

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:

Place:

Location:

Date:

Time:

Regular Board Meeting

Virtual Meeting

WISD Board Room

319 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street

February 9, 2021

6:00 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ONLINE FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS AS PERMITTED BY THE SUSPENDED PORTIONS OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT AS APPROVED BY GOVERNOR ABBOTT. THE MEETING WAS LIVESTREAMED AT THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK: <https://youtu.be/r5WH1El4OAI>

THE EXCLUSIVE WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC COMMENT IS TO REGISTER NO LATER THAN 5:45 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 9, 2021, AT THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK: <https://www.wisd.us/superintendentboard/new-page>

## MINUTES

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Armando Cuellar, Board President.

### II. Establishment of a Quorum

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

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

### III. Opening Prayer

Ms. Ruby Garza, Librarian at PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary, delivered the invocation.

#### IV. Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge

The following student from PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary led the pledge of allegiance.

Camila Barbosa is a fourth-grade student at PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary and she is the daughter of Amanda Alanis.

Camila has been a part of the Ybarra Art Club for the past five years and her artwork has been recognized and showcased at various district and out-of-district events. Her art teacher has also recognized her as “Artist of the 1st six weeks and 3rd six weeks” for this school year.

Camila represents Ybarra Elementary at the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee meetings. In the future, Camila plans to attend Texas A&M University and study to become a lawyer.

#### V. Awards and Recognitions

##### ➤ **FFA STAR WINNERS**

Several Future Farmers of America students recently competed in the South Texas Agricultural Roundup. The students placed in the following category:

##### Weslaco East High School:

**Christian Kromer**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class and Breed Champion – Market Lamb

**William Kromer**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class and Reserve Breed Champion – Market Lamb

**Brendan Kromer**, Reserve Breed Champion – Market Lamb

**Parker Galvan**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Breeding Heifer

**Preston Galvan**, Grand Champion Showman – Market Rabbit

##### STAR Scholarship recipients are:

**Ethan Alejandro** - \$750

**Parker Galvan** - \$1,250

##### Weslaco High School:

**Diego Calderon**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Market Lamb

**Justin Calderon**, Grand Champion Sr. Showman – Market Lamb

**Cheyenne Garza**, Grand Champion Jr. Showman – Market Lamb

**Christopher Ramirez**, Grand Champion Intermediate Showman – Market Lamb

**Cora Ford**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class, Champion Intermediate Showman – Market Hog

**Ela Ford**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class – Market Hog, Reserve Breed Champion – Breeding Gilt

**Cooper Ford**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class, Reserve Champion, Reserve Champion Sr. Showman – Steer

**Lily Ford**, Grand Champion, Reserve Champion Sr. Showman – Breeding Gilt, Breed Champion, AOB Heifer

**Nathan Parker**, Grand Champion, Reserve Champion Showman – Market Rabbit

**Casey Parker**, Reserve Champion, Reserve Champion Showman – Market Rabbit

**Micah Parker**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Class, Grand Champion Youth Showman – Market Rabbit

**Kylie Sellman**, Reserve Grand Champion, Grand Champion Sr. Showman – Heifer

##### STAR Scholarship recipients are:

**Kylie Sellman** \$1000, Guerra Memorial \$1000, Shining STAR Duchess \$500

**Cooper Ford** \$1250, Guerra Memorial \$500

**Nathan Parker** \$1250, Guerra Memorial \$500

## FFA STAR (South Texas Agricultural Roundup) Top Winners



Christian Kromer



William Kromer



Brendan Kromer

## FFA STAR Top Winners



Parker Galvan



Preston Galvan



Ethan Alejandro

## FFA STAR Top Winners



Cora Ford, Parker Galvan, Lily Ford, Christopher Garza, Justin Calderon, Ela Ford, Cooper Ford, Noah Gonzalez, Ryan Gonzalez, Diego Calderon, Cheyenne Garza

## FFA STAR Top Winners



Micah Parker, Nathan Parker,  
Casey Parker



Kylie Sellman

### ➤ ALL AREA, ALL STATE BAND

Several high school students recently auditioned for a spot in the Texas Musicians Educators Association All-Area and All-State Bands. All-Area covers the entire South Texas area to San Antonio, which made this competition very intense.

The students received a spot in the following:

Weslaco High School, All-Area:

**Antonio Sanchez**, Clarinet

**Abraham Mireles**, Euphonium

**Fernando Perez**, Percussion

Weslaco East High School, All-Area Band:

**Julia Lopez**, Flute

In State competition:

Alternate to State is WHS, **Joseph Cardona**, Euphonium

## All-Area, All-State Band



Antonio Sanchez



Abraham Mireles



Fernando Perez



Julia Lopez



Joseph Cardona

WEHS student Isabella Sanchez earned a spot to the 5A All-State Band. Isabella submitted a live recording to a panel of judges who then ranked all students. She was selected as first chair in trumpet. This is a tremendous accomplishment. Because of COVID restrictions, Isabella will not be able to travel to San Antonio and perform with the All-State Band. However, because this talented young lady is only a sophomore, she may return next year.



WHS Band Director is Rodrigo Leal.  
WEHS Band Director is Armando Cuellar.

➤ **CTE STUDENT SELECTED TO DECA**

Weslaco High School junior **Sarah** was recently elected as District Officer-Vice President of DECA District 1. She is a three-year DECA member and competitor who represents WHS as the current DECA President.

Sarah is in the top 9% of her class and is active in NHS, BPA, Junior Class, and DECA. She is part of the early college program and plans to graduate with an associate degree when she completes high school.





➤ **GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH GRISELDA FINO WINS 400<sup>th</sup> GAME**

Weslaco High School Head Girls Basketball Coach Griselda Fino recently celebrated her 400<sup>th</sup> win. The Board congratulated Griselda Fino for this special milestone and for her dedication to the sport and to her athletes!

As head coach for the past 15 years, Coach Fino has led the Lady Panthers to 15 consecutive play-off appearances, winning 9 district titles and 11 bi-district championships. The girls have also won six area titles and four regional quarterfinal championships, making four appearances in the Sweet 16 tournament.

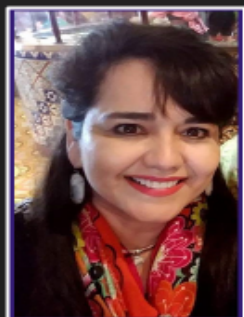
**Coach Fino wins 400th game**



➤ **A+ EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

The recipient of the WISD A+ Award for the month of February is Norma Brewer, Director of Student Support Services. As the pandemic and subsequent shutdown continued, the well-being of our students and staff began to be affected. Mrs. Brewer took proactive measures to provide her counseling staff with the resources to help students and staff deal with social-emotional issues. According to her staff, she clearly demonstrates the characteristics of a great leader. Her sincere empathy and communication skills go a long way in helping our counselors provide the best support.

**January WISD A+ Award**



*Norma Brewer*

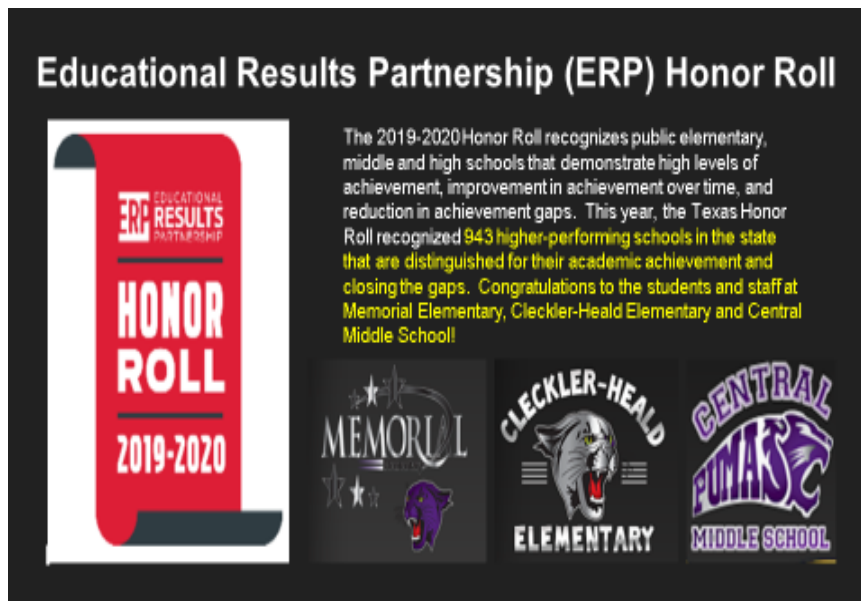
**Student Support Services  
Counseling & Guidance  
Director**

➤ **BUSINESS OFFICE WINS AWARD**

The **Business Office** was awarded the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) certificate “excellence in reporting.”

The Business Office has been the recipient of the Texas Education Agency’s “Superior Rating” and the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas award for 18 consecutive years.

The Board congratulated the entire staff and administration at the Business Office who continue to work to ensure the district’s finances are in order.



VI. Proclamation for Career and Technical Education Month, February 2021

The Board proclaimed the month of February 2021 as “Career and Technical Education Month”. The proclamation reads as follows:

**WHEREAS:** February 1-28, 2021, has been designated Career and Technical Education Month® by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and

**WHEREAS:** career and technical education offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness

**WHEREAS:** students in career and technical education programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase their engagement and achievement; and

**WHEREAS:** career and technical education provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, which enables them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework and pursue established programs of study and career pathways; and

**WHEREAS:** leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to addressing the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including healthcare, energy, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity and information technology; and

**WHEREAS:** career and technical education prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and

**WHEREAS:** career and technical education programs ensure that employers have access to a qualified and thriving workforce, ensuring America is a strong and competitive economy;

**NOW THEREFORE, I,** Weslaco ISD School Board President Armando Cuellar, do hereby proclaim February 1-28, 2021, as **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEK** in Weslaco ISD and urge all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the career and technical education programs in this community and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual skills and productivity.

VII. Proclamation for Family, Career and Community Leadership Week, February 8-12, 2021

The Board proclaimed the week of February 8-12, 2021 as “Family, Career and Community Leadership Week”. The proclamation reads as follows:

**WHEREAS,** Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, the national nonprofit student organization for Family and Consumer Sciences students through grade 12, helps youth assume their roles in society through Family and Consumer Sciences education in areas of personal growth, family life, vocational preparation, and community involvement; and

**WHEREAS,** the organization extends classroom learning through chapter projects that develop leadership and initiative and helps young men and women learn how to plan, make decisions and carry out and evaluate programs of action as they work with other youth and adults in their school and community; and

**WHEREAS,** Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, offers members an opportunity to work together for common purposes for the improvement of themselves, their families and their communities; and



**WHEREAS**, the week of February 8 - 12, 2021 has been designated as **FCCLA LEADERSHIP WEEK**.

**THEREFORE, I**, Armando Cuellar, Jr., President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, hereby proclaim the week February 8 – 12 FCCLA Leadership Week in Weslaco ISD and urge all citizens to acquaint themselves with the activities and values of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, to show interest in it and give help and encouragement to these young men and women who are working to achieve knowledge and experience that will help prepare them for future responsibilities as active and concerned adult members of society.

VIII. Proclamation for Digital Learning Day, February 25, 2021

The Board proclaimed February 25, 2021 as “Digital Learning Day”. The proclamation reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Digital Learning Day is an annual national and international celebration of technological and digital education in K-12 schools where teachers and schools across the country and around the world hold local activities supporting the event, offering new and exciting ways for students to learn daily; and

**WHEREAS**, teachers, students, and schools in Texas and across the nation are using innovation and technology to transform and improve education; and

**WHEREAS**, when used effectively, modern technology can make life more efficient, accessible, richer and faster for all; and

**WHEREAS**, today’s society demands our state and nation have a highly-trained workforce skilled in the use of technology and digital content in order to compete in the global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Digital Learning Day provides an opportunity for the U.S. education system to embrace the effective use of technology in a positive and transformative manner; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that any change in learning methods and infusion of technology in schools can be done in a high-quality manner that best helps every student.

**THEREFORE, I**, Armando Cuellar Jr., President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim February 25, 2021, as “**DIGITAL LEARNING DAY**”.

IX. Proclamation for Social Workers Month, March 2021

The Board proclaimed the month of March as “Social Workers Month”. The proclamation reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, professional social workers work on the front lines of human service delivery to help people solve real problems;

**WHEREAS**, professional social workers see firsthand the insidious effects of hatred and prejudice on individuals, families, and communities, including a rise in hate crimes;

**WHEREAS**, professional social workers understand that crimes against individuals based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political belief, or other characteristics diminish the humanity of victim and perpetrator alike;

**WHEREAS**, the social work profession strives to help the victims of violence, and concurrently to remove the causes of violence through community advocacy, institutional change, and public policy initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, professional social workers help solve problems and settle differences without resorting to violence;

**THEREFORE, I**, Armando Cuellar, Jr., President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim March 2021, as “**NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH**” in Weslaco ISD and call upon members of the community to join with the social work profession in support of appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities designed to achieve its goals.

X. Proclamation for Educational Diagnosticians’ Week, March 1-5, 2021

The Board proclaimed the week of March 1-5, 2021 as “Educational Diagnosticians’ Week”. The proclamation reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, has proclaimed March 1-5, 2021 as “Educational Diagnosticians Week” to raise awareness of the important work these professionals perform every day in the Lone Star State; and

**WHEREAS**, educational diagnosticians provide important services that benefit children, parents, schools, and communities in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, these professionals administer and interpret tests measuring academic achievement, adaptive behavior, intelligence, language skills, and perceptual motor skills, and

**WHEREAS**, they also diagnose learning disabilities and recommend appropriate special education programs for these young people; and

**WHEREAS**, diagnosticians consult with professionals in other fields when children exhibit emotional, medical, physical or speech difficulties; and

**WHEREAS**, their unique combination of training and experience helps parents and school districts motivate exceptional students and detect learning difficulties in others early on so students receive the support they need to learn and grow so that all children have the opportunity to read at grade level, master basics of math, science and social studies, and prepare themselves for productive lives as adults;

**THEREFORE, I**, Armando Cuellar, Jr., President of the Weslaco Independent School District Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim March 1-5, 2021, as “**EDUCATIONAL DIAGNOSTICIANS’ WEEK**” in Weslaco ISD and urge all citizens to recognize with appreciation these diagnosticians’ commitment to education and their dedication to helping our children achieve their highest potential.

XI. Public Comments

The public had the opportunity to participate in public comments by registering no later than 5:45 p.m. at the following web link: <https://www.wisd.us/superintendentboard/new-page>.

➤Raul Rodriguez, 301 Padre, Weslaco, Texas

“I am an employee of this district but tonight I am here in my most important role, that of a father. My brilliant and beautiful daughter is a senior at Weslaco High School. My purpose in calling in is this, it is imperative that we have in-person graduation. The school board and administration must do whatever it takes to ensure a real live in-person graduation takes place this year. Many of the conversations I’ve had with other senior 21 parents have centered on the idea that if the district can host football games with spectators, have other athletic events with fans in the stands and in-person instruction - than we can certainly have graduation. We are 106 days from WHS scheduled graduation. I realize that many things can and will change until then, so is the hope of many more vaccinations for the general public. Let’s be creative, open up both sides of the stadium, and let’s bring in extra bleachers from middle schools to increase social distancing. So many of the traditions and memory creating experiences have been robbed from our senior students. Many of the end of the year senior activities might be virtual or have been possibly cancelled all together. We cannot have two years in row of no graduation ceremony. Let’s work

together; let's plan with courage and end this school year on a positive note. Thank you for your time and attention."

## XII. Superintendent's Report

### >COVID-19 Updates

#### • Presentation by Maria J. Oakes, MD

Dr. Maria J. Oakes, Pediatrician, provided the following information on pediatric COVID. She wanted to reassure the public that COVID is a mild illness in the vast majority of kids who contract this virus.

- > A child who is less than 10 years old who has COVID is less likely to transmit the virus. There is a 10% chance that an adult will contract the virus from a child younger than 10 years old.
- > Influenza is usually spread through children in a school or daycare setting. COVID is not. According to Dr. Oakes, children have a well-functioning immune system so if they catch the virus their immune system effectively kills it and end up with a mild illness.
- > The main problem in adults who contract COVID is inflammation and 20% of the adults who end up in the hospital is because their immune system has gone haywire.
- > Children who get a bad case of COVID will experience symptoms similar to those of an adult. This illness is known as multi-symptom inflammatory syndrome which is a serious case but rare.
- > In her practice, children with COVID is more of a genetic viral illness where the virus last two to three days or maybe three to four days. Children experience a sore throat, cold-like symptoms, stomach pain and diarrhea, and headaches and body aches. The worst case of COVID that she has seen in a child is high fever of 102 accompanied by bronchiolitis. Since these symptoms are responsive with treatment, parents can take care of their children at home.

Dr. Oakes shared that some of her patients who have experienced COVID have recovered very well. She wanted to relay the message that a child or even an adult who is a high risk and contracts the virus does not necessarily mean they are going to have a bad outcome. However, a patient who is a high risk and has a weak cough should remain at home. Dr. Oakes reiterated that children are less likely to get COVID and those younger than 10 years old do not transmit the disease.

Dr. Oakes pointed out that the American Academy of Pediatrics is taking a strong stand in urging parents to physically send their children back to school for academic benefits. Data shows that 30% of students are falling behind and students are forgetting to read and write as well as forgetting the information they have learned in the past years. Many students who have social and emotional problems have shared with her that being with their friends helps them deal with their issues better. Thus, the feelings of isolation are aggravating a mental health issue that could have been manageable had they been in school.

Dr. Oakes concluded by saying that the schools and daycares have done a great job in keeping the schools safe. She urged all parents to do their part by checking their children daily and not sending them to school if they are sick.

›Presentation by Dr. Umesh Pathak, General Pediatrician

Dr. Pathak provided information on Rapid Testing and Vaccinations:

- Children do not get COVID as serious as the adults.

Reason: Children have a receptor that does not develop until they reach the age of 18 or 20 years. The receptor is present in the mucous membranes and the blood vessels inside the nostrils, which are the cause of the majority of the inflammatory process.

- Types of test:

1. Rapid Test: The District is providing this test at the schools. Sensitivity is not very high. A study shows that 45% of the time children who did not have symptoms or even those with symptoms were missed on the test. In addition, 45% of the tests conducted on kids who had symptoms came out negative.
2. PCR Test: This test is very sophisticated and cannot be done in a school setting; it is done in hospitals and labs. This test checks for antigens and the results are available in 15 minutes. The PCR test is 99.9% accurate.
3. Serological Test: This test will determine if the antibodies are positive and if the individual has been exposed to the virus.

Dr. Pathak made the following recommendations for the prevention of COVID in children:

- Continue to screen and monitor for symptoms in students.
- Continue to ensure children wear masks and wash their hands constantly to help prevent the spread of the virus. Children over the age of two need to wear mask.
- Continue social distancing: Open windows and hold classes in outside areas if possible.
- Parents need to report symptoms right away and not send children to school.
- CDC Guidelines continue to change:
  - ›The quarantine period was 14 days; it has now been reduced to 10 days.
  - ›If an individual is exposed to a person who tested positive, that individual must quarantine for 10 days without testing.
  - ›If the individual is tested in 7 days and the results are negative, the quarantine period has been acquired.

Types of Vaccinations:

1. Pfizer Vaccine: Requires temperature maintenance
  - Administered in two doses - three weeks apart
  - Vaccine is 90-95% effective
2. Moderna Vaccine: Refrigeration is required
  - Widely available
  - Administered in two doses - three weeks apart

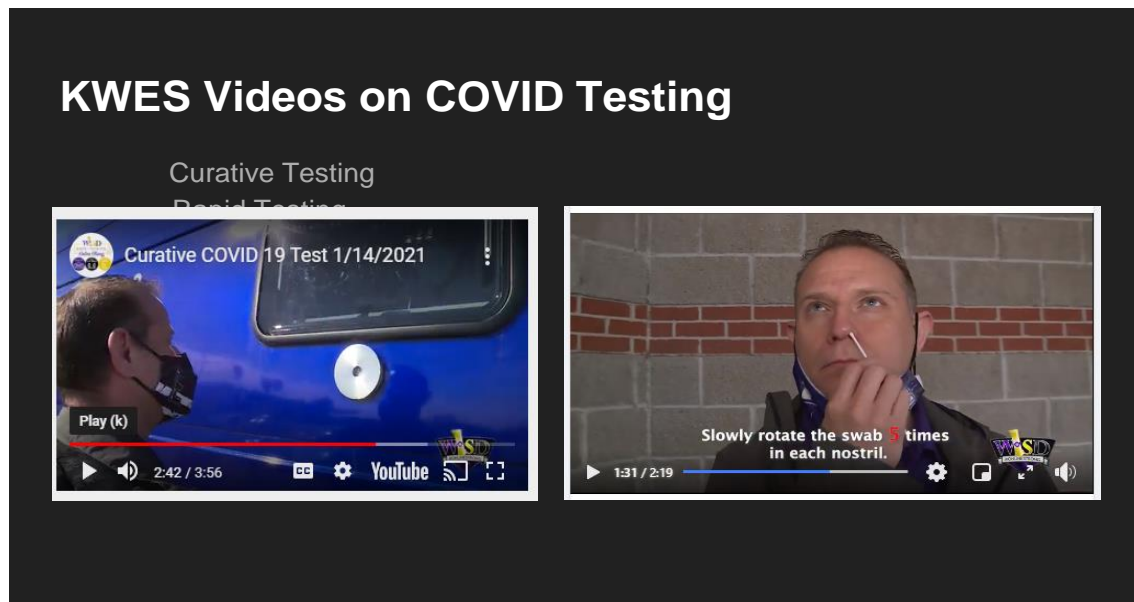
Dr. Pathak mentioned that there was another vaccine that would be administered in one dose and it is supposed to be 65% effective, but it has not been approved. Administering vaccinations requires a lot of organization. More than one million vaccinations have been administered on a daily basis. They are hopeful that with all the vaccinations administered and everyone following CDC guidelines, all students might be able to attend school in-person for the coming school year.

Dr. Canales informed the Board that both doctors have agreed to partner with WISD to provide updates and information relative to COVID.

Dr. Canales thanked the nurses and administrators who received training on how to assist with the rapid testing in case there is a need. She acknowledged Mrs. Susan Coffman along with her nursing staff for a job well done.

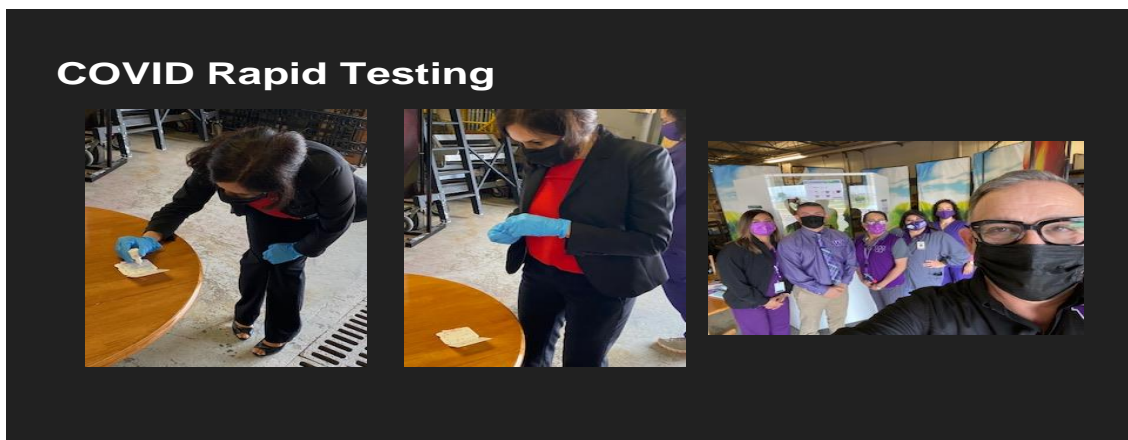
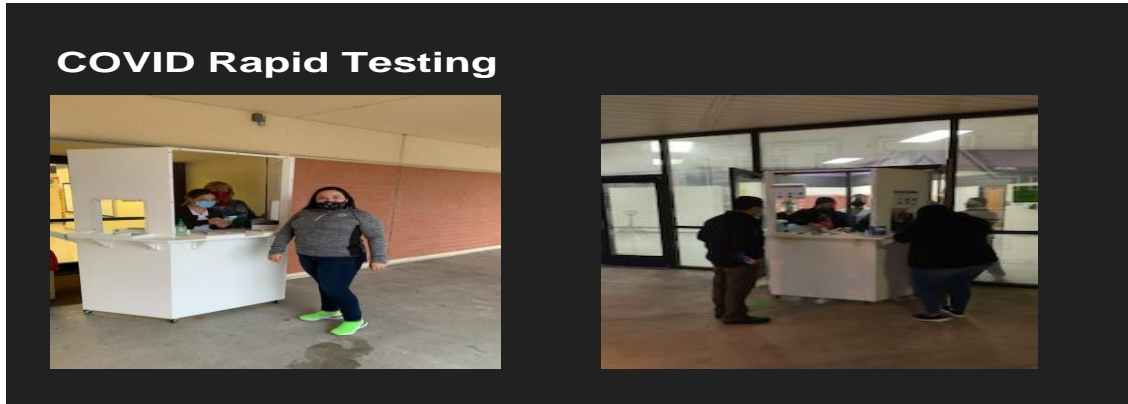


Below are videos showing the process of the rapid testing conducted at the stadium and at the campuses.





Dr. Canales thanked the Maintenance staff for constructing the Kiosks shown in the pictures below. The Kiosks have wheels which make them easier for staff to move outside where testing is being conducted.



Below is a list of testing locations at the campuses:

## Testing Locations - All Campuses

COVID 19 Testing Locations			
Location	Contact Name	Telephone Number / Extension	Campus Administration Trained for COVID Testing
1. Airport Elementary	Sylvia Banuelos	956-969-6770	Amy Gualberto
2. Tony Rios Elementary	Pilar Perez	956-969-6815	J. S. Padilla R. Carrillo M. Vaughn
3. Clicker-Head Elementary	Teresa Rodriguez	956-969-6888	Monica Venterwever Myriam Zamora Mary Lou Reyes
4. Margo Elementary	Manuel Aneliano	956-969-6800	Rubalina Martinez Veronica Flores Dobbia Juarez
5. Gonzalez Elementary	Monica Galvan	956-969-6760	Rosa Garcia Zulema Garza
6. Memorial Elementary	Lori Osuna	956-969-6780	Rhonda Salzman Colinda Gualberto Lilly Perez
7. North Bridge Elementary	Clarissa Salinas	956-969-6810	Daniela Badier & Nelia De Los Santos
8. Ybarra Elementary	Abigail Garza	956-969-6587	Linda Hernandez & Sonia Cisneros
9. Shea Elementary	Angelica Pedraza	956-969-6790	Sonia Gonzalez Carmen Briones
10. Sam Houston Elementary	Maricela Rodriguez	956-969-6740	Salma Gutierrez
11. B. Garza Middle School & LVN	Erin Rodriguez	956-969-6774	Gibert Reboloso
12. Central Middle School	Juana Bazzadua	956-969-6710	Enrique Ornelas & Rommel Rodriguez
13. Cuellar Middle School	Kimberly Lozano	956-969-6720	Dani Rodriguez Gracie Pascoe Pamela - Jessica Angela - Dr. Olga Barrada

14. Mary Hoge Middle School	Nelda Grimaldo	956-969-6730	Pablo Vallejo Pamela - Dora Lisa Zavala, Gerardo Coroniza, Janette Standard
15. Westlake High School	Herica Jimenez	956-969-6883	Andres Garcia
16. WEHS	Brenda Nelson	956-969-6950	
17. CTE ECHS	Sandra Cabrera	956-969-6742	Marco Zamora
18. SPQHS	Stephanie Wurm	956-969-6621	

Below is information on the times for the Rapid Testing.

- Individuals register for testing on Fridays.
- Testing is done on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

## COVID Rapid Testing

- Testing will begin at 7:00 am or as soon as staff arrives on campus; however, testing depends on the needs of each campus, so we will be flexible.
- Staff will be informed about the testing via Google Form to register. Principals were reminded to inform their staff about signing up for testing.
- It is important to remember that exposures usually occur on Friday or Saturday. Knowing that it takes 3 to 5 days after exposure for the person to test positive, Tuesday is the 4th day from Friday and 3rd day from Saturday. By testing on Tuesdays, it gives us a very good possibility of catching asymptomatic positives.
- Testing will be offered on different days of the weeks depending on the campus.
- A staff member may test every 2 weeks or more often if needed.

Below are pictures of the Vaccination Clinic that took place at Lackey Stadium on January 21, 2021. The clinic was sponsored by Hidalgo County, City of Weslaco, and the School District. Dr. Canales thanked the nurses who assisted with the vaccinations. Approximately 1000 vaccinations were administered to the public.

## Vaccinations - January 21, 2021



## •First Semester Student Academic Status

Mr. Abel Aguilar, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Curriculum & Leadership, presented information on students who are failing two or more core classes. The chart below reflects the number of students per grade level who failed two or more core classes in 2020 (Pre-Covid) for the 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks/ Semester 1, and the number of students who failed two or more core classes in 2021 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks/Semester 1 (during the pandemic). The percentage of students failing two or more core classes is 24%, an increase of about 11% from last year.

Mr. Aguilar commended the campus administrators, teachers, and staff for being resilient as they provide the necessary instruction on a daily basis.

Students Failing 2 or more Core Classes (3rd SW & Sem. 1)							
Percent of Students Failing 2 or more Core Classes During 3rd SW / SEM 1 Compared to Last Year							
Grades 1-12 only							
	2020 Enroll	2020 Failed 2+ Core	2020 Percent Failed 2+ Core Pre-COVID 19	2021 Enroll	2021 Failed 2+ Core	2021 Percent Failed 2+ Core COVID 19	Difference %
<b>3rd six weeks</b>							
Gr:1	1186	232	20%	1197	222	19%	-1
Gr:2	1218	137	11%	1125	193	17%	6
Gr:3	1225	143	12%	1148	236	21%	9
Gr:4	1242	140	11%	1204	368	31%	20
Gr:5	1221	183	15%	1199	349	29%	14
Gr:6	1361	143	11%	1216	348	29%	18
Gr:7	1307	120	9%	1301	385	30%	21
Gr:8	1356	265	20%	1258	356	28%	8
Gr:9	1535	286	19%	1463	502	34%	15
Gr:10	1270	231	18%	1321	319	24%	6
Gr:11	1012	99	10%	1095	193	18%	8
Gr:12	1008	38	4%	939	112	12%	8
Total 3rd six weeks	14941	2017	13%	14466	3583	25%	12
<b>Average Percentage 3rd Six Weeks</b>			13%			<b>24%</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>							
Gr:6	1360	143	11%	1216	348	29%	18
Gr:7	1307	120	9%	1299	385	30%	21
Gr:8	1352	265	20%	1257	356	28%	8
Gr:9	1559	286	18%	1473	502	34%	16
Gr:10	1329	231	17%	1327	319	24%	7
Gr:11	1071	99	9%	1114	193	17%	8
Gr:12	1049	38	4%	1014	112	11%	7
Total Semester 1	9027	1182	13%	8700	2215	25%	12
<b>Average Percentage Sem 1</b>			13%			<b>25%</b>	

The board members addressed their concerns on the number of students who were failing and wanted to know what plans were in place to assist these students. As parents with children in school, they have noticed that their children struggle when there is no one-on-one instruction. They wanted to know if the administration had discussed plans for summer school as well.

Mr. Aguilar shared that staff is working on identifying students to try to get them to log on or get them on campus. The biggest concern is engagement. Campus staff continues with home visits to try to get parents engaged and to identify the root causes as to why their children are not logging on. These efforts will help determine the type of services and support that staff needs to provide for the students. The district has a plan in place for the seniors. Staff is tracking these students to ensure they graduate from high school. Additionally, staff is looking at the board policy for retention/promotion and having discussions on what they need to focus on to ensure that summer school is effective in meeting the needs of the students. Administrative staff will continue to meet with campus administrators and key teachers to gather feedback to determine what course of action they need to take moving forward. Their goal is to get the students engaged and learning so they can be successful. He commended the teachers for their efforts in teaching remotely and face-to-face instruction.

The board members wanted to share with the community that schools were safe and urged parents to send their children to school. Mr. De Los Santos suggested that it would be a good idea to do a video while conducting a walk-thru to show parents how the classrooms are set up for social distancing and what other measures are being followed as per CDC guidelines. He pointed out that the schools were safe unlike many places such as barbershops, salons, restaurants, department stores, grocery stores, and social gatherings that are super spreader events. Mrs. Sustaita also agreed that the schools were safe and therefore encouraged parents to send their children to school especially if they were struggling and needed assistance with instruction. She also asked parents to keep their children at home if they were not feeling well.

➤The chart below reflects student on-campus attendance for the week of February 1-5, 2021.  
As of today, the enrollment on campus is over 1,200.

Student On-Campus Attendance - February 1-5, 2021						
	Student Count for 2/1/2021	Student Count for 2/2/2021	Student Count for 2/3/2021	Student Count for 2/4/2021	Student Count for 2/5/2021	
AN Tony Rico Elementary	58	73	18	23	21	
Cleckler-Heald Elementary	109	111	112	105	95	
Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary	92	103	98	107	105	
Justice R. Gonzalez Elementary	90	91	90	96	77	
Memorial Elementary	128	127	123	134	121	
North Bridge Elementary	103	105	106	50	43	
PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary	89	95	102	98	103	
Sam Houston Elementary	60	52	56	58	55	
Rudy Silva Elementary	67	72	65	67	69	
ELF Academy	102	114	120	115	110	
Airport Elementary	63	62	63	68	68	
<b>TOTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>867</b>	
B. Garza Middle School	47	48	46	36	32	
Central Middle School	33	32	35	31	34	
Cuellar Middle School	18	28	36	31	25	
Mary Hoge Middle School	48	46	49	43	40	
<b>TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>131</b>	
CTE Early College	18	11	10	8	6	
Weslaco High School	18	15	12	17	15	
Weslaco East High School	3	1	3	1	1	
South Palms Gardens High School	15	9	15	16	9	
<b>TOTAL HIGH SCHOOLS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1161</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>1159</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>1029</b>	

➤Student Enrollment

- Enrollment for the 19<sup>th</sup> week of school for the 2020-2021 school year is 16,593.

Dr. Canales pointed out that the ADA figure of 18,397 listed in the second column for the 19<sup>th</sup> week of school for the 2020-2021 school year was incorrect. Staff will include a revised chart in the weekly update.

Weslaco Independent School District Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance Comparison								
CAMPUS	19th Week Enrollment			19th Week ADA				
	2019-2020	2020-2021	Difference	2019-2020	2020-2021	ADA Diff	2020 (ADA) %	2021 (ADA) %
<b>Elementary Schools</b>	8047	7529	(518)	7260	8339	1079	96.97%	95.80%
<b>Middle Schools</b>	3842	3764	(78)	3638	4303	665	96.63%	95.37%
<b>High Schools</b>	97	17	(80)	51	19	(33)	91.29%	96.29%
<b>Alternative</b>	4722	4853	131	3990	5487	1497	94.90%	95.45%
<b>ELF - Academy</b>	523	430	(93)	236	249	13	92.07%	97.75%
<b>GRAND Total</b>	<b>17231</b>	<b>16593</b>	<b>(638)</b>	<b>15176</b>	<b>18397</b>	<b>3221</b>	<b>96.47%</b>	<b>94.98%</b>
<small>Enrollment: Student Enrollment - Includes ALL students regardless of eligibility requirements.            ADA %: This is the percent attendance by campus and district.            ADA includes 0 ADA days of Flex Attendance</small>								
February 9, 2021								

District Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance Comparison								
Campus	19th Week Enrollment			19th Week Average Daily Attendance (ADA)				
	2020	2021	Difference	2020	2021	ADA Diff	2020 ADA (%)	2021 ADA (%)*
Sam Houston Elementary	758	720	(38)	690	800	110	97.19%	95.59%
Silva Elementary	631	591	(40)	574	652	78	96.47%	96.59%
Gonzalez Elementary	701	659	(42)	615	701	86	97.29%	92.85%
Margo Elementary	981	906	(75)	891	1023	132	97.02%	95.01%
Airport Elementary	882	758	(124)	790	826	35	96.98%	95.90%
Memorial Elementary	1026	1013	(13)	939	1156	217	97.53%	99.94%
North Bridge Elementary	757	702	(55)	675	768	93	96.49%	92.81%
Rico Elementary	795	740	(55)	723	805	82	97.03%	94.35%
Cleckler-Heald Elementary	899	898	(1)	837	1030	193	98.56%	98.11%
Ybarra Elementary	617	542	(75)	526	581	55	96.11%	93.65%
Mary Hoge Middle School	963	968	5	912	1074	162	96.27%	93.38%
Cuellar Middle School	795	760	(35)	740	886	146	96.34%	96.40%
Central Middle School	932	938	6	895	1086	191	97.04%	96.32%
B. Garza Middle School	1152	1098	(54)	1091	1257	166	96.78%	95.57%
South Palm Gardens	75	84	9	34	60	26	92.63%	96.53%
East High School	1944	1977	33	1587	2162	575	95.63%	89.46%
Weslaco High School	2457	2536	79	2136	2948	812	95.34%	95.82%
Horton	63	0	(63)	21	0	(21)	90.43%	96.67%
JJAEP – Student Alternative	15	4	(11)	10	4	(6)	83.73%	92.20%
Hidalgo County Bootcamp	19	13	(6)	20	14	(6)	99.73%	100.00%
Early College High School	246	256	10	233	317	84	95.99%	100.00%
21 <sup>st</sup> Century ELF Academy	523	430	(93)	236	249	13	92.07%	97.75%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>17231</b>	<b>16593</b>	<b>(638)</b>	<b>15176</b>	<b>18397</b>	<b>3221</b>	<b>96.47%</b>	<b>94.98%</b>

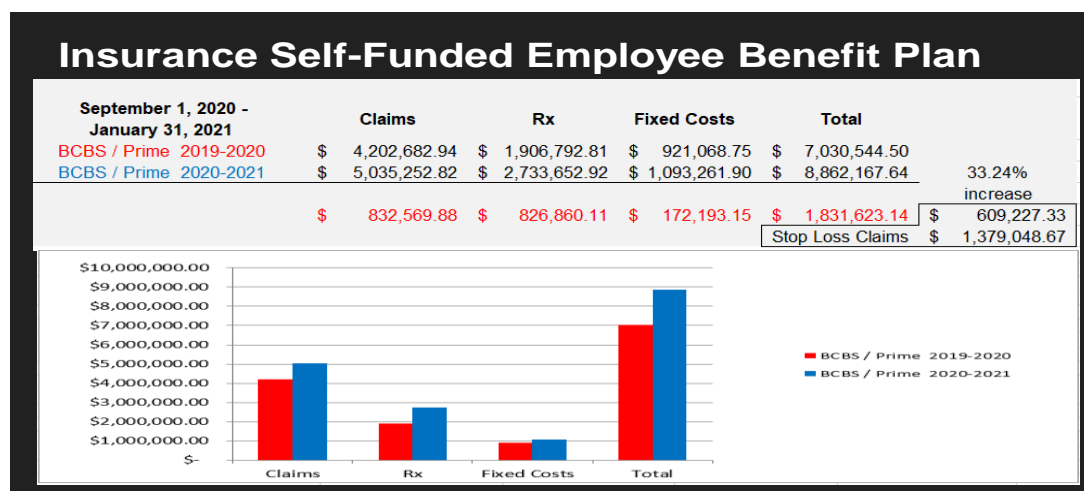
February 9, 2021

>Insurance

Mr. Mike De La Rosa, Risk Management/Employee Benefits Director, presented the report for the period from September 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021.

>The chart below reflects the following increases for year 2020-2021:

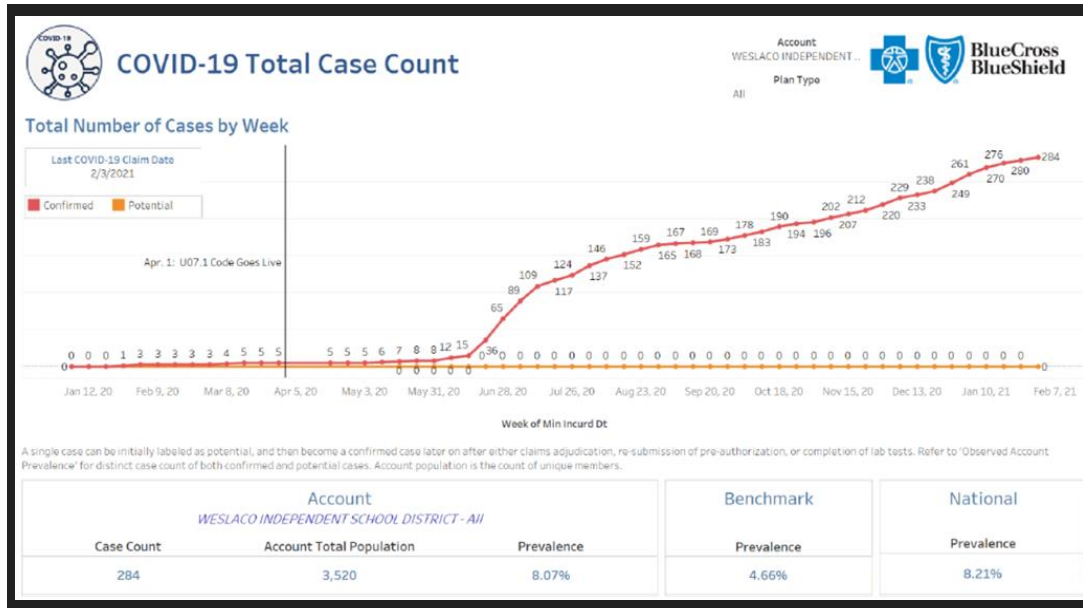
- Medical claims: Increase of \$832,569.88
- Rx: Increase of \$826,860.11
- Fixed Costs: Increase of \$172,193.15
- Total Spent on Plan from September 1, 2020 thru January 31, 2021: \$8,862,167.64
- Stop Loss Claims: \$1,379,048.67
- Fiscal year ends August 31, 2021





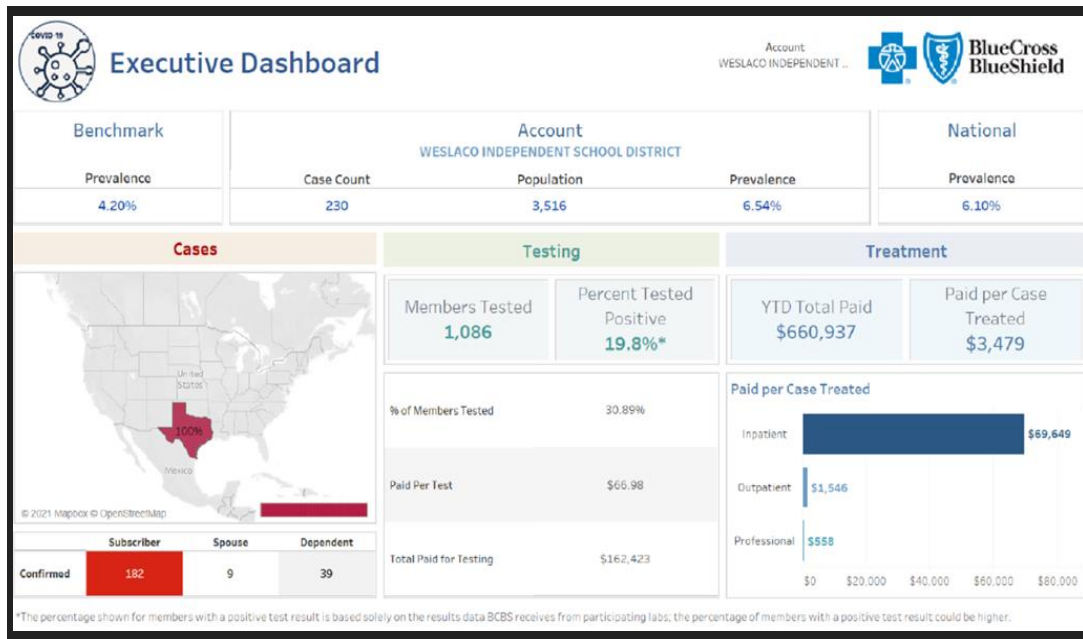
>Below is data on the total number of COVID cases as of yesterday.

- Case count: 284 have been diagnosed (Includes employees/dependents on the plan)



>Below is the Executive Dashboard which reflects data on expenses incurred as of December 30, 2020.

- Case count: 230



Mrs. Sustaita wanted to know who was responsible for paying the bill for testing administered on athletes. Mr. De La Rosa replied that the employee's self-insurance plan is responsible for the cost of these tests. The Insurance Company pays the contract rate of \$66.98 per test. He mentioned that the test done at the campus is just a screening; the test administered to athletes is more detailed and more accurate.

### XIII. Consent Agenda

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Item E, #1 (Bilingual) and #2 (CCMR). Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2021 and the Special Meetings of January 12, January 14, January 19, January 25, and January 28, 2021

- B. Approval of Out-of-Valley Trips

The Board approved the following trips:

#### Weslaco High School

- The Swim Team will participate in the UIL Swimming and Diving Championship to be held in Austin, Texas on February 25-27, 2021.

#### Weslaco East High School

- The Swim Team competed in the Region VIII 5A Swimming and Diving Meet held in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 4-6, 2021.
- The Business Professionals of America (BPA) students will participate in the Business Professionals of America State Leadership Conference held in Dallas, Texas on March 2-6, 2021. The BPA state contests aid in building students' self-esteem and enhancing communication skills, which are a part of the TEKS leadership development.

- C. Approval of Purchase of the Digital Measuring Up Live 2.0 Subscription for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science and Biology for the 2020-2021 School Year

The Board approved the sole source purchase of the Digital Measuring Up Live 2.0 subscription for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Science through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science, and Biology for the 2020-2021 school year. The TEKS-aligned workbooks will allow teachers to differentiate remote instruction and allow students to work on what they need at their pace. The digital workbooks come with a program to help teachers evaluate, monitor, and provide adaptable practice to students. The program meets students where they are and moves up or down based on their needs until they master that TEK. The program allows students to track their progress and receive awards to motivate them to keep going.

This program will service 8,669 students in grade levels 3-8, and Biology across elementary, middle school, and high school campuses at Weslaco ISD including district Disciplinary Education Programs. The license agreement will be from February 2021 to July 2021. The cost of this purchase is \$56,137.00. The monies will be obtained through state compensatory education funds.

- D. Approval of 2021 Membership Renewal Fee for Participation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)

The Board approved the 2021 membership renewal fee for participation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) Association. The cost for the 2021 membership is \$300.00. The District has been an active member with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council for many years. The association provides ongoing assistance to local governments in the areas of management services; human resources development; law enforcement and criminal justice; public

health; economic and industrial development, natural resources management; data research and development; intergovernmental services; community development, transportation planning, and service to the District. Active membership in the LRGVDC's association of local governments supports regional collaborative efforts and qualifies districts for projects, plans and programs for continued development and prosperity across our area.

E. Approval of Budget Amendments

The Board pulled out budget amendments #4 and #5 for discussion. Budget amendments #1-3 were approved as follows:

1. Early College High School – Local Fund to Pay for Mitinet Online License Fees for the Library: \$200.00
2. Central Middle School – Local Fund to Cover Repair Costs of the Security Guard Golf Cart Used to Secure and Monitor Campus Grounds: \$600.00
3. Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Leadership – Local Fund to Cover a Drive-By Lunch for Counselors and Social Workers for National Counseling Week and for National Social Work Month, and to Cover Student Educational Testing Fees: \$4,600.00
4. Bilingual Department – State Bilingual Fund to Record Budget for Roll-Forward **(Pulled Out)**
5. Student Support Services/College Readiness – College, Career, or Military Readiness (CCMR) Fund to Record Budget for Roll-Forward **(Pulled Out)**

F. Approval of Monthly Tax Adjustments for December 2020

The Board approved the monthly tax adjustments for December 2020 as recommended by the Hidalgo County Tax Office.

The total tax adjustments for December 2020 are as follows:

Type of Tax	Current Levy	Prior Year Levies	Roll Back Taxes	Total
M&O Taxes	(\$ 13,867.26)	(\$ 5,818.11)		(\$ 19,685.37)
I&S Taxes	(\$ 277.65)	(\$ 107.28)		(\$ 384.93)
Total Adjustments	(\$ 14,144.91)	(\$ 5,925.39)		(\$ 20,070.30)

These negative tax adjustments represent a decrease in the tax collections for the year.

**ITEMS PULLED OUT FOR DISCUSSION:**

E. Approval of Budget Amendments

Mr. Jesse Trevino pulled out the following budget amendments for discussion.

4. Bilingual Department – State Bilingual Fund to Record Budget for Roll-Forward

Mr. Jesse Trevino inquired on the balance of the current budget and the increase (\$69,920) being requested.

Mr. Andres Sanchez explained that the total budget for bilingual is more than \$55,402.00. This amount is only for the line item of miscellaneous contracted services, which reflects an increase of \$69,920.00. Only the accounts that are affected by the amendment are presented on this report.

5. Student Support Services/College Readiness – College, Career, or Military Readiness (CCMR) Fund to Record Budget for Roll-Forward

Mr. Sanchez explained that the amount of \$203,031 are funds from the 2019-2020 school year that were not spent and will be rolled-forward to the new year to be utilized. He clarified that all the accounts have different account numbers within that specific fund.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIV. Discussion Items:

A. First Reading of Policy Update 116 from the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)

Policy Update 116 was presented for first reading. No action was required.

Update 116 focuses on the following topics which will be addressed through the Local Policies and are in need of adoption:

•**CQB (Technology Resources: Cybersecurity)** – To ease compliance with the state law provisions requiring the board to select a cybersecurity training program and verify and report cybersecurity training by district employees, recommended revisions to this policy provide for the board to delegate responsibilities to the superintendent.

•**DCD (Employment Practices: At-Will Employment)** – Recommended revisions clarify that an at-will employee's appeal of dismissal would follow the district's employee grievance policy and not begin with the board.

•**DCE (Employment Practices: Other Types of Practices)** – Recommended revisions clarify that an appeal by an employee whose non-Chapter 21 contract is not re-issued at the end of the contract period would follow the district's employee grievance policy and not begin with the board.

•**FFAC (Wellness and Health Services: Medical Treatment)** – Policy Service recommends several revisions to this policy on student medical treatment to reflect guidance from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and common district practices.

•**GKA (Community Relations: Conduct on School Premises)** – A recommended revision specifies that a person filing a complaint regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from property based Education Code 37.105 shall be permitted to address the board within 90 "calendar" days. This change aligns with changes made in Update 116 to the grievance policy at FNG and GF.

Mrs. Sustaita inquired on the process for making changes to policies. Mr. Nieto replied that board members should address their proposed changes to Dr. Canales who will then present the policy at a future board meeting.

Dr. Canales explained that any changes to policies are presented to the Board as a first reading and require no action. The district works with TASB on the proposed changes and a second reading is brought back to the Board for approval at a subsequent meeting.

B. Interim Financial Report for the Five Months Ended January 31, 2021

Superintendent Dr. Canales and Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance provided the following information.

>WISD receives money from local, state, and federal sources as follows.

Interim Financial Report: General Fund Revenues	
REVENUE SOURCES	
•	Local - Tax collections, investment interest, athletic events
•	State - Foundation School Program (FSP) [ADA, weights for special programs + state compensatory + tax collection effort], TRS On Behalf
•	Federal - National lunch/breakfast program, federal program indirect costs, SHARS

> WISD budgeted \$175,776,721 based on 15,200 ADA.

Interim Financial Report: General Fund Revenues For the Five Months Ended January 31, 2021				
Source	Budget	Received	Variance	Percentage
Local	\$ 24,908,510	\$ 18,405,861	(\$ 6,502,649)	73.89%
State	\$ 137,408,250	\$ 77,587,422	(\$ 59,820,828)	56.46%
Federal	\$ 13,459,961	\$ 4,486,323	(\$ 8,973,638)	33.33%
Totals	\$ 175,776,721	\$ 100,479,606	(\$ 75,297,115)	57.16%
Budget: 15,200 ADA				

> WISD continues to have one of the lowest tax rate in Hidalgo County and Rio Grande Valley, aside from Port Isabel.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez pointed out that Donna ISD's tax rate was .11 cents higher than Weslaco ISD. He wanted to know how much more revenue would the district generate with an increase of .11 cents.

Staff will include a slide at next month's meeting showing the amount of money that could be generated based on a higher tax rate.

2020 SELECTED RGV SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES		
DISTRICT	Total Tax Rate	COUNTY
PORT ISABEL ISD	\$ 1.00900	CAMERON
WESLACO ISD	\$ 1.01890	HIDALGO
DONNA ISD	\$ 1.13040	HIDALGO
EDINBURG CISD	\$ 1.13820	HIDALGO
MCALLEN ISD	\$ 1.13860	HIDALGO
SAN ISIDRO ISD	\$ 1.16480	STAAR
HARLINGEN CISD	\$ 1.17230	CAMERON
BROWNSVILLE ISD	\$ 1.17587	CAMERON
LOS FRESNOS CISD	\$ 1.18172	CAMERON
MISSION CISD	\$ 1.19930	HIDALGO
LA FERIA ISD	\$ 1.20817	CAMERON
PSJA ISD	\$ 1.26750	HIDALGO
HIDALGO ISD	\$ 1.27650	HIDALGO
SHARYLAND ISD	\$ 1.28080	HIDALGO
RIO GRANDE CISD	\$ 1.30060	STAAR
SAN BENITO ISD	\$ 1.30490	CAMERON
MERCEDES ISD	\$ 1.35190	HIDALGO
ROMA ISD	\$ 1.37720	STAAR

2020 District Tax Rate Comparison



- Enrollment for the 19<sup>th</sup> week in 2019-2020 was 15,176. Dr. Canales reiterated that the count of 18,397 was incorrect. Staff would like to reach an ADA over the 15,200. Of the 16,593 students enrolled, there are some students that generate membership and some that do not. There are also students that generate half-day funds. Thus, the district needs to get the students who generate membership to attend school in order to have an ADA of 15,200 or better.
- Why does the district receive only ½-day ADA funding for pre-k students who attend school a full day?  
Mr. Sanchez replied that this is a mandate from the state. The district receives only half a day for the students that qualify.

District Enrollment/Average Daily Attendance Comparison								
Campus	19th Week Enrollment			19th Week Average Daily Attendance (ADA)				
	2020	2021	Difference	2020	2021	ADA Diff	2020 ADA (%)	2021 ADA (%)*
Sam Houston Elementary	758	720	(38)	690	800	110	97.19%	95.59%
Silva Elementary	631	591	(40)	574	652	78	96.47%	96.59%
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Horton	63	0	(63)	21	0	(21)	90.43%	96.67%
JJAEF – Student Alternative	15	4	(11)	10	4	(6)	83.73%	92.20%
Hidalgo County Bootcamp	19	13	(6)	20	14	(6)	99.73%	100.00%
Early College High School	246	256	10	233	317	84	95.99%	100.00%
21 <sup>st</sup> Century ELF Academy	523	430	(93)	236	249	13	92.07%	97.75%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>17231</b>	<b>16593</b>	<b>(638)</b>	<b>15176</b>	<b>18397</b>	<b>3221</b>	<b>96.47%</b>	<b>94.98%</b>
February 9, 2021								

- The total listed below reflects \$10 million more than what the district is receiving. Funds that are not spent are carried over to the following year.

Interim Financial Report: General Fund Expenditures For the Five Months Ended January 31, 2021				
Function	Adjusted Budget	Expended or Encumbered	Variance	Percentage
Instructional Related (11, 12, 13, 31 & 95)	\$ 116,204,269	\$ 39,658,327	\$ 76,545,942	34.13%
Instructional Support (32, 33, 34, 35 & 36)	\$ 26,406,853	\$ 12,359,541	\$ 14,047,312	46.80%
Administration (C & I, Campuses, District) (21, 23, 41 & 99)	\$ 14,391,131	\$ 6,140,284	\$ 8,250,847	42.67%
District Wide Support (51, 52, 53 & 61)	\$ 25,791,868	\$ 9,836,289	\$ 15,955,579	38.14%
Debt Service (71)	\$ 2,568,239	\$ 85,088	\$ 2,483,151	3.31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$185,362,360</b>	<b>\$ 68,079,529</b>	<b>\$ 17,282,831</b>	<b>36.73%</b>

>Disbursements: The district has more money that is being generated in funds from local, state, and federal revenue resources because state allotment funds were carried over from last year's budget and funds were also taken from the unassigned fund balance to cover the employee incentive pay and two other items. Dr. Canales assured the Board that the funds are available to cover the expenditures.

Mr. Sanchez clarified that the excess was \$9.5 million. Three million dollars came from the fund balance for the incentive pay and PPE supplies/desk shields. The funds for the second and third line items were for items ordered last year that did not arrive until September or October, so the monies went back to the fund balance at year end. Staff had to roll forward the funds to the new fiscal year; otherwise, the current year budget would get depleted with last year's expenditures.

#### Interim Financial Report: General Fund Disbursements

Budgeted Expenditures Include:	Amount
Carryover State Allotment Funds	\$ 5,288,404
Rolled forward Assigned Fund Balance (Unfulfilled POs)	\$ 1,228,530
Rolled forward other minor Assigned Fund Balances	\$ 48,000
Budget Amendments for PPE, Sanitation, & Desk Shields	\$ 620,000
Employee Incentive Pay (December 2020)	\$ 2,323,131
Cardonex Subscription Renewal	\$ 77,574
Total Budget Expenditures Added	\$ 9,585,639

>The chart below reflects the original amount of budgeted expenditures and the amount of additional expenditures.

>Total Amended Budgeted Expenditures: \$185,362,360

Reconciliation of Budgeted Expenditures	Amount
Original Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 175,776,721
Total Budget Expenditures Added	\$ 9,585,639
Total Amended Budgeted Expenditures Through January 31, 2021	\$ 185,362,360

Mr. Nieto wanted to know if the district had received reimbursement for PPE supplies.

•Mr. Sanchez responded that the district is still pending reimbursement from the State. If the State approves the whole amount submitted, the district is looking at a reimbursement of ¾ of a million dollars.

#### C. Acknowledgement of Hidalgo County Tax Office Collection Report for December 2020: Current Taxes and Delinquent Taxes

The Board acknowledged the Collection Report for December 2020 as presented. Section 31.10 Property Tax Code requires the Tax Assessor/Collector to submit to the governing body of the taxing

unit a written report made under oath accounting for all taxes collected for the unit during the preceding month.

Listed below is the December 2020 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office:

	Original Tax Levy	Collected To Date	Tax Modifications (Adjustments) to Date	% Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2020-2021	% Tax Collections 2019-2020	2020-21 Versus 2019/2020
Current Taxes	\$ 25,670,034	\$11,089,896	\$ 476,430	\$ 15,056,569	42.41%	41.41%	<b>1.00% Higher</b>
Delinquent Taxes Prior Years Levy	4,182,999	401,171	( 66,579)	3,715,250	9.75%	7.02%	<b>2.73% Higher</b>
Rollback	44,465	9,796	2,607	37,275	20.81%	23.75%	
Totals	\$ 29,897,498	\$ 11,500,863	\$ 412,459	\$ 18,809,094			

- The collection of current taxes for fiscal year 2020-2021 through December 31 is 1.00% higher than the current taxes for fiscal year 2019-2020. The collection of delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2020-2021 through December 31 is 2.73% higher than the delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2019-2020.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in their December 2020 report.
  - Current taxes: Budget: 91%      Actual collections: 42.41%
  - Delinquent taxes: Budget: 10%      Actual collections: 9.75%

#### XV. Discussion and Possible Action Items:

##### A. Discussion and Possible Action to Submit a Nomination from Within Our Local Board to Fill An Interim Position on the TASB Board of Directors

TASB invited all local boards to submit a nomination from within their local board to fill an interim position on the TASB Board of Directors. TASB Region One has two vacancies (A or B) to fill as interim positions. The TASB Board will conduct interviews in Austin on March 25, 2021. The vacancies will be filled in March and the director selected will serve until the next Delegate Assembly in 2021.

The Board did not take action since there were no nominations.

##### B. Discussion and Possible Action to Submit Application to the Texas Education Agency for the Educator Appraisal Waiver for the 2020-2021 School Year

Due to the disruptions during the 2020-2021 school year resulting from COVID-19, WISD is requesting a waiver for all general teacher appraisal (T-TESS) requirements, including the student growth requirements and the student growth requirement in the Texas Principal Evaluation and Support System (T-PESS), which would apply to TEC, 21.351, 21.352, and the applicable rules in Title 19, TAC, Ch. 150 related to teacher appraisal and student growth in T-PESS.

The board members agreed that teachers had been through a difficult time trying to teach their students remotely and in-person due to the pandemic. In an effort to assist them, they felt it was a good move to waive the appraisals.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the application to the Texas Education Agency for the Educator Appraisal Waiver for the 2020-2021 school year. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2020

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) by law requires that all school districts in the State of Texas hire an independent auditor (Certified Public Accountant) to audit the financial statements and financial records of school districts annually. The audit report must be completed, approved by the Board, and submitted to the Texas Education Agency within one-hundred-fifty (150) days from the end of the fiscal year (August 31), which this year was on Thursday, January 28, 2021, to be in compliance. Due to the Ransomware attack on the district, some financial information could not be provided to the auditors between December 14, 2020 and January 7, 2021 because staff was not able to access some sections of the Alio financial management system. The Texas Education Agency allows school districts to submit the audited financial report (CAFR) and a required data feed file up to 30 days after the 150-day deadline without being affected in the FIRST Indicators Rating for the related fiscal year.

The Annual Financial and Compliance Audit Report is based on GASB 34 (Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34 Basic Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments). The report also reflects the effects of GASB 68 and GASB 65.

Mr. Ricky Longoria from the audit firm of Burton McCumber & Longoria, LLP presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which covers the fiscal year from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. On behalf of the Government Finance Officers Association, WISD received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2019.

Mr. Garza presented the following information to the Board:

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Weslaco ISD, as of August 31, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

The firm rendered an Unmodified opinion which is the highest audit opinion that can be issued.

>The COVID-19 pandemic presented unforeseen challenges in completing the audit; however, the auditors did not encounter any significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing the audit in this unprecedented environment.

>No disagreements with management arose during the course of the audit.

>Financial Highlights:

- District's net position as of August 31, 2020 was (\$1,238,152): (Exhibit A-1, Statement of Net Position)

➤ Balance Sheet for All Governmental Funds

- Unassigned Fund Balance: \$39,032,046
  - › Amount increased by \$1 million from last year
  - › As per TEA, districts should have 75 days in reserves; WISD has over 80 days.

➤ Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds (Income Statement) – General Fund

- Total Revenues received from local, state, and federal sources: \$175,011,507
- Total Expenditures: \$169,638,517
- 1200: Net change in fund balances: (\$406,126)
  - › More funds were transferred from the general fund than what was transferred into the general fund.
  - › WISD spent \$406,126 over

➤ Bonds Payable and Contractual Obligations (Note Gx, page 63)

- Total Debt as of August 31, 2020: \$68,631,801
  - › No new debt for year audited
  - › WISD procured debt in 2018

➤ Detailed Notes on All Funds and Account Groups

- The District continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and is working with local, State and national agencies to address the potential impact of the pandemic upon the District. The full extent of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the District's 2020-21 fiscal year and longer-term operational and financial performance will depend on future developments, many of which are outside of the District's control, including the effectiveness of the mitigation strategies related to COVID-19, the duration and spread of COVID-19, and future governmental actions, all of which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted.
- The District believes that any negative effects of the cyber attack were mitigated and therefore does not believe that this attack will affect future operations.

➤ Internal Service Funds

- Self-Insurance Fund
  - › Total Net Position – September 1, (Beginning): (135,602)
  - › As of August 31, 2020, the amount increased to \$3.2 million
  - › As a result of COVID, more employees have been sick and thus more claims have been submitted.

➤ Schedule of Findings

1. Allotment Spending Requirements

- › As reflected on the Texas Education Agency's Summary of Finances, the District is required to spend 55% of the Compensatory Education Allotment, 100% of the Early Education Allotment, and 55% of the CCMR Outcomes Bonus.
- › Finding: Based on their calculation, the District did not meet the spending requirement for the Compensatory Education Allotment, Early Education Allotment and CCMR Outcomes Bonus for the Year ended August 31, 2020 by \$757,674, \$1,496,417, and \$206,515.



- › Effect: Not meeting the required allotment spending requirements results in non-compliance. TEA has historically enforced corrective action plans for school districts if they fail to meet their spending requirements over a three-year average.
- › Cause: Monitoring of spending requirements was not performed periodically during the year to ensure compliance. The effects of COVID-19 school closures may also have had an effect on spending during the fiscal year.
- › Recommendation: That the District budget and monitor expenditures on all spending requirements on a periodic basis to ensure compliance with state spending requirements.

## 2. Federal Award Findings – Allowable Costs/Cost Principals

- › The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (ACE) program allows for employee payroll costs associated with providing academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session (i.e., before school, after school, or during summer recess) to compliment the students' regular academic program. Employee payroll costs must be based on actual time worked in providing such activities.
- › Finding: Tested a sample of 40 payroll transactions and noted one instance in which an employee was paid for 8 hours more than time actually worked. Total amount paid to this employee in excess of time actually worked was approximately \$186.00. These costs were charged to the federal program.
- › Effect: Payroll costs charged to the federal program for time not actually worked are not allowed.
- › Cause: Management indicated this was an oversight during the time school closures occurred as a result of COVID-19. Management believes this to be an isolated incident.
- › Recommendation: That the District strengthen controls to ensure only costs incurred associated with the program are charged to the program. Controls should be strengthened to ensure employees are paid only for time actually worked.

› A management letter is also included in the report.

Mrs. Sustaita inquired on the samples tested of 40 payroll cash disbursements for testing where they noted the corresponding pay edit list with the documented approval could not be provided for 11 of the transactions tested.

According to the auditor, district staff reviews a list of checks in a report referred to as a “pay edit list” prior to processing and issuing checks. During their sample, they were not able to verify that the final review and approval occurred, because those files were scanned on a computer that was affected by the ransomware attack the District experienced in December 2020. The auditors recommended that the District review its IT systems to prevent future vulnerabilities and back up data regularly to prevent loss of data.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2020 as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Isidoro Nieto commended Mr. Sanchez and his staff for maintaining the district's finances. He pointed out that WISD has received the highest financial accountability rating of “Superior Achievement” on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) for the past eighteen years. WISD received a perfect score in the last four years.

A detailed report of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is on file.

D. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Administration's Ranking Recommendation for the Construction of the Bobby Lackey Stadium Visitor Parking Lot Paving Project (CSP #21-01-19)

On November 11 2019, the Board approved a procurement method of construction for this paving project. As part of this approval, the Board selected the competitive sealed proposal as the procurement method of construction, delegated ranking authority to the Administration, and approved the criteria and points presented. A committee reviewed and ranked the nine (9) vendors who submitted bid packages as follows:

<b>Vendor/Location</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Days to Complete</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Awarded Points</b>
Mid Valley Paving, Inc. Mercedes, Texas	\$ 715,986.25	120	1 <sup>st</sup>	540
D & T Construction Los Fresnos, Texas	\$ 597,891.50	168	2 <sup>nd</sup>	504
Texas Cordia Construction Edinburg, Texas	\$ 916,639.00	120	3 <sup>rd</sup>	426
Gonzalez Enterprise Edinburg, Texas	\$ 820,048.75	90	4 <sup>th</sup>	414
NM Contracting, LLC McAllen, Texas	\$ 885,311.70	120	5 <sup>th</sup>	414
Eberle Materials, Inc. Donna, Texas	\$ 783,793.55	120	6 <sup>th</sup>	408
H&R Lease Service Mission, Texas	\$ 774,095.00	120	7 <sup>th</sup>	330
Rhyner Construction Rio Hondo, Texas	\$1,291,117.50	120	8 <sup>th</sup>	N/A
Clore Equipment Harlingen, Texas	\$1,362,109.11	120	9 <sup>th</sup>	N/A

NA: Two vendors were not awarded points since their project cost was more than twice the low bid cost.

Dr. Canales pointed out that the cost difference between the first and second ranked firm is \$118,000 more.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the Administration's ranking recommendation of the proposals received for the construction of the Bobby Lackey Stadium Visitor Parking Lot Paving Project. This constitutes Board approval for the Administration to negotiate with contractor ranked #1 - Mid Valley Paving. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Questions from the Board:

>Mrs. Sustaita wanted to know if the district was hiring an engineer for this project?

Mr. Sanchez replied that Garcia Engineering had already been approved by the Board to oversee the construction. The fee for the engineer will be a separate cost.

>Board President Armando Cuellar mentioned that he was impressed with the quality of work Mid Valley Paving did at the stadium at Weslaco East High School and track at Lackey Stadium.

Mr. Jesse Trevino expressed his concern over the cost difference between the two highest ranked firms and said he would have to abstain because this item had been pre-approved prior to him coming on the Board and he is not familiar with the condition of the paving. He would prefer to have all the information presented to him prior to making a decision.

Mr. Oscar Riojas informed the Board that the visitor parking lot at Lackey Stadium is in need of additional parking. The parking lot currently has caliche and there are issues with handicap parking and flooding/drainage. During heavy rains, there is a lot of water retainage that ends up on the turf and the parking lot is not accessible for use. According to Mr. Riojas, Mid Valley Paving has the experience with this type of project. The scope of the project includes laser grading, compacting, curbs, entrances, asphalt and concrete work. This company has done good work for the district and are well known for this type of work. In addition, they are very timely on their projects. They also provide all documentation required as part of the criteria. Staff also felt the price range of \$700,000.00 was more in line with competitive bids and that the proposal submitted for \$597,000.00 was low for a project of this magnitude. Thus, the lowest bidder had minimal experience in this type of work.

Board President Cuellar was concerned with the quality of work they would get if they went with the lowest bidder.

>Mrs. Sustaita wanted to know if this project included a light pole for the parking lot, or would they have to hire an engineer and thus incur additional cost.

Mr. Americo Garza replied that this project would require one light pole that would be located on the northeast side next to Pike Blvd. The light pole is included as part of the project. Mr. Riojas shared that the stadium lights provide a lot of light around the area and are usually turned off around midnight once everyone has left the area.

Mr. Jesse Trevino reiterated that he was concerned with the cost of this project and since he just received this information on Friday afternoon, he did not have enough time to study it. Therefore, he could not support the motion.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Andrew Gonzalez and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve the Administration's ranking recommendation of the proposals received for the construction of the Bobby Lackey Stadium Visitor Parking Lot Paving Project. This constitutes Board approval for the Administration to negotiate with contractor ranked #1 – Mid Valley Paving. Voting in favor of the motion were Andrew Gonzalez, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Marcos De Los Santos, and Isidoro Nieto. Mr. Jesse Trevino and Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita abstained. Motion carried.

E. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Final Completion of the HVAC Upgrades Project at Rodolfo “Rudy” Silva Elementary, Justice Raul Gonzalez Elementary and Joe Calvillo CATE Complex (CSP #18-04-26) As Follows:

1. Final Completion of the Project, and
2. Change Order #3 for Weather Days

On February 13, 2017, the Board approved the HVAC system upgrades districtwide as part of the priority facilities projects for the District. The HVAC upgrades project for Silva Elementary School, Gonzalez Elementary School, and the Calvillo CTE Complex is one of the approved priority facilities projects named HVAC system upgrades districtwide.

The contract with Aircool Tech for this project includes the contingency/allowance of \$25,000.00 (at the beginning of the project) that can be used to pay for unforeseen project conditions or additional

scope of work not included in the project specifications. The entire project contingency has been used and therefore there is no deductive change order to recover any unspent allowance.

Change Order #3: There were 8 days due to bad weather for the period June 18-25, 2018. According to Mr. Americo Garza, staff is happy with the outcome of the project.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the final completion of the project and change order #3 for additional contract days due to bad weather. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

F. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve PBK Architects to Develop the Specifications and Construction Documents as Well as Oversee the Construction of the Security Access Controls System Project at All Middle Schools

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve PBK Architects to develop the specifications and construction documents as well as oversee the construction of the security access controls system project at all middle schools.

The scope of work for this project includes the installation of door strikers and card readers on entrance and exit doors at each campus. The software associated with this system would be non-proprietary and would allow control from the campus as well as from a designated central control area. Employees would be issued a card that would allow entry into the building while visitors cannot enter unless authorization is granted. To further secure the campuses, a camera system is being installed at the main entrance of each school. This would allow front office personnel to monitor public access to the campus and either allow or deny access into the building. In addition, a panic button installed at each school will connect directly to the local police department in the event of a potential threat. Door alarms will also be installed on all remaining campus doors to prevent unauthorized exit or entrance.

PBK Architects has done work for the district on past projects: such as the Cuellar Middle School and the Sam Houston Elementary School construction. They are also the architect firm on the Athletics Renovations project at Weslaco High School and Weslaco East High School, and the Pete Abrigo Agricultural Complex Remodeling and Improvements Project.

WISD has a TEA grant in the amount of \$280,000.00. The architect's fee would be 7% of the construction cost of the project. A preliminary cost range estimate for this project is \$400,000 - \$450,000. The estimated architect's fee range is between \$28,000 and \$31,500.

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to hire PBK Architects to develop the specifications and construction documents as well as oversee the construction of the Security Access Controls System Project at all middle schools. Mr. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Mr. Oscar Riojas informed the Board that the decision to go with PBK is because this firm is a one-stop shop. This project is considered a construction project and thus requires the district to have plans and specifications. Additionally, the District will not have to go out and hire an engineer since PBK has their own in-house engineering firm who works directly with PBK. The district does require an engineer seal of approval to proceed with this project.

Mrs. Sustaita wanted to know if the district requested RFQ's (Request for Qualification Statements) from architect firms or did staff just select PBK to do the work.

Mr. Sanchez explained that PBK and Leaf Engineering had done HVAC and roofing work at the Weslaco East High School. Because of their work experience and working relations on past projects, staff decided to go with PBK Architects. Staff did not get RFQ's from other firms for this project.

Mrs. Sustaita did not agree with this process because they are not giving other firms a chance to do the work.

Mr. Sanchez informed the Board that district staff selected PBK because the previous deadline to complete the project through a grant provided by TEA was May of 2021 and they did not want to delay the project. TEA has now extended the deadline to May 2022, so the Board can ask for RFQ's if they so desire.

Mr. Nieto questioned the architect's fee. According to Mr. Sanchez, the architect fee is 6% and sometimes the engineering firms can charge from 6% to 8%. The fee provided is for both services.

Mr. Marcos De Los Santos wanted to know how many doors were getting a magnet lock system and how many card readers were going to be installed at each of the four middle schools. He wanted to know the unit cost per door.

Mr. Mike De La Rosa mentioned that a walk-thru of the middle schools was held prior to the pandemic, and at that time, they were looking at installing card readers on 10-12 doors per middle school, inclusive of the actual mechanism on the main door at the front entrance. At the elementary campuses, card readers were installed on about 5-7 doors per campus. The cost for the elementary project was about \$580,000 for all 10 elementary schools and the cost did not include engineering fees. Since there are only four (4) middle schools, the total cost should be about half the cost. The door sensors connect to the fire alarm system so when the fire alarm goes off, it will automatically open all the doors to ensure they do not lock.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez wanted to know the timeline to complete this project once the Board has approved.

Mr. Mike De La Rosa replied that once the architect designs the system they could put it out to bid in April/May and then bring it back to the Board to approve the ranking and negotiate with the top ranked firm in order to have the project completed by the start of the next school year. Any delays would delay the project further.

Mr. Jesse Trevino made the motion to table this item pending further review. He stated, "We're presented with something and it almost seems like we're picking and choosing what you guys bring to us".

Mr. Andrew Gonzalez shared that he did not have a problem in rescinding his motion if the Board wanted to go out for RFQ's. Mr. Gonzalez rescinded his motion and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded. All board members voted in favor to rescind the motion.

Mr. Jesse Trevino made the motion to table this item. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

G. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Procurement Method of Construction for the Design and Installation of a Security Access Controls System at All Middle Schools

1. Board Determination of a Procurement Method of Construction that Would Provide the Best Value to the District for the Project:
2. Board Determination to Retain the Authority to Rank the Proposals to Be Received for This Project, or Board Delegation of Their Authority to the Administration to Rank the Proposals to be Received; and
3. Approval of Criteria and Points to be Used for Ranking the Proposals

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to table this item. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XVI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 9:54 p.m. to discuss the following items:

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

1. Employment of 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)

B. Deliberation Regarding Acquisition of Real Property (Tx. Gov't Code 551.072)

C. 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)

D. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Legal Merits with the Engagement Letter/Contract for the Forensic Audit of District's Finances and Operations

XVII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

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

The Board returned to open meeting at 10:30 p.m. to take action on the following items:

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

1. Employment of Personnel

Non-action item.

2. Resignations

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as presented.

Name	Position/Location	Reason/Effective Date
1. Contreras, David	Science Teacher Weslaco East High School	David Contreras is retiring after thirty-seven (37) years in education, with (18) years of service at Weslaco ISD. His retirement is effective May 28, 2021.

2. Smith, Randy	JROTC Senior Army Instructor Weslaco East High School	Randy Smith is resigning to accept the position of Director of Football Operations & Kicking/Special Teams Coach at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. His resignation is effective February 9, 2021.
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Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the resignations/retirements of certified professional personnel as recommended by the Superintendent. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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)

Non-action item.

- B. Deliberation Regarding Acquisition of Real Property (Tx. Gov't Code 551.072)

Non-action item.

- C. 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)

Non-action item.

- D. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Legal Merits with the Engagement Letter/Contract for the Forensic Audit of District's Finances and Operations

Non-action item.

## XVI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:32 p.m.