

## Wayside Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

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

Board Members Physically Present: Meredith Sembello, Dr. Nicole Trevino (Presiding member), Dr. Ruth Reinhart, Cynthia Gonzalez, and Jesus Becerra

Board Members Virtually Present: None

Board Members Absent: Elaine Candelas

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

Public Physically Present: None

Elaine Candelas 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.

### Scholar and School Feature

Dawn Fair and two wayside scholars shared with the school board their experience participating in the 2025 Wayside Science fair and shared about their projects.

### Public Comments:

None

### Meeting Minutes

Receive and approve Minutes from October, November, and December regular board meeting.

- October meeting minutes tabled until the next regular meeting
- November and December minutes presented for approval.

Nicole Trevino asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Meredith Sembello made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Cynthia Gonzalez seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Meredith Sembello made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Jesus Becerra seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

### Consent Agenda Items

#### a. Consent Items:

- 24-25 District Improvement Plan (DIP)
- Wayside Schools 990

#### b. Consent contracts since the last board meeting:

- The Steam Team: Commercial Services - William Cannon Gym (vendor selected by the insurance provider to address gym damage caused by flooding)

Nicole Trevino asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items and the item discussed.

Jesus Becerra made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Dr. Ruth Reinhart 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:

Academic Calendar for 25-26:

The board reviewed the data from the staff and family surveys concerning feedback on the 2025-2026 academic calendar and the feedback from the Calendar Committee. A significant portion of staff are in support of adopting longer fall and spring breaks and starting the school year earlier. Families are more evenly split between a more traditional calendar and one with longer breaks and an earlier start. Superintendent Abbott shared that the leadership team recommendation is to have a more traditional calendar, Draft A, still keeping the one week fall and spring break to ensure the best alignment with Austin Community College (ACC) as we launch into Dual Credit for the 2025-2026 school year. After much deliberation of the board of the pros and cons of both calendars;

Dr. Ruth Reinhart made a motion to approve Calendar Draft A (traditional and aligned with ACC the closest) with the addition of providing authority to the Superintendent to make non-material changes as needed to publish, Cynthia Gonzalez seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with all voting in support, but with Paul Duchene abstaining.

The board also asked that it be put in the record that the Superintendent launch an exploratory to evaluate non-traditional calendars for consideration for the 2026-2027 school year in the spring of 2025.

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. The gala is now only 60 days away. This is the largest fundraiser of the year.

School Safety Updates and Possible Actions and Resolution(s) for HB 3 Compliance/School Safety Update:

Clint Wise shared that we continue our preparations for our District Vulnerability Assessment scheduled for early May. Clint Wise will continue to report to the board progress and preparations as we get closer to the TEA visit.

Superintendent Performance Review and Monitoring (Executive Session):

This item was tabled for the executive session.

#### Chief Academic Officer Update

#### Middle of the Year Academic Report and Action Plan:

Susan Pommerening presented information for her January Academic Report and Action Plan focusing on the middle of the year testing results from the “mock STAAR”. Data shows that at this same time last year we are better off and projected to perform at a “C” or better as of the middle of the year. There are still areas of concern, but this data shows a positive trend in performance as compared to the previous year. No action was taken on this item.

#### AMA Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) Presentation:

Haylee Lavender presented the Altamira Academy Targeted Improvement Plan as required by TEA. She reviewed all of the elements of the plan and the full plan will come before the board for a final vote in the February Board meeting. No action was taken on this item.

#### 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:

##### January Talent Report:

Marcia Molinar shared a presentation on the current status of hiring, staff retention and turnover and special programs as of middle of the year. Her presentation details are available in the board materials for this month. No action was taken on this item.

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:

Similar to last month, Karlie Ramirez presented on current enrollment trends and activities stating that enrollment is hovering around 1,800 scholars, which continues to be up from last school year, but under the 1900 target that we were planning on. Enrollment continues to backfill openings and enrollment.

##### Statement of Activities as of 1.31.25:

Francisco Garcia reviewed the statement of activities as provided in the board materials. Wayside currently operates in a small deficit due to serving fewer students than originally budgeted for, but shared that budget reduction strategies have already begun to right size the budget as compared to expected revenues to achieve a balanced budget and minimize the risk of a larger deficit. Francisco further shared that the board will need to amend its FY25 operational budget midyear to match with the expected

revenues of an enrollment of around 1800, not the 1900 originally planned for. This will be done at a later meeting. No action was taken on this item.

#### FY 25 Budget Amendment:

Francisco Garcia presented the amended FY 25 budget for consideration. This budget amendment trues up with enrollment at 1,800, versus the 1,900 originally budgeted for, and allows the organization to meet all bond covenants as long as revenue goals are all met by the end of the fiscal year. To meet this budget amendment the leadership team has been instilling a number of budget reductions on non-fixed costs, many have already been put into place, others are ongoing.

Paul Duchene made a motion to approve FY 25 Budget amendment as presented, Jesus Becerra seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Concerning specific personnel issues (Executive Session):

Tabled for Executive Session.

#### Closed Session:

At 8:05pm, Dr. Nicole Trevino 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. Ruth Reinhart 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 8:40 pm Dr. Nicole Trevino asked for a motion to exit the Executive Session.

Dr. Ruth Reinhart motioned to exit the executive session and enter into Public Session. Jesus Becerra 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

Dr. Nicole Trevino asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Paul Duchene motioned to adjourn, Meredith Sembello seconded, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

Elaine Candelas adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm