons and paying out stipends and sport equipment, this is the reasoning for this increase. In addition, maintenance is higher than expected due to beautification at Eden Park Academy. Overall, the budget is tracking as expected.

- b. Strategic Teacher Pay and Staff Pay Plan Proposal for SY 23-24

Francisco Garcia presented the Strategic Teacher proposal. Marcia Molinar and Shana Walker led the strategic teacher pay proposal. The proposal would break down the pay between 3-5 years for teachers and 10-11 years for teachers. There is an increase in the bilingual stipend and SPED stipend to be more competitive with other districts. There would be a \$3,000 stipend for the teachers that do the TIL program that TEA offers. David Dunn suggested that the salary changes be approved today, but that the entire budget should be adopted next month. Elaine Candelas asked about the new legislative bill that is being proposed that would increase teacher salaries and how that would impact the salaries. Francisco explained that the budget doesn't have any legislative session information in it and that once the legislative session is over they would look into the wording that was adopted. If there were any changes, there would be a budget amendment.

Jesus Becerra made a motion to adopt the proposed teacher pay and a 3% cost of living adjustment for all staff. Meredith Sembello seconded and roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Preliminary Budget SY 23-24

Francisco Garcia presented the Preliminary 23/24 Budget. The enrollment goal is 1967 to make the budget sustainable and Maritza explained that Wayside is 250 short of that goal at this time. Francisco did put a buffer in for unexpected costs in the preliminary budget. David Dunn asked how much the increase was with the pay scale. Francisco explained that he would have the exact total at the next board meeting. The vote on the budget will be delayed and held next month.

- d. School Safety Updates

Francisco Garcia presented the School Safety Update. Estralla Amezola is currently revising the MEOP and it will be submitted. It is a working document. It will be presented at the June security meeting.

- e. Concerning specific personnel issues (Executive Session)

Executive Session

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

Jesus Becerra motioned to exit the public session and enter into Executive Session and it was seconded by Elaine, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously at 8:02 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m. David Dunn asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session.

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

Return to Public Session

No discussion in the executive session requires action in the public session.

Adjourn

David Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Jesus Becerra motioned to adjourn, Elaine Candelas seconded, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.