

Wayside Board Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

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

Board Members Physically Present: Elaine Candelas, Dr. Ruth Reinhart, Dr. Nicole Trevino, Cynthia Gonzalez

Board Members Virtually Present: None

Board Members Absent: Paul Duchene

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.

Scholar and School Feature

The board members watched a video sharing the details of the Wayside Alumni Work/Study program featuring the Class of 2025 Alum working at Wayside: EPA.

Public Comments:

None

Meeting Minutes

Receive and approve Minutes from the June regular board meetings.

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Dr. Ruth Reinhart made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Dr. Nicole Trevino seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items, discussion and possible action on:

Consent Items:

- TEA 25/26 District Improvement Plan for Board Approval (Objective and Goals)
- Outdated Tech Donation to Wayside Alumni - Board Resolution
- Bulk Policy Approval - Annual School Law Policy Updates for adoption as required for compliance from the 2025 Texas Legislative session as recommended and provided by SLHA, Wayside Schools external counsel (See Board Folder for full list)
- Academic Calendar Amendment, Move Staff PD/Student Holiday day from Friday, Sept. 19 to Monday Sept. 22 to better align with regional closures and improve attendance.

Consent Contracts since the last board meeting:

- Assessment Intervention Management, LLC - SPED

- Convergent - Safety and Security
- Education Service Center Region 12 - Technology
- Elite Learning - TCLAS D11
- Logopeda Speech Language Pathology Services, LLC - SPED
- College Summit, INC. DBA PeerForward - Academics HS
- Raptor Technologies - Safety and Security
- Scholastic Solutions, LLC dba Charter School Success - Operations
- Solid IT - Technology
- St. David's Foundation - Operations
- TASB: RelayHUB LLC - SPED
- TX Star Speech Language Services, Corp - SPED
- Personnel agreement with D.H.

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

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

Consent agenda items were approved unanimously,

Chief Executive Officer Update

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

Legislative Update

Matt Abbott provided an update to the board on legislation from the special session. The largest topic concerning school is a bill to redo the entire STAAR testing system and change it from one large test annually, to multiple smaller tests during the year. There would also be areas that are currently tested that would no longer be assessed going forward. Much more information to come on this topic at the September Board meeting.

Fundraising Update

Matt Abbott made the presentation, at this point in the year, Wayside has raised about \$200k in fundraising to date of the \$750k annual goal.

Superintendent Performance Review and Monitoring (Executive Session):

This item was tabled for executive session.

Chief Academic Officer Update

August Academic Update on Student Performance and Programs

Susan Pommerening provided a review of the 23-24 and 24-25 Academic Accountability reports to the board going into great detail on each of the domains that are used to calculate the schools. A full report can be found in her presentation, but a summary is listed here:

Wayside: Altamira Academy: (23-24) C/77 → (24-25) D/69

Wayside: Eden Park Academy: (23-24) C/76 → (24-25) B/82

Wayside: REAL Learning Academy: (23-24) B/81 → (24-25) C/73

Wayside: Sci-Tech Middle & High School: (23-24) C/73 → (24-25) C/76

Wayside Network: (23-24) D/69 → (24-25) C/72

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 on talent.

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:

Enrollment Update:

Francisco Garcia presented the latest report on enrollment. Wayside is expected to surpass the 1900 scholar mark and reach as high as 1920 by October 1, 2025. This is a great result for the network that set the growth target of 100+ schools versus the 2024-25 year. This will also strengthen the budget to ensure a break even or better school year.

Statement of Activities as of 7.31.25:

Francisco Garcia reviewed the statement of activities as provided in the board materials. At this time of year we spend more money than we earn to open the school year, but we will begin to see things level out starting in September. The new TEA payments for enrollment growth and legislative changes will not begin to be received until September 2025, but will be spread across all the months until being completed in September of 2026. It is for this reason that we are currently operating in a negative cashflow position, but this will change starting in October.

Concerning specific personnel issues (Executive Session):

No action taken on this item.

Closed Session:

Elain Candelas asked for a motion to enter executive session.

Dr. Nicole Trevino made a motion to enter executive session, Dr. Ruth Reinhart seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Deliberations were taken in executive session.

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to exit executive session.

Dr. Ruth Reinhart made a motion to exit the executive session, Dr. Nicole Trevino seconded, a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Return to public session.

No action was taken as a result of the deliberation in executive session.

Adjourn

Elaine Candelas asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Cynthia Gonzalez motioned to adjourn, Dr. Nicole Trevino seconded, a roll call vote was taken, the motion passed unanimously.

Elaine Candelas adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.