

Wayside Board Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

Board Members Physically Present: Jesus Becerra (arrived 6:26), Elaine Candelas, David Dunn, Cynthia Gonzales, Nicole Trevino, Meredith Sembello

Staff Members Physically Present: Matt Abbott, Francisco Garica, Marcia Molinar, Susan Pommerening, Elizabeth Wrona, Elizabeth Zimmermann,

Staff Members/Public Virtually Present: Clint Wise, Katie Nelson, Jasmine Verga Gonzales, Heather Smith, Kirestin Howard, Maritza Gladyn, Haylee Lavender, Luis Sosa, Choi Hicks, Melinda Gardner, Veronica Murinda

Public Physically Present: None

David Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Roll called to establish a quorum, and a quorum of board members were present and accounted for.

Board Appreciation Month

January is Board Appreciation Month. The Board Members were presented with a banner that the Pre-K classes at Eden Park Academy made.

Public Comments:

Jasmine Verga Gonzales- As a parent of a 3rd grade scholar and teacher at Wayside, she is concerned about the impact of switching between four classes on the scholars' mental and physical well-being.

Veronica Murinda – As a parent of a 3rd-grade scholar, she has concerns about the scholars changing classes. It can be difficult for the scholars to know which teacher teaches which subject.

Heather Smith- As a parent of a 3rd-grade scholar, she believes that switching classes is taking time away from the students' learning in class.

Meeting Minutes

Receive and approve Minutes from December 19, 2023.

David Dunn asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Elaine Candelas moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2023. Nicole Trevino seconded the motion, roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

a. Consent Items:

- 2023 TEA TAPR
- School Safety Compliance Review Submission to TEA
- TEA Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings

b. Contracts since the last board meeting:

- Astound Business Solutions-Internet Access
- EverDRiven Technologies- Transportation Services
- Growing Places- OT SPED Contract
- Lisa Rukovena LLC- BIL Speech Evaluation Services & Supervision of SLP Assistant
- Maxim Health Services- SPED Staffing Agency
- Thea Pierce- SPED Contract
- Zonar Systems, Inc.- Buses GPS Tracking System

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

Meredith Sembello made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Cynthia Gonzales seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer Update

a. 24-25 Academic Calendar Draft 5

Matt Abbott presented the 24-25 Academic Calendar Draft. There is a draft calendar for board review, which will be sent out to the community and then presented to the board for approval in February. The region has aligned on a winter break schedule, and Wayside will be following that schedule. Wayside is starting the school year two weeks before AISD. AISD will be extending past Memorial Day, making it the only school district to do so. This provides Wayside with an opportunity to contact any no-shows and invite new families to join before AISD begins its school year.

b. Fundraising and Enrollment Update for FY 24

Elizabeth Wrona presented on Fundraising. Sci-Tech Middle School's Career Day is on Tuesday, January 30th. A Wayfinders Social is scheduled for February 2nd, and Amplify Austin will take place on March 6-7. Knight Office Solutions is offering a \$5,000 donation match. Additionally, \$25,000 has been raised in Sponsorships for the Gala. Wayside is a finalist for the Long Foundation.

Maritza Gladyn presented on Enrollment, which is currently at 1749. The enrollment team is investigating the reasons for withdrawal. Families are leaving because they are either moving out of state or farther away, making it difficult for them to reach the bus stop. The enrollment team has decided to postpone re-enrollment until after Spring Break to obtain a more accurate response regarding who will be returning. Open houses at the campuses will be held next weekend.

c. School Safety Updates and Possible Actions and Resolution(s) for HB 3 Compliance/School Safety

There are no other updates, apart from the compliance report provided by Clint Wise.

d. 22/23 and 23/24 Superintendent Performance Review, Goals and Contract (Executive Session)

Chief Academic Officer Update

a. January Academic Report and Action Plan

Susan Pommerening presented the January Academic Report, which highlighted an increase in academic performance goals. The rise can be attributed to the Multiclassroom (MCL)

Teacher Model. The MCL program is primarily implemented at the elementary level, with a few classes at Sci-Tech Middle School and Sci-Tech High School. At Altamira Academy, there are four classes in some grades that follow the MCL model. One teacher teaches math and science while another teaches Language Arts. Students take less than 5 minutes to switch between classes, bringing their Chromebooks and notebooks with them. They have assigned spots in the classroom to keep their backpacks. For the MCL model to function smoothly, there should be at least four classes per grade level.

A full report can be found in the Academic folder.

- b. Special Education Services concerning specific students(s) (Executive Session)

Chief Talent Officer Update

- a. First Semester Talent Report
Marcia Molinar presented the First Semester Talent Report. The Talent Team is currently planning for the next year by creating flyers. Additionally, the team has designed business cards for staff members and implemented a “refer a friend” bonus program for those who refer successfully hired candidates. The Talent Team is currently revamping the hiring process. Registration for the first semester saw a 50% decrease from the previous year. Furthermore, there were mid-year hires made for Special Education positions and to fill vacancies left by mid-year departures.
- b. Concerning specific personnel issues (Executive Session)

Chief Operating Officer Update

- a. Statement of Activities as of 12.31.23
Francisco Garcia presented the Statement of Activities. The fiscal year is 50% complete, with revenue currently at 46%. Fundraising is not on track, due to the KLE grant, which was received in January and the Gala funds will be received in May. The After-School grant is low due to billing timing issues. In terms of expenses, they are moving in the right direction. Staff Development and Curriculum costs are high because the curriculum was purchased in July. Safety and Security expenses are high due to the security company and the film on the windows. The bonds will be fully expensed in February with the final payment.

Closed Session:

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

Elaine Candelas motioned to exit the public session and enter into Executive Session and seconded by Nicole Trevino seconds, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously at 7:34 p.m.

At 9:10 pm David Dunn asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session.

Meredith Sembello motioned to exit the executive session and enter into Public Session. Cynthia Gonzales seconded, a roll call vote is taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Return to Public Session:

As a result of deliberations in executive session and completing the annual evaluation of the superintendent for 22-23, Jesus Bacerra moved to authorize the board president, as advised by school external counsel, to finalize contract negotiations and execute an agreement with the superintendent to extend his contract until the end of 23-24 with a board option for 24-25 extension based on specific conditions being met, and that the agreement should include a 10% pay raise effective Feb. 1, 2024, Nicole Trevino seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

David Dunn asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Nicole Trevino motioned to adjourn, Cynthia Gonzales seconded, a roll call vote is taken, the motion passed unanimously.

David Dunn adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm