

Wayside Board Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

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

Board Members Physically Present: Elaine Candelas, Meredith Sembello, Dr. Nicole Trevino, Paul Duchene, and Dr. Ruth Reinhart

Board Members Virtually Present: David Dunn

Board Members Absent: None

Leadership Staff Members Physically Present: Matt Abbott, Marcia Molinar, Susan Pommerening, Francisco Garcia, Haylee Lavender, and Dawn Fair

Staff Members/Public Virtually Present: Liz Wrona, Clint Wise, Karlie Rameriz, Maritza Gladyn, All Campus Principals, All PIRs, Peer Forward Leaders, and Miranda Regalado

Public Physically Present: None

Elaine Candelas called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Roll called to establish a quorum, and a quorum of board members were present and accounted for. Meredith Sembello arrived at 6:08 pm.

Scholar and School Feature

Matt Abbott introduced the Peer Forward leaders for the class of 2025 who spoke about their summer trip to California (Redlands College) to learn how to best support their fellow classmates on their journey to college and their plan for the 2024-25 school year. They also answered questions from board members about the program and their experiences so far.

Public Comments:

Miranda Regalado shared that she wanted to be included in the committee to discuss options for the 25-26 Academic Calendar.

Meeting Minutes

Receive and approve Minutes from August 22, 2024 regular board meeting.

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Nicole Trevino moved to approve the minutes from August 22, 2024. Meredith Sembello seconded the motion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items

- Authorization to Begin Community Input Process to Select 25-26 Academic Calendar
- Add New Board President Elaine Candelas as a bank signer to Wayside Schools Account and remove David Dunn as a signer
- Consent contracts since the last board meeting:
 - CI Solutions (Transportation)
 - College Summit, Inc. DBA Peerforward (Sci-Tech HS)

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Meredith Sembello moved that the Academic Calendar item be moved to discussion. Seconded by Dr. Nicole Trevino a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Item was discussed and Matt Abbott shared that in the month of October a structured call for committee members would be completed, after fall break, no action was taken by the board on this item.

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda items and the item discussed.

David Dunn made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Cynthia Gonzalez seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer Update

Chief Executive Officer Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on:

Appointment of Board Secretary and Advocacy Point Person for Legislative Session:

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to appoint Nicole Trevino as Wayside Schools Board Secretary. An Advocacy point person was not addressed at this time.

David Dunn made the motion to appoint Nicole Trevino as Wayside Schools Board Secretary, Cynthia Gonzalez seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

New Board Committee Appointments for SY 24-25:

Proposed Committee Appointments:

- Finance - David Dunn (Transitioning), Jesus Becerra, **NEW Paul Duchene, and NEW Elaine Candelas**
- Fundraising and Marketing - Nicole Trevino and **NEW Cynthia Gonzalez**
- Academics - Meredith Sembello and **NEW Dr. Ruth Reinhart**

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to adopt the new committee membership as presented.

Dr. Ruth Reinhart made the motion to appoint to adopt the new committee membership as presented, Paul Duchene seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Fundraising Update:

Liz Wrona did a presentation of the information in the board folder concerning fundraising to date featuring the major programs like grant writing and the spring gala. No action was needed on this item as it was informational.

School Safety Update:

Clint Wise gave his School Safety Updates, no action was needed on this item. Clint Wise specifically spoke to the new round of TEA intruder audits, every site will have one this school year. AMA just completed a TEA intruder audit with a 100% passing score. We will be convening the Network School Safety Committee prior to the next board meeting and we will be preparing for the TEA School Vulnerability Audit that is to come as early as this school year, likely the spring. More to come on this audit as Wayside has yet to be notified as to being selected.

Staff Attendance and Blackout Days:

Matt Abbott presented a draft of a revised Blackout Day policy for board consideration, not at this meeting, but at the October meeting.

The draft policy is located in the board meeting files and was discussed. The major change is removing the superintendent's discretion of approved absences in the blackout windows and adding an explicit list of likely approved reasons and expectation for documentation.

The board gave feedback on the definition of immediate family for revision and named that the word "dependent" needs to be added. A final revision will be presented for board approval in October. Staff will also seek further feedback from stakeholders.

Superintendent Performance Review and Monitoring (Executive Session):

This item was tabled for the executive session.

Chief Academic Officer Update

Chief Academic Officer Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on:

23-24 Preliminary A-F STAAR TEA Rating:

Susan Pommerening presented that there is no new information to share at this time and that the SY 23 and 24 ratings are still on hold until further legal decisions are made which is expected no earlier than Feb. 2025, when the case is scheduled to be heard in Travis County Court. The school has received performance data, but has not received any ratings for SY23-24 at this time.

Options for offering at least 12 hours of college credit prior to HS graduation:

Susan Pommerening presented that Wayside Schools would like board approval to transition and sunset the IB diploma program at 11th and 12 grade and move to a Dual Credit Model with Austin Community College to give all high school scholars access to no less than 12 college credit hours prior to graduation. There will need to be a teachout of IB with the full transition to Dual Credit starting in the fall of 2025 and completed by Spring 2026. A vote will be taken on this in October. No official action taken on this item tonight.

September Academic Report and Action Plan:

Susan Pommerening presented information for her September Academic Report and Action Plan focusing on the results on Common Assessment A. Common Assessment B will be completed shortly. She shared areas of concern and excitement as we concluded the first 9 weeks of school as listed in her report in the board folder.

Special Education Services concerning specific student(s):

Item not discussed and no action taken on this item.

Chief Talent Officer Update

Chief Talent Officer Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on:

August Talent Report:

Marcia Molinar shared a presentation of fall hiring and mobility, highlighting areas of success and concern, finishing with a list of open positions and provided in the board documents. Board members asked about areas of support needed to continue to improve as an organization in keeping our best people as education has been a highly mobile field post-pandemic. Marcia named Special education being an area of specific concern for hiring and retention.

b. Concerning specific personnel issues (Executive Session)

- No action taken on this item

Chief Operating Officer Update

Chief Operations Officer Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on:

24-25 Enrollment:

Karlie Remieriz presented on current enrollment trends and activities stating that enrollment is hovering around 1,800 scholars, which is up from last school year, but under the 1900 target that we were planning on. Enrollment continues to backfill openings and enrollment, in partnership with campuses, has opened additional early childhood spots to grow enrollment. As a trend, there has been a distinct increase in families applying that will likely receive bilingual learning services this cycle.

Statement of Activities as of 8.31.24:

Francisco Garcia presented the statement of activities for the first quarter of the year as provided in the board materials. At this time of year it is typical to be showing an operational deficit due to school opening costs and close out of the final payments of the SY 24 cycle that goes through September 2024. Francisco also presented that the board will be needing to amend its FY25 operational budget this fall to match with the expected revenues of an enrollment of around 1800, not the 1900 originally planned for. Wayside has grown its enrollment, but not as much as previously expected. No action was taken on this item.

FY 24 Audit Update and Budget Amendment FY 24 (if needed):

Francisco Garcia presented that the FY24 Audit remains on track for a November completion. No action is needed on a final board amendment for FY 24 at this time but will likely be needed in October or in November.

Concerning specific personnel issues (Executive Session):

Tabled for Executive Session.

Closed Session:

At 8:05pm, Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to exit the public session and enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation and other matters as allowable by law.

Dr. Nicole Trevino motioned to exit the public session and enter into Executive Session, seconded by Meredith Sembello, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:50pm Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session.

Dr. Nicole Trevino motioned to exit the executive session and enter into Public Session. Meredith Sembello seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Return to Public Session:

No actions need to be taken as a result of the deliberations in the Executive Session.

Adjourn

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Meredith Sembello motioned to adjourn, Dr. Ruth Reinhart seconded, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

Elaine Candelas adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm