

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Isidoro Nieto, President
Dr. Richard Rivera, Vice President
Andrew Gonzalez, Secretary
Erasmo Lopez
Patrick Kennedy
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez

Armando Cuellar



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Board Meeting
Board Room
Location:
319 W. Fourth Street
October 22, 2020
Time:
6:04 P.M

Notice of 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/HCa7WZHi3fY

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by Isidoro Nieto, Board President.
- II. A quorum was established. The following board members participated in the meeting in-person and via video conference.

Isidoro Nieto, President Armando Cuellar, Trustee Patrick Kennedy, Trustee Erasmo Lopez, Trustee Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Trustee

Dr. Richard Rivera and Andrew Gonzalez were absent.

III. Public Comments

The public had the opportunity to participate in public comments by registering no later than 5:30 p.m. at the following web link: https://www.wisd.us/superintendentboard/new-page.

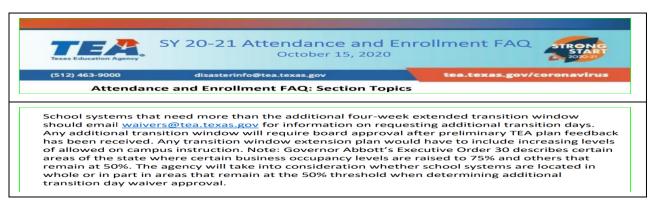
No one signed up to address the Board.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Additional Four Week Waiver and Transition Plan to Submit to the Texas Education Agency

Dr. Canales informed the Board that on Wednesday afternoon, October 21, 2020, Weslaco ISD received the following response from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) relative to the request for a third four-week transition period. "In Response to the LEA's request, a 3-week transition period is granted with the understanding that the LEA will begin phasing in additional students who choose in-class, on-campus instruction, per the discussed transition plan, beginning on week 9 and ending on November 13, 2020. The

agency will further review the information previously provided by the LEA, while continuing to monitor the data available, and follow up with determinations regarding the remainder of the additional transitional weeks requested. Beginning now and over the course of the next week, the LEA should monitor the local health conditions with the intent to implement a robust phase-in plan should the agency extend this transitional time by additional weeks."

TEA allowed school districts to request an additional transition period. Dr. Canales read the following excerpt from TEA regarding the third transition window.



This requirement limits the School Board to approving only what TEA has granted. At this time, TEA has granted only the first three of the four weeks in the plan. As per Dr. Canales, some school districts were recently granted three weeks, others were granted two weeks.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the three-week transition period granted by TEA to Weslaco ISD. Dr. Canales reviewed the TEA approved plan (only Weeks 9 through 11).

| Week 9 (October 26-30) | Monday - Friday | Parent Choice for 1. Limited/no connectivity 2. Add 5th, 6th, and 12th At-Risk (2+ failures in core courses) Teachers return in two groups (no face-to-face instruction) Group 1: M & T Group 2: W & Th All: Friday choice Proctors continue (volunteers, paras, subs) Other: Conduct parent survey for 3rd 6-Weeks preference (November 9 - December 17, 2020) *Campus staff children (TEA, 10/22/2020) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Week 10 (November 2 - 6) | Monday - Friday | Parent Choice for 1. Limited/no connectivity 2. 5th, 6th, and 12th At-Risk (2+ failures in core courses) 3. Add 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th, & 9th At-Risk (2+ failures in core courses) 4. Add WISD staff's children All teachers report for • Face-to-face instruction with students in attendance • No proctors Other: High School Hybrid schedule begins |
| Week 11 (November 9 - 13) | Monday - Friday | Parent Choice for 1. Limited/no connectivity 2. 5 th , 6 th , 12 th plus 1 st , 2 ^{cd} , 3 rd , 4 th , 7 th , 8 th , & 9 th At-Risk (2+ failures in core courses) 3. Add 10 th & 11 th At-Risk (2+ failures in core courses) 4. WISD staff's children 5. Add all 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th plus siblings, 6 th , & 9 th All teachers report for • Face-to-face instruction with students in attendance • No proctors |
| Week 12 (November 16 - 20) | Monday - Friday | Parent Choice for 1. Limited/no connectivity 2. 5 th , 6 th , 12 th plus 1 ^{tt} , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 7 th , 8 th , & 9 th plus 10 th & 11 th At-Risk (2+ failures in eere courses) 3. WISD staff's ehildren 4. Add all PK, K, 1 st , 2 nd plus siblings, 7 th , 8 th , 10 th , 11 th & 12 th All teachers report for 5. Face-to-face instruction with students in attendance 6. No proctors |

Dr. Canales acknowledged the para-professionals, teacher volunteers, substitutes, and the teachers who are working remotely from home for their hard work during this pandemic.

Mr. Kennedy wanted to know why TEA did not grant the fourth week. According to Dr. Canales, TEA is looking at data based on the number of Covid cases in Hidalgo County and the rate of patients admitted in the hospitals, which is below 15% for Hidalgo County. Dr. Canales added that TEA's message is that even though students are receiving an education online, parents have the choice to send their children to school for in-person instruction.

- •Parents who completed a survey on September 11, 2020 and selected on-campus instruction for their children will be allowed to send their children to school according to the transition plan.
- •Staff will conduct another parent survey for the 3^{rd} 6-Weeks preference (November 9 December 17, 2020).

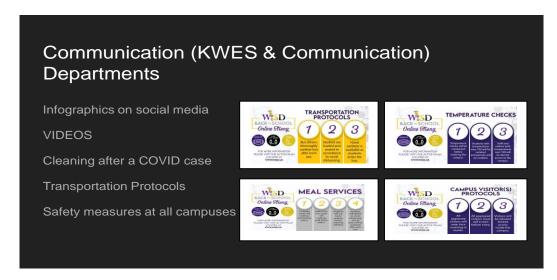
Board President Isidoro Nieto clarified that teachers would return to campus October 26, 2020 on a staggered schedule to prevent having a large number of employees on campus at the same time. All teachers would return on November 2, 2020. He stressed the need for all teachers/staff to follow CDC guidelines for the safety of everyone's well-being and asked the principals to monitor the staff to make sure they are following the guidelines.

Dr. Canales also shared information on COVID-19 related items.

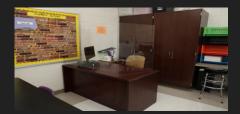


https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1600724344 /wisdus/ymqvhoodbsvkxjsae7os/backtoschoolActio nPlanr.pdf





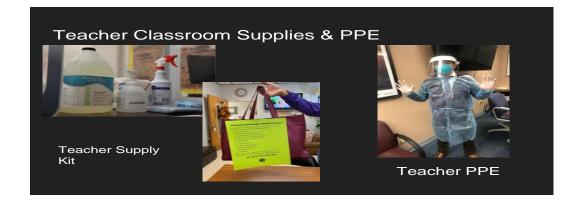
Teacher & Student Desk Shields



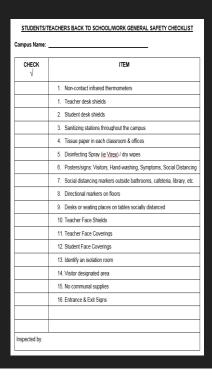
Teacher Desk Shield



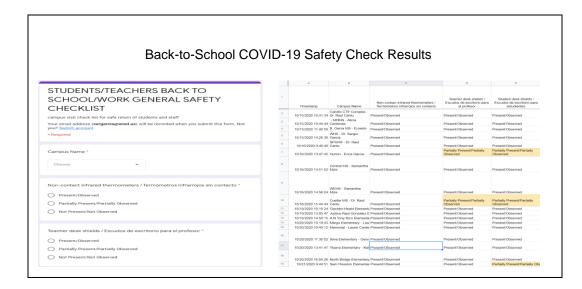
Student Desk Shields

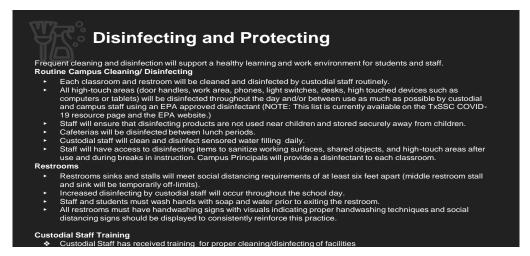


Back-to-School COVID-19 Safety Checklist



| STUDENT/TEACHER RETURN TO SCHOOL/WORK SAFETY CHECK | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| DATE | TIME | CAMPUS | ASSESSOR | | | |
| Thursday, October 15 | 9:00 - 9:30 | Calvillo CTE Complex | Dr. Raul Cantu | | | |
| | 10:00 - 10:30 | MHMS | Alicia Cardenas | | | |
| | 11:00 - 11:30 | B. Garza | Ernesto Alcazar | | | |
| | 1:00 - 1:30 | CTE ECHS | Susan Coffman | | | |
| | 2:00 - 2:30 | WHS | Sergio Garcia | | | |
| | 3:00 - 3:30 | Memorial | Janie Pena | | | |
| Friday, October 16 | 9:00 - 9:30 | Central | Samantha Mize | | | |
| | 10:00 - 10:30 | WEHS | Samantha Mize | | | |
| | 11:00 - 11:30 | SPGHS | Raul Cantu | | | |
| | 2:00 - 2:30 | Horton AEP | Erica Garcia | | | |
| | 3:00 - 3:30 | Cleckler-Heald Elementary | Erenesto Alcazar | | | |
| Monday, October 19 | 1:00 - 1:30 | Justice Gonzalez Elementary | George Lopez | | | |
| | 2:00 - 2:30 | A.N. Tony Rico | Alicia Cardenas | | | |
| | 3:00 - 3:30 | Cuellar MS | Dr. Raul Cantu | | | |
| Tuesday, October 20 | 9:00 - 9:30 | Sam Houston Elementary | Erica Garcia | | | |
| | 10:00 - 10:30 | Margo Elementary | Janie Pena | | | |
| | 11:00 - 11:30 | Silva Elementary | George Lopez | | | |
| | 1:00 - 1:30 | Ybarra Elem. | Katie Reyes | | | |
| | 2:00 - 2:30 | Airport Elementary | Susan Coffman | | | |
| | 3:00 - 3:30 | North Bridge Elementary | Katie Reyes | | | |
| | | | | | | |





Questions/Concerns addressed by the Board:

➤ Mr. Erasmo Lopez wanted to know if the schools had supplies and safety equipment on hand, and if the warehouse had plenty of supplies in stock because once the teachers and students return to on campus instruction, the supplies will not last long. He stressed the need to have plenty of supplies in stock to avoid ordering items at the last minute and having to wait a long time for them to arrive. He also asked if TEA required that school districts have a certain number of supplies on hand.

Dr. Canales informed the Board that staff has been working as a team to monitor the supplies and equipment and to ensure that the warehouse is well stocked. Dr. Sergio Garcia, Mr. Abel Aguilar, Mrs. Sue Peterson, and Oscar Riojas worked on a checklist to verify that masks, desk shields, face shields, and other safety equipment had been delivered to the campuses so that teachers have the necessary supplies and equipment readily available upon their return. According to Dr. Canales, TEA did not require that school districts have a certain quantity of supplies on hand.

Mr. Aguilar shared that the district has ordered plenty of desk shields, and staff is monitoring the inventory of supplies very closely. They have been working with Mr. Orlando Pena, Warehouse Director, continually monitoring what items are in stock and which items need to be re-ordered. Staff is also working closely with Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, and his staff is prepared to move quickly if they need to order additional supplies.

- Dr. Canales thanked the Board for their support in approving all the supplies/safety equipment necessary for keeping the students and employees safe during this crisis.
- ➤ Board President Isidoro Nieto wanted to know if teachers would have face shields, masks, etc. available when they return to campus and if the campuses would have additional masks available in case students forget to bring their own.

As per Mr. Aguilar, the teachers should have all the supplies available in their classrooms; however, if they are in need of additional supplies, items will be provided to them. The warehouse has a surplus of face masks that are available upon request.

> Dr. Jaime Rodriguez wanted to know the limit of students per classroom.

According to Coach Riojas, the number of students per classroom would range from 11-15, based on the sq. ft. of the room.

| Campus Square Footage-Oscar | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------|-----|--|--|
| | | | Max. group size | Dr. R.E. Margo Elementary | | | | |
| | | Min. 45 sq. ft. | not to exceed 22 individuals depending | Avg. classroom | 672 | 14 | | |
| | | | on the layout's sq. ft. | P.E. Room | 672 | 14 | | |
| | | | 12 ft. distance between | Cafeteria | 7128 | 158 | | |
| Campus | Sq. Ft | seats, and tables | each group. | Library | 5880 | 130 | | |
| Airport Elementary | Ī | | | | | | | |
| Avg. classroom | 700 | 15 | | Justice R. Gonzalez Elementary | | | | |
| P.E. Room | 700 | 15 | | Avg. classroom | 760 | 11 | | |
| Cafeteria | 3750 | 83 | | P.E. Room | | | | |
| Library | 7240 | 160 | | Cafeteria | 4698 | 100 | | |
| | | | | Library | 6120 | 120 | | |
| AN Tony Rico Elementary | | | | | | | | |
| Avg. classroom | 600 | 13 | | Memorial Elementary | | | | |
| P.E. Room | 600 | 13 | | Avg. classroom | 700 | 15 | | |
| Cafeteria | 3780 | 84 | | P.E. Room | 700 | 15 | | |
| Library | 4958 | 110 | | Cafeteria | 4300 | 95 | | |
| Library | 4930 | 110 | | Library | 5183 | 115 | | |
| Cleckler-Heald Elementary | | | | North Bridge Elementary | | | | |
| Avg. classroom | 600 | 13 | | Ava. classroom | 700 | 15 | | |
| P.E. Room | 1450 | 32 | | P.E. Room | 675 | 14 | | |
| Cafeteria | 3896 | 86 | | Cafeteria | 5.600 | 124 | | |
| Library | 6256 | 139 | | Library | 5.200 | 115 | | |

- ➤ Mr. Armando Cuellar wanted to know if TEA mandated teachers to return to work as per the plan or if it was an option. He shared that some school districts are still playing it safe and teachers are teaching remotely from home. He expressed his concern about teachers who have underlying conditions.
 - Dr. Canales mentioned that TEA's expectation is that all children have to be educated and offered oncampus instruction by appropriate staff. TEA approved the plan as submitted, but they did not mandate that all teachers return at the same time by a certain date. During the transition, TEA staff confirmed that teachers could bring their children to school and work remotely from their device. Dr. Canales also shared that the district has a process for teachers who are not able to work on campus due to underlying conditions.
 - Mr. Aguilar reminded the Board that as per TEA, any transition window extension plan would have to include increasing levels of allowed on campus instruction. Thus, as the district increases the levels within the plan approved, staff will determine the number of teachers who need to come in to meet the needs of the students.
- ➤ Mr. Patrick Kennedy pointed out that he was also concerned about teachers who have underlying conditions such as diabetes, obesity, heart problems, etc., because these factors could increase susceptibility to the virus. He referenced the process for teachers who are requesting accommodations to continue to teach remotely from home due to their health conditions, and asked the Administration to develop a form that they could easily access and submit directly to their supervisor rather than to their principal.

Mrs. Melva Segura, Human Resources Director, mentioned that staff had discussed the process for employees requesting an alternate work schedule as oppose to working on campus. The flowcharts provided by TASB show the step-by-step process for requesting a leave and the request form is posted on the HR website. The administration shared the information with the principals who then shared the information with their staff. As a result, the Human Resources Department has already received several requests. Mrs. Segura will follow up to see how they can arrange and post the form to make it easier for the employees to access.

Dr. Canales informed the Board that she had spoken to two colleagues in Hidalgo County who had requested a fully transition plan for teachers to continue with virtual learning. TEA granted them two weeks to transition back. Dr. Canales mentioned that she spoke to Dr. Rivera earlier and he told her that he supported the plan. Dr. Rivera was not able to attend this meeting.

Mr. Kennedy commented that in the event that the numbers spike and TEA offers a fourth transition plan, he would like the Administration to let the Board know as soon as possible so they can schedule a meeting and take board action.

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve only the first three of the four weeks in the plan as granted by TEA. Erasmo Lopez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Administration's Ranking Recommendation for the HVAC Units Replacement and Related Roofing Project at the Weslaco East High School Gymnasiums (CSP #21-10-05)

This project is part of the District-Wide HVAC Systems Upgrade Project approved back on February 13, 2017. The scope of this project is to remove and replace the existing HVAC chilled water units located on the roof of the Weslaco East High School gymnasiums and the lobby between them, along with the related roofing to complete the installation. Due to the age of the existing HVAC equipment (19-21 years) and water leaks stemming from around the equipment, it has become necessary to replace the systems and provide the necessary roofing repairs. Currently, the gas heating for the HVAC unit is not working.

During a board workshop held prior to this meeting Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, reviewed the ranking of the proposals with the Board. Below is the administration's ranking:

| Vendor/Location | Cost of Project | Days to Complete | Awarded Points | Rank |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------|
| Central Air & Heating Services, Inc. – Harlingen, Tx. | \$870,000.00 | 180 | 540 | 1 |
| SLR Building Contractors, LLC – Edinburg, Tx. | \$856,907.00 | 90 | 534 | 2 |
| Gerlach Builders, DBA WIL- CON | \$775,000.00 | 120 | 510 | 3 |
| Aircool Tech-ACT, Corp Alamo, Texas | \$897,715.00 | 120 | 480 | 4 |
| D&F Industries Pharr, Texas | \$909,000.00 | 150 | 432 | 5 |

The Superintendent recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Administration's ranking of the proposals received for the Weslaco East High School Gymnasiums HVAC Units replacement and related roofing.

Questions/Concerns addressed by the Board:

- Mr. Lopez wanted to know if the system recommended would help fight the coronavirus in any way and if the current system had failed completely.
 - Mr. Americo Garza, Energy Systems Director, replied that staff tried to get UV lighting but they were told that adjustments had to be made to the system. In addition, it has been difficult to obtain UV lighting because of its unavailability at this time.
 - Mr. Garza explained that the current system has not failed completely but there are issues that relate to maintaining the heating in the gymnasium and intermittent roof leaks. Maintenance staff has applied coats of sealant to the roof that last about six to eight months before the leaks return.
- If Mr. Lopez wanted to know how long it would take to get a system that would assist with the prevention of the virus to ensure the safety of all the employees and students. He pointed out that he had addressed this concern a while back and it was taking a long time for the district to get something done. He wanted to know why the Board was taking action on a system that was not going to do anything to aid or reduce the risk of contracting the virus. He supported the project 100% but did not want to purchase a system that was not going to serve the purpose of providing good air quality to students and staff.
 - Mr. Garza informed the Board that staff began looking into this project several years ago due to issues with the practice gym, way before the pandemic started. The campus was hosting assemblies with a large number of students and staff and it was getting difficult to meet the demand of the heat load. Mr. Garza mentioned that staff had been looking at two different options of retrofitting the air conditioning system: 1) Bi-polar Needlepoint and 2) UV lighting. The Ionization option is not readily available and UV lighting would take weeks to obtain. According to Mr. Garza, the district can work on retrofitting the system with disinfecting devices once they have the system in place.
- Dr. Jaime Rodriguez made the motion to approve the Administration's ranking of the proposals as presented. Armando Cuellar seconded the motion.
- Mr. Kennedy commented that the \$100,000.00 difference between the first ranked firm and the lowest proposal was a lot of money to pay for this project; therefore, he would probably vote against it.
- Mr. Erasmo Lopez commented that he would prefer to wait and have the administration continue to look into a system that would assist with reducing the spread of the virus because the system recommended was not going to be effective for this purpose. Therefore, he felt it was a mistake to approve a system without upgrading it with the necessary preventive measures available to help combat the virus.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Armando Cuellar to approve the Administration's ranking as presented. Voting in favor of the motion were Dr. Jaime Rodriguez and Mr. Armando Cuellar. Voting against the motion were Mr. Erasmo Lopez and Mr. Patrick Kennedy. Board President Isidoro Nieto voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried with a 3 to 2 vote.

VI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 6:45 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- A. Personnel Matters (Tex. Govt' 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)

VII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board convened in open meeting at 7:42 p.m. to take action on items discussed in closed meeting.

- A. Personnel Matters (Tex. Govt' 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)

Non-action items.

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

Non-action item.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.