



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
319 West Fourth Street
Weslaco, Texas

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Date:
Time:



Special Meeting
Boardroom
November 22, 2016
6:13 P.M.

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by David Fuentes, Board President.
- II. A quorum was established. The following board members were present.

David Fuentes, Board President
Erasmus Lopez, Vice President
Oscar Caballero, Secretary
Adrian Gonzalez, Trustee
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee

Dr. Richard Rivera was absent.

- III. Canvass Election Returns of the School Board Trustee Election of November 8, 2016
General Trustee Election

Dr. Leo reviewed the votes as reported by the Hidalgo County Elections Department.

Listed below are the results received for each individual candidate.

Place 1	
Candidates	Votes
Erasmus "Moe" Lopez	6,407
Roy "Kello" Ramirez	1,981
Javi Herrera	3,853

Place 2	
Candidate	Votes
Dr. Richard Rivera	9,724

Place 3	
Candidates	Votes
Patrick B. Kennedy	5,225
Ed Davila	3,136
Felix Guajardo	4,047

Adrian Gonzalez made a motion to accept the returns as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Declare Candidates Elected to Trustee Positions and Issue Certificates of Election for Each Elected Candidate

Board President David Fuentes presented the Certificate of Election to the elected candidates:

Place 1: Erasmo Lopez
Place 3: Patrick Kennedy

Dr. Richard Rivera (Place 2) was not present. Mr. Fuentes recognized Dr. Rivera for his reelection on the Board.

Dr. Leo presented a plaque and a goody basket to Adrian Gonzalez for his dedication and service from November 2012 through November 2016.

Board President David Fuentes thanked Mr. Gonzalez, not only for his sacrifice but his family's sacrifice, in serving as a school board member for the past four years as well as a city commissioner in the past.

Adrian Gonzalez took a few minutes of personal privilege to say a few words.

"I want to thank God for giving me the courage to run and the strength to serve. Without him, nothing is possible. I want to give thanks to my family and my friends for all they've done for me the past eleven years. I want to thank my mom and my dad for being there from day one. This wouldn't be possible without them, especially my dad who I had to drag out to political parties." Thank you for everything that you have done.

I want to thank my children, A.J., Lexie, and Aiden, for being so understanding with the time away from home and, as well, behind every god fiery man stands an amazing women; Melinda, I would not have been able to serve this great school district without you. You're my rock and I love you and I appreciate it.

I want to thank the citizens of Weslaco for having the faith to allow me to humbly serve you. It's been a tremendous honor. Furthermore, I want to thank all the staff of Weslaco ISD, their hard work and relentless pursuit of student success. I'm proud to be part of this distinguish group of individuals who have served at public office at the city level and the school level. I want to thank Mayor Joe Sanchez who I served with, Mayor Buddy De La Rosa, Commissioner Soyla Gonzalez, Commissioner Johnny Cuellar, Commissioner Lupe Rivera, Commissioner Rene Rodriguez and Commissioner Patrick Kennedy who is now the new school board member.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the previous board members I served with, Dr. Rivera and Jeff Everitt. These individuals gave selfishly for themselves to serve on this school board and I'm honored to have served with them. Additionally, I want to thank the current board, new commissioner elect David Fuentes, Erasmo Lopez, Oscar Caballero, Isidoro Nieto and Andrew Gonzalez. It's been an honor and I appreciate everything.

Dr. Rivera was my high school principal, my superintendent, and I was able to serve with him on the Board, so I thought that was pretty neat. I thought that was kind of an honor.

They say when you run at public office you find out how valuable it is to build relationships with the people in the community. For those relationships, I truly am thankful for, because these were the people we have the power to make meaningful and

positive changes. Over the past four years I've been part of hundreds of decisions. Every decision that I have made has been in the best interest of the students and the community of Weslaco. As I reflect on the service of a board member of Weslaco ISD, I can honestly say I am proud of what we have accomplished academically and with everything we have done. I know I've said this before, but I leave here a wiser and much older looking man. When I got elected I looked like Marc Rubio and now I'm leaving looking like Bernie Sanders. So as I step down, I won't say goodbye cos I'm not leaving; but rather, I'll see you soon! God bless you and thank you very much.

Dr. Leo presented a plaque and a goody basket to David Fuentes for his years of service from May 2012 through November 2016. She informed the public that Mr. Fuentes will not be leaving public office for he will be moving on to the county level where he will continue his service to the public.

Dr. Leo addressed both gentleman and stated the following: We recognize that being a public servant requires a very generous heart, a very giving heart and certainly one that is open to everyone. We thank both of you gentlemen for offering not just your time and the gift of your intellect, but the gift of your time away from family that is very, very precious. We cannot thank you enough for your giving nature.

David Fuentes stated, "It's been an absolute pleasure being on this board and serving this community in this capacity. Education has been in my family for a long time. I've been around WISD all my life since I was a little kid. That's all I really know, so my heart is in education. It's a bitter sweet change for me but I really enjoyed the opportunity to serve up here. Thank you very much for the recognition and I look forward to the next phase. Mr. Fuentes congratulated all the newly elected officials throughout the valley.

V. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Trustees

Place 1

Mr. Sonny Palacios administered the oath of office to Erasmo Lopez.

Mr. Lopez made the following comments:

"First of all, I want to thank God for blessing me with this position. It's very rewarding. I want to thank my mom for being here today, my sisters Juana and Letty, and Monica my love, and to all my friends who are back there. I've always worked hard to do the right thing for this district. I promise you that I will continue to do what's best for our students, for this district, for the city of Weslaco and to move this district forward. I thank you for placing your trust in me. I will not let you down."

Place 2

The oath of office will be administered to Dr. Richard Rivera at another location.

Place 3

Mr. Bruce T. Kennedy administered the oath of office to Patrick B. Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy made the following comments:

“Adrian Gonzalez’ chair is a big chair to fill. He’s done great things for our city as a commissioner and great things as a trustee for our children. I want to thank the people of Weslaco, I’m here for you. Our country and our people stand on the pacifist of great things. In no other time in our world history have Americans or any other people been filled with such potential to do great things and your children are going to be the ones to fulfill that potential. I’d like to serve my time here to be able to give them the best shot possible so that they can build a great future for a great Weslaco and a great United States of America. With your help, I know I can do it. I may not have all the answers but if you have a suggestion, let me know. You may contact me on face book or my cell phone and let’s work together. Last and not least, I think we should take a moment and consider the words of Solomon the wise when God asked him, “What will you ask of me?” He prayed for wisdom. I think that prayer is one the greatest things you can do in your lives so tonight before you go to bed, I ask that you say a prayer for your family, for our country and say a prayer for the trustees so we can have wisdom to do what’s rights for your children. Mr. Kennedy introduced his wife.

VI. Re-Organization of the Board

A. President

Andrew Gonzalez nominated Erasmo Lopez as Board President. Mr. Lopez accepted the nomination. Since there were no other nominations, Erasmo Lopez was elected Board President by acclamation. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to accept the nomination by acclamation. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Lopez took his chair as President and presided over the meeting.

B. Vice-President

Isidoro Nieto nominated Oscar Caballero as Vice President. Mr. Caballero accepted the nomination. Since there were no other nominations, Oscar Caballero was elected Vice President by acclamation. David Fuentes made the motion to accept the nomination by acclamation. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Secretary

Andrew Gonzalez nominated Isidoro Nieto as Secretary. Mr. Nieto accepted the nomination. Since there were no other nominations, Isidoro Nieto was elected Secretary by acclamation. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to accept the nomination by acclamation. David Fuentes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Lopez thanked the board members for placing their trust in him and allowing him to serve this great district as President. He stated, “I will do the best to my ability to serve you and make you all proud of me and of the whole district.” Thank you.

Oscar Caballero thanked his fellow board members for their nomination. He stated, “I’m here for you guys, the community, the school and the kids. Whatever I can do for you, I’m here for you.

Mr. Nieto thanked the board members for the nomination and welcomed Mr. Patrick Kennedy to the Board. He stated, "With Moe as President and Oscar as Vice President, we will continue to work together for the improvement of the District and we will continue to do what is best in the best interest of students and staff at Weslaco ISD and we'll move forward."

Mr. Fuentes congratulated his fellow board members for their newly elected positions, Mr. Kennedy, and Dr. Canales.

Mr. Lopez congratulated Dr. Rivera on his reelection and informed the public that he would be sworn in at his office in Edcouch.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

A reception in honor of the new board members was held in the lobby area.