



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**THE RIGHT CHOICE**

*Dr. Cris Valdez*  
*Interim Superintendent of Schools*



*Board of Trustees*

Armando Cuellar, Jr., *President* - Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, *Vice President* - Jesse Trevino, *Secretary*  
Marcos De Los Santos - Andrew Gonzalez - Isidoro Nieto - Jaclyn Sustaita

319 W. Fourth Street / P.O. Box 266, Weslaco, TX 78599-0266 • 956-969-6503

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:  
Place:  
Location:  
Date:  
Time:

Special Board Meeting  
WISD Board Room/Virtual  
319 W. Fourth Street  
October 5, 2021  
5:33 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ONLINE FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS. THE MEETING WAS LIVESTREAMED AT THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK: [https://youtu.be/7RMt7\\_8op8o](https://youtu.be/7RMt7_8op8o)

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Vice President.

### II. Establishment of a Quorum

A quorum was established. The following board members were present.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Vice President  
Jesse Trevino, Secretary  
Marcos De Los Santos, Trustee  
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee  
Jaclyn Sustaita, Trustee

*Mr. Andrew Gonzalez joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.*  
*Board President Armando Cuellar was absent.*

### III. Public Comments

The public had the opportunity to participate in public comments by registering no later than 5:00 p.m. at the following web link: <https://www.wisd.us/superintendentboard/new-page>.

There were no public comments.

#### IV. Presentation of Weslaco Virtual Learning Academy Middle School and High School Levels

Dr. Cris Valdez, Interim Superintendent, informed the Board that the Virtual Learning Academy for the middle school and high school levels is on “pause” right now due to issues related to teacher certification and scheduling concerns at the middle school level. The district will start the launch for the secondary schools on October 25, 2021.

Dr. Valdez, Mr. Abel Aguilar, and C&I Strategists have been working with the staffing committee to discuss and try to resolve the issues with certification and scheduling.

##### **Virtual Learning Academy Staffing Committee**

Abel Aguilar, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education and Leadership  
Janie Pena, Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction  
Dora Lisa Zavala, Director of Human Resources  
Dan Budimir, Director of Human Resources  
Yvett Morales, Principal - Weslaco High School  
Marco Zamora, Principal - CTE Early College High School  
Dr. David Gamboa, Principal - Weslaco East High School  
Pablo Vallejo, Principal - Mary Hoge Middle School  
Enrique Ornelas, Principal - Central Middle School  
Gilbert Reboloso, Principal - B. Garza Middle School  
Gracie Palacios, Principal - Dr. Armando Cuellar Middle School

➤Mr. Aguilar explained that teachers will need to be certified in the content area they are teaching to ensure students receive credit on their transcripts for graduation. He reviewed other reasons for the “Pause”.

##### **Weslaco ISD Virtual Learning for Secondary Schools**

The Virtual Learning Academy for Secondary Schools will be on “pause” until Oct. 25, 2021

###### **Reasons for the “Pause”**

- High school students require a certified teacher to award credit on transcript for graduation
- Shortage of available certified teachers to meet the needs of all high school students’ course requirements
- Certified teachers for English I, English I Pre-AP, English II, English II Pre-AP, English III, English III AP, English III DE/CC, English IV, English IV AP, English IV DE/CC, On Ramps, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Algebraic Reasoning, Dual Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, Biology/AP, Chemistry/Physics, On Ramps Geo Science, On Ramps Physics, Env Systems, World History, World History Honors, Special Topics, Ethnic Studies: Mexican-American Studies, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, U.S. History Dual Enrollment, U.S. Government, AP Government & Politics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, Sociology, Psychology, AP Psychology, AP Human Geography, World History, World History Honors, Special Topics, Ethnic Studies: Mexican-American Studies, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, U.S. History Dual Enrollment, U.S. Government, AP Government & Politics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, Sociology, Psychology, AP Psychology, AP Human Geography, etc.

## Weslaco ISD Virtual Learning for Secondary Schools

The Virtual Learning Academy for Secondary Schools will be on “pause” until Oct. 25, 2021

Reasons for the “Pause”

- Ensure WISD offers the most appropriate educational experience for our secondary students
- Vetting of online learning programs that meet the needs of WISD secondary students
  - Offer curriculum approved by TEA and accredited by Cognia
  - Offer synchronous/asynchronous options
  - Program meets the needs of our special populations
- Redesign the educational structure currently in place for comprehensive high schools meet the needs of students approved for WVLA

<b>Teacher Certification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The accelerated instruction is provided by a person with training in the applicable instructional materials for the supplemental instruction and under the oversight of the school district and to the extent possible is provided by one person for the entirety of the student's supplemental instruction period.</li> <li>The statute does not require that the tutor be a teacher and research shows that many different tutor types can be successful, such as college students, community volunteers, paraprofessionals, or active or retired teachers, as</li> </ul>	LEAs must provide Remote Conferencing students with a dedicated individual delivering instruction. The individual does not need to be the original teacher of record; however, this individual must meet the certification requirements to teach the content area. If you are unable to provide a certified teach in this area, you may pursue an applicable certification assignment flexibility option. Additionally, LEAs with limited staffing option may consider. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designating a guest teacher or substitute to deliver instruction to students via Remote Conferencing</li> </ul>	The same certification requirements for on campus instruction apply to remote learning.
HB4545 FAQ #16, 40, 46 RC FAQ #3 SB15 FAQ #40			

➤The chart below reflects the number of students who qualify for the WISD Virtual Learning Academy.

- Numbers in black – Students who qualify and meet the criteria under Senate Bill 15
- Numbers in red – These students would be displaced or have a disruption to their schedule if teachers are pulled from their current classroom.

### High School / Middle School

Number of students who qualify for Weslaco ISD Virtual Learning Academy:

Campus	Qualify	Confirmed	Undecided	Declined
WEHS	59 (480)	33	4	22
WHS	67 (480)	38	17	12
CTE	2	0	1	1
Cuellar	19 (13)	13	0	6
Central	38 (126)	28	0	10
B. Garza	24 (142)	20	0	4
Mary Hoge	21 (100)	17	0	4

### Questions/Concerns Addressed by the Board and Responses from Administration:

>What are the main issues at this time?

- The main issue is finding teachers who are certified in each content area.
- If certified teachers are pulled out from their classrooms to teach these students virtually, the other students would experience a significant disruption to their schedules.
- WISD is looking at a virtual high school. According to Dr. Valdez, STC has seen a shift in instruction. The classes that filled up first were virtual as oppose to in person so she truly believes that the future will call for school districts to have virtual high schools for students who excel in that learning environment.
- Other Implications: student's GPA, rank and equity of classes offered, CCMR certifications, career pathways, and contact hours for CTE, college prep courses for TSI, etc.
- Many students taking dual enrollment classes are opting out of virtual learning because they get more through face-to-face instruction

>Why not hire retired teachers for the Academy?

- HR Directors are reaching out to substitutes trying to identify retired teachers to work at the Academy.
- Many retired teachers do not want to do virtual instruction.

>Why not hire substitute teachers?

- Teachers need to be certified in each content area.
- Substitute teachers can only work 15 days out of the month and cannot exceed 130 hours.

#### **Weslaco ISD Virtual Learning for Elementary Schools**

Virtual Academy Enrollment								
as of 10/4/21								
School	Grade							
Row Labels	PK	KG	1	2	3	4	5	Grand Total
Airport	1	6	8	4	6	5	4	34
Cleckler	3	6	12	9	12	7	3	52
Gonzalez	1	3	3	5	4	3	2	21
Margo		6	16	8	8	1	5	44
Memorial		3	3	5	5	3	5	24
N Bridge	4	4	5	9	6	1	6	35
Rico	3	2	5	4	4	2	4	24
SamHouston	1	5	8	7	9	9	4	43
Silva	2	3	7	8	5	3		28
Ybarra		2	6	4	3	3		18
Grand Total	15	40	73	63	62	37	33	323

>Status of Virtual Learning Academy for elementary students

- The program started Monday, October 4 with 323 students participating.
- WISD is following Senate Bill 15 criteria to determine which students qualify for virtual learning.
- Three campuses (Memorial, Sam Houston, and Cleckler-Heald) already capped out at all grade levels.
- Staff is trying to maintain a 22:1 ratio; otherwise, they will encounter issues with waivers.
- Staff will provide an update on the number of inactive students who enrolled to participate in the academy.

- WISD will need to adhere to Senate Bill 15 and offer virtual instruction in the event they receive requests from students.
- >Has the district looked into offering a work from home option for retired teachers who would like to help out?
- Staff will follow up on this inquiry.

V. Discussion and Update on ESSER II (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act – CRRSA) and ESSER III (American Rescue Plan) Funding

Mr. John Garlic, Title One/Federal Programs & State Compensatory Director, provided an update on the use of ESSER II and ESSER III Funding for virtual support.

- >Two options are listed below. Administration is recommending Option 2, which will free up money to fund the Virtual Academy. An amendment to the application would be necessary

*ESSER Use of Funds Plans  
Virtual School Support*

**Assumptions:**

- **Estimated ADA Loss PK-12 Student Population: 156 (\$6,560 per day)**
- **Virtual School Applications Received: 1245**
- **Virtual School Applications Qualified Under SB15: 546**
- **Virtual School Applications Not Qualified: 699**
- **Unqualified Virtual School Applications Accepted for Medical Reasons: 139**
- **Unqualified Virtual School Applications Accepted PK: 17**
- **Virtual School Applications Not Qualified/Accepted: 543**
- **Estimated ADA Cost: \$42.05 per day**
- **Remaining Instructional Days: 141**
- **Total Estimated ADA Loss: \$925,932**
- **Total Estimated C&I VLA Planning, Instructional Support, and Supervision Stipend: \$35,000 (\$5,000 x 7)**
- **Total Estimated cost: \$959,932**

**OPTION 1:** Supplant \$959,932 of teacher salaries to cover the lost ADA. The average district teacher salary is approximately \$68,987 (with benefits). We would have to supplant and reclassify 14 teacher's salaries to do this.

**OPTION 2:** We can adjust the indirect cost rate we are using for ESSER II to 'add' the \$959,932 into local maintenance funds (Federal Revenues).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Utilize OPTION 2 to simplify this process. The fund plans below have been adjusted to do this, but can be readjusted if we choose OPTION 1.

~~ESSER II (281)~~  
*CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) Act*  
*NOGA Received 13 September 2021*

[This is a summary of our current ESSER II grant spending plan. This grant's funding period is from March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2023.]

<b>Total Allocation:</b>	<b>~\$28.143 Million</b>
ADA Hold Harmless	~\$ 3.607 Million
Construction (Pre-Approved)	~\$ 9.968 Million
<b>Indirect Costs (8.099% vs max 9.348%)</b>	<b>~\$ 1.472 Million</b>
<b>Learning Loss Recommendations:</b>	<b>~\$ 4.723 Million</b>
Personnel	~\$ 1.644 Million
Safety/SEL Recommendations:	~\$ 1.133 Million
2022-2023 Retention Stipend	~\$ 4.596 Million
	<b>(\$2,000 for all staff)</b>

Advanced Academics Coach (1 x 2 years)	~\$ 0.170 Million
SEL LPC Support (6 x 2 years)	~\$ 1.020 Million
Substitute Custodians (19 x 1 year)	~\$ 0.454 Million
HVAC Controls	~\$ 2.060 Million
HVAC [Maintenance/Trans./Warehouse]	~\$ 0.096 Million
HVAC [Horton Complex]	~\$ 0.063 Million
HVAC [C. Heath ES/M. Ybarra ES/KWES]	~\$ 0.382 Million
HVAC [CTE]	~\$ 0.069 Million
HVAC [A.N. Rico ES]	~\$ 0.121 Million
HVAC [Lackey Stadium Pressbox]	~\$ 0.160 Million
HVAC [Aquatic Center]	~\$ 0.183 Million
HVAC [South Palm Gardens HS]	~\$ 0.190 Million
HVAC [Stephen F. Austin ES]	~\$ 0.215 Million
HVAC [Mary Hoge MS]	~\$ 0.229 Million
HVAC [Cuellar MS]	~\$ 0.520 Million
HVAC [L. Black ES]	~\$ 0.520 Million
HVAC [Central MS]	~\$ 0.735 Million
HVAC [North Bridge ES]	~\$ 1.825 Million
HVAC [B. Garza MS]	~\$ 2.600 Million
Cleaning/Disinfecting Supplies	~\$ 0.750 Million
CTE PPE (Shop equipment)	~\$ 0.050 Million
SEL Migrant Leadership Programs	~\$ 0.116 Million
SEL Panorama Online Counseling Resources	~\$ 0.217 Million
C&I Online Progress Tools	~\$ 0.622 Million
CTE Specialized Technology	~\$ 0.240 Million
CTE Virtual Work-Based Learning Software	~\$ 0.100 Million
Fine Arts Equipment	~\$ 0.758 Million
Fine Arts Professional Development	~\$ 0.015 Million
Fine Arts Small Group Instruction	~\$ 0.012 Million
Fine Arts Specialized Technology	~\$ 0.304 Million
Library Books Allocation	~\$ 0.330 Million
Library Services Future-Ready Libraries (17)	~\$ 2.342 Million

>The Vaccine Stipend is included in ESSER IIIa.

*ESSER IIIa (282)*  
*ARP (American Rescue Plan) Act*  
*NOGA Received 5 August 2021*

This a summary of our current ESSER III grant spending plan. This grant's funding period is from March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024.

<b>Total Allocation:</b>	~\$42.137 Million
<b>Construction (Pre-Approval):</b>	~\$ 6.001 Million
Indirect Costs (8.711% vs max 9.348%)	~\$ 3.149 Million
<b>Learning Loss Recommendations:</b>	~\$14.114 Million
Personnel	~\$ 6.772 Million
<b>Safety Recommendations:</b>	~\$ 4.072 Million
2021-2022 Retention Stipend	~\$ 6.894 Million
	(\$3,000 for all staff)
<b>2021-2022 Vaccine Stipend</b>	<b>~\$ 1.135 Million</b>
	<b>(\$500 for all staff)</b>

Acc. Learning Campus Coordinator (10 x3 years)	~\$ 1.914 Million
Director of Accelerate Learning (1 x 3 years)	~\$ 0.228 Million
Accelerated Learning Aides (38 x 3 years)	~\$ 3.648 Million
ESSER Director's Salary (50% x 3 years)	~\$ 0.210 Million
ESSER Secretary's Salary (1 x 3 years)	~\$ 0.142 Million
Nursing - Medical Assistants (20 x 1 year)	~\$ 0.630 Million
HVAC [A.N. Rico/Cleckler-Heald/Central Office]	~\$ 0.483 Million
IT Internet Towers	~\$ 5.000 Million
Touchless Handwashing (x 770)	~\$ 0.308 Million
Water Bottle Filling Stations (x 300)	~\$ 0.210 Million
Air Cleaners (x 140)	~\$ 0.244 Million
Air Cleaners (x 1100)	~\$ 1.749 Million
Air Purifiers (x 175)	~\$ 0.307 Million
ADA Air Purifiers (x 44)	~\$ 0.029 Million
Cleaning/Disinfecting Supplies	~\$ 0.181 Million
COVID-19 Signage	~\$ 0.019 Million
COVID-19 Testing	~\$ 0.003 Million

Fine Arts Safety Equipment and Supplies	~\$ 0.067 Million
Food Service Custodial Sanitation Support	~\$ 0.055 Million
Food Service Food Packaging	~\$ 0.050 Million
Food Service Outdoor Dining Equipment	~\$ 0.066 Million
Bottled Water for Students	~\$ 0.007 Million
Nursing Safety Upgrades	~\$ 0.055 Million
Nursing Technology Upgrades	~\$ 0.045 Million
PPE	~\$ 0.044 Million
SEL Curriculum Writing/Implementation	~\$ 0.054 Million
SEL Ripple Online Counseling Resources	~\$ 0.238 Million
Social Distancing/Safe Return to Schools	~\$ 0.007 Million
Staff Desk Shields	~\$ 0.114 Million
Student Desk Shields	~\$ 0.513 Million
Transportation Air Purifiers (x 62)	~\$ 0.225 Million
Classroom Learning Environment (\$100 x 1100)	~\$ 0.110 Million
C&I Accelerated After Hours Learning	~\$ 0.751 Million
C&I Diagnostic Assessment	~\$ 0.873 Million
C&I Math/Science Calculators	~\$ 0.482 Million
C&I Online Learning Materials	~\$ 2.896 Million
C&I Professional Development	~\$ 2.000 Million
ESL Accelerated Learning	~\$ 0.690 Million
IT Elementary Classroom Redesign	~\$ 5.000 Million
IT Hapara Online Learning Management Program	~\$ 0.060 Million
IT Hotspots	~\$ 0.002 Million
IT Personalized Learning PD/Curriculum Writing	~\$ 0.250 Million
IT RAZ K-2 Guided Reading Program	~\$ 0.062 Million
IT Seesaw PK/K Instructional Program	~\$ 0.039 Million
IT Peripherals	~\$ 0.011 Million
Migrant Senior College Round Up	~\$ 0.002 Million
Migrant Out-of-State College Trip (20 Students)	~\$ 0.080 Million
Migrant Project SMART	~\$ 0.102 Million
Migrant Online Learning Renewals	~\$ 0.150 Million
Migrant Scholastic Book Fairs	~\$ 0.040 Million
Pandemic Leaver Recovery	~\$ 0.087 Million
PFE Continuing Education	~\$ 0.045 Million
PFE Professional Development	~\$ 0.055 Million
PFE Training of Trainers	~\$ 0.025 Million
Sp. Ed. Assistive Technology	~\$ 0.177 Million
Sp. Ed. Diagnostician Consultants	~\$ 0.100 Million
Sp. Ed. Dyslexia Professional Development	~\$ 0.025 Million

### **ESSER IIIb**

#### **ARP (American Rescue Plan) Act**

This a summary of our current ESSER III grant spending plan. This grant's funding period is from March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024.

<b>Total Allocation:</b>	<b>~\$21.069 Million</b>
<b>Construction:</b>	<b>~\$14.650 Million</b>
<b>Indirect Costs (1.168% vs max 9.348%)</b>	<b>~\$ 0.075 Million</b>
<b>Learning Loss Recommendations:</b>	<b>~\$ 1.589 Million</b>
<b>Safety Recommendations:</b>	<b>~\$ 0.427 Million</b>
<b>2023-2024 Retention Stipend</b>	<b>~\$ 4.328 Million</b>
	<b>(\$2,000 for all staff)</b>
<hr/>	
HVAC Reserve	~\$ 5.662 Million
HVAC [Roosevelt Air Dampers]	~\$ 0.030 Million
HVAC [Advocacy Center]	~\$ 0.070 Million
HVAC [Admin. Complex/Technology]	~\$ 0.240 Million
HVAC [Lackey Stadium SE]	~\$ 0.080 Million
HVAC [Business Office]	~\$ 0.275 Million
HVAC [Weslaco East HS]	~\$ 2.183 Million
HVAC [Memorial ES]	~\$ 1.625 Million
HVAC [Airport ES]	~\$ 1.625 Million
HVAC [Weslaco HS]	~\$ 2.860 Million
Migrant SEL Development	~\$ 0.120 Million
Air Cleaners (x 140)	~\$ 0.307 Million
C&I Online Learning Materials	~\$ 0.869 Million
ESL Professional Development	~\$ 0.210 Million
ESL Technology	~\$ 0.400 Million
Migrant In-State College Trip (40 Students)	~\$ 0.030 Million
Sp. Ed. Reading Professional Development	~\$ 0.040 Million
Sp. Ed. Transition Services	~\$ 0.040 Million

#### **Questions/Concerns Addressed by the Board& Responses by Administration:**

- Employees received an email notifying them of the process to qualify for the stipend.
- Will employees who retire in December receive the vaccine stipend?
  - All full-time employees will receive the stipend.
  - Employees will receive the stipend in January.
  - Employees who retire in January 2022 will receive the stipend in February 2022.
- Will substitutes qualify for the stipend since they are also around the students?
  - No, only full-time employees qualify for the stipend.
  - Substitutes do not receive other benefits,

#### **VI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:**

The Board convened in closed meeting 6:04 p.m. to discuss the following items:

##### **A. Personnel Matters (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074)**

1. Employment of Personnel – Certified Professional & Non-Contractual Personnel
2. Resignations
3. Deliberation Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074 and 551.071)
  - a. Consideration of the Recommendations and Possible Hearings for the Mid-Contract Terminations of Non-Certified Contract Administrators, Jose Guadalupe Garcia and Melva Segura

- b. Deliberation Regarding the Mid-Contract Terminations of Non-Certified Contract Administrators, Jose Guadalupe Garcia and Melva Segura

- B. Consultation with Attorney Regarding: a) Pending or Contemplated Litigation: b) a Settlement Offer: or c) a Matter in Which the Duty of the Attorney to the Weslaco ISD under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas Clearly Conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code (Tex. Gov't. Code 551.071)

VII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:09 p.m. to take action on the following items:

A. Possible Action, If Necessary, On Items Discussed in Closed Meeting

1. Discussion and Possible Action on New Employment – Certified Professional & Non-Contractual Personnel

Dr. Cris Valdez recommended that the Board approve certified professional and non-contractual personnel as presented.

<b>CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Orfelinda Martinez	Nurse	Weslaco High School

<b>NON-CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Maria H. Casas Martinez	Accelerated Learning Aide	Gonzalez Elementary School
2. Joanna Rosales	Instructional Aide	Cleckler-Heald Elementary School

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to approve certified professional and non-contractual personnel as presented in closed meeting. Mr. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Resignations

Dr. Cris Valdez recommended that the Board approve the retirements/resignations as discussed in closed meeting.

<b>RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Reason/Effective Date</b>
1. Alexander Barco	Language Arts Teacher Weslaco High School	Alexander Barco is resigning due to health issues. His resignation is effective October 6, 2021.
2. Laura Villarreal	Counselor Weslaco High School	Laura Villarreal is resigning to pursue professional growth opportunities. Her resignation is pending Board approval.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the retirements/resignations as discussed in closed meeting. Mr. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and Action to Conduct Possible Hearing and Take Possible Action Regarding the Proposed Mid-Contract Termination of Non-Certified Contract Administrator, Jose Guadalupe Garcia

A hearing took place during closed meeting. Dr. Cris Valdez recommended that the Board approve the mid-contract termination of Mr. Jose Guadalupe Garcia.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos made the motion to approve the mid-contract termination of Mr. Jose Guadalupe Garcia as recommended. Mr. Jesse Trevino seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Conduct Possible Hearing and Take Possible Action Regarding the Proposed Mid-Contract Termination of Non-Certified Contract Administrator, Melva Segura

Non-action item.

#### VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.