

**Board of Trustees**

Armando Cuellar, Jr., President  
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Vice President  
Jesse Treviño, Secretary



Marcos De Los Santos, Trustee  
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee  
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee  
Jaclyn Sustaita, Trustee

**WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, DR. DINO CORONADO**

Meeting:  
Place:  
Location:  
Date:  
Time:

Special Meeting  
WISD Board Room/Virtual  
319 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
November 18, 2022  
11:35 a.m.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTED ONLINE FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS. THE MEETING WAS LIVESTREAMED AT THE FOLLOWING WEB LINK: <https://youtu.be/dTU90ZJncko>

## **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. Public Comments**

No comments from the public were addressed.

Superintendent Dr. Dino Coronado presented a plaque to Trustee Andrew Gonzalez for his years of service as a Board Member from November 2014 to November 2022, a total of eight (8) years.

#### Comments from Andrew Gonzalez

Mr. Gonzalez thanked his wife Maria and his three boys, Ryan, Noah, and Jason, and his family. He stated, "To my community - for the eight years that you have shown me the support and the confidence in me to make the best decisions for the students and employees of WISD. My mother taught me that in order to serve my community, I had to put politics aside or my own interest aside and always do the right thing. This is the same advice that I want to pass on to Mr. Castillo - always remember that this isn't about power, a title, or a certain faction; this is about the children who are the future of our community. Thank you."

IV. Canvass Election Returns of the School Board Trustee Election of November 8, 2022, Approve Order Declaring Candidates Elected to Trustee Positions, and Issue Certificates of Election

Listed below are the number of votes cast for each individual candidate.

Place 4	
Candidates	Votes
<b>Jaime Rodriguez</b>	<b>7,657</b>
Edith 'ET' Treviño	4,256

Place 5	
Candidates	Votes
<b>Benjamin 'Ben' Castillo</b>	<b>4,717</b>
Diana Quintanilla	2,122
Homer Saenz	2,292
Paula Mata Sanchez	2,575

Place 6	
Candidates	Votes
Victor De La Cruz	4,058
<b>Armando 'Coach' Cuellar</b>	<b>7,881</b>

Place 7	
Candidates	Votes
Pedro 'Pedee' Abrigo	2,767
<b>Isidoro Nieto</b>	<b>6,562</b>
Alfredo 'Duff' Castaneda	2,436

Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita made the motion to approve the election returns as presented and the Order declaring the candidates elected to trustee positions. Mr. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Mr. Marcos De Los Santos, and Mr. Andrew Gonzalez. Motion carried. Certificates of Election were issued to the elected board members.

V. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Trustees

**Place 4: Dr. Jaime Rodriguez**

Alfredo Rodriguez Jr. administered the oath of office to Dr. Jaime Rodriguez.

Dr. Rodriguez thanked everyone who was present at the ceremony. He thanked his family, his wife Jessica, his three children, and his parents Alfredo and Maricela for their support and always being by his side. He thanked the community of Weslaco for entrusting him with this position to serve our school district. He stated, "I respect - and Weslaco ISD is very close to my heart, I respect the Leadership team, our entire district staff, but most importantly our students. I look forward to serving our district faithfully and impartially for the next four years. Thank you so much."

### **Place 5: Benjamin F. Castillo**

Jessica L. Foytek administered the oath of office to Mr. Benjamin Castillo.

Mr. Castillo thanked everyone who attended the ceremony and the community for having faith in him. He stated, "I thank my wife, she's very, very supportive already in what I do for my job, and now adding this to the plate. Thank you to my family, my parents, and my in-laws for being there for me during this journey. I just thank all of you and I appreciate it. I look forward to working with the entire board as we try to move the district forward and do what's best for the students of the district, so thank you all."

### **Place 6: Armando Cuellar**

Judge Gilberto Saenz administered the oath to Mr. Armando Cuellar.

Mr. Cuellar thanked his family, his wife Nelda, his daughter Nicole, and grandchildren Leanne and Addie, his son-in-law Caleb, and his two sons Mark and JD. Mr. Cuellar stated, "The family support is very important when you get into anything like this because; ultimately, the burden is carried by them when we go through the process. It's not an easy thing to do. Four years ago, I got into this thing thinking I knew what I was getting into. I very quickly learned that there is more to it than just saying 'I or Nay' to anything. When I made the decision with the support of my family to do this again, I have a better understanding of what our responsibilities are, and like was mentioned earlier, it's not about power, it's not about anything else, it's not about us. It is about all of you here and it is about the children that we are going to serve, the staff, and the community of Weslaco. And the better we work together, the better our chances for success are going to be and that's what our mission is going to be, to work together for the success of Weslaco ISD and the community of Weslaco. I want to thank the community for their support and their trust in our responsibilities to you all. I'm finally glad that this is over. I think I picked up most of my signs. I still have a few to go, but that's just part of the process. I can't be more happy than this opportunity and I am honored to be your servant again for the next four years. Thank you very much."

### **Place 7: Isidoro Nieto**

Judge Gilberto Saenz administered the oath to Mr. Isidoro Nieto.

Mr. Nieto thanked his wife who did a tremendous job during the campaign from designing everything from cards to push cards to signs and everything else. He thanked his son Zach, Brian, and Chris. He stated, "Brian and Chris reached out to their friends and even though their friends don't live here anymore, but they reached out and told them, your parents, your uncles and aunts live here – continue to support my dad, so I appreciate that from Brian and Chris and to all the 12,000 people who voted. Even though not all of them voted for us, but you know what, as eight board members, those people that came out, we still have to support all of them regardless whether they voted for somebody else or they voted for us or me, so we will continue to do that. I will continue to serve on the Board as I have the last eight years in the best interest of students, staff, and parents, and we will continue to do that as a Board. Thank you to Mr. Pedee Abrigo for running a positive campaign. I think he did an outstanding job and people like that deserve a "Thank You". Now, we are ready for the next four years. Thank you Judge Saenz for administering the oath of office. Thank you, Andrew Gonzalez, for serving the last eight years with us. I know you will continue to do well." He also thanked the board members and Dr. Coronado and concluded by saying, "We will continue to do what is best for the students of Weslaco ISD, but a special thank you to all the community that was out there. I appreciate it, and we will move forward. Thank you."

## VI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 11:56 a.m.

- A. Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer (Including the Board of Trustees) or Employee or to Hear a Complaint or Charge Against an Officer or Employee (Gov't Code 551.074)

## VII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 12:15 p.m.

- A. Re-Organization of the Board

Mr. Ben Castillo made the motion to nominate the following trustees as board officers. Mr. Marcos De Los Santos seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Isidoro Nieto, Mrs. Jaclyn Sustaita, Mr. Jesse Trevino, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Mr. Marcos De Los Santos, and Mr. Ben Castillo. Motion carried.

### New Board Officers:

1. President: Jaclyn Sustaita
2. Vice-President: Isidoro Nieto
3. Secretary: Dr. Jaime Rodriguez

### Jaclyn Sustaita

Mrs. Sustaita acknowledged Mr. Coach Cuellar for doing an awesome job serving as Board President. She stated, "The duties of President are quite a bit and I am ready, and I appreciate the opportunity to be given this by the rest of my board members. It has been quite a while that a female has sat up here as a Board President, so I am really proud to represent the females as a Board President. I look forward to working as a team continuing the positive message that we are trying to send to our community. As a former teacher, I just want to let everybody know that I'm here for the kids and students and the staff; that is what our focus is going to be so I look forward to representing the community and our Board. Thank you."

### Isidoro Nieto

"I know Jacky will do a fine job. We will work together as much as possible and I think it's important that as a Board we work together. That's the only way to go forward. A special thank you to Coach Cuellar for serving as President for the last two years. He did an excellent job especially during COVID, especially during his surgery – and Dr. Jaime took over after he had surgery, so Dr. Jaime did an excellent job during the few times that he had the opportunity to be President, but all of us, every single member that lives here in Weslaco, remember why we're here, very important. I am here to work with, like I said before, with our students, with our staff, our parents, and if we can do that together, a team of eight, we'll go forward. Thank you."

### Dr. Jaime Rodriguez

"I look forward to working with this team and I look forward to starting fresh, supporting our leadership team, our teachers, our students, our staff - building them up, encourage them and support all our district ideas and things that Dr. Coronado and his administration bring forward to us. I look forward to these next four years and thank you for the opportunity. I know in the past we've been referred to as new board versus old board, and I hope we can just put that aside and say this is the Board, and let's move forward and work as a team."

## VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m. A reception to honor the elected board members took place after the board meeting.