



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
319 West Fourth Street
Weslaco, Texas

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Date:
Time:

Special Meeting
WISD Board Room
October 31, 2016
6:01 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, President
Erasmus Lopez, Vice President
Oscar Caballero, Secretary
Adrian Gonzalez, Trustee
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee
Isidoro Nieto, Trustee
Dr. Richard Rivera, Trustee

III. Closed Meeting:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 6:01 p.m. to discuss the following items.

1. Personnel Matters and Consultation with Legal Counsel (Tx. Gov't Code 551.074 & 551.071)
 - A. Discussion and Consideration of Candidate(s) for the Position of Superintendent of Schools and Possible Naming of Lone Finalist for the Position of Superintendent of Schools
 - B. Discussion and Consideration of Possible Delegation of Authority to Negotiate Superintendent Contract

IV. Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:24 p.m. to take action on the following items.

Board President David Fuentes took a few minutes of personal privilege to share a few words.

"I want to thank the Board for sacrificing their evenings for many days and weeks to try to come to a conclusion with this. This is not an easy decision. We had lots of very qualified applicants, lots of people with lots of different experiences and unique talents they bring to the table. I'm not sure there will ever be a consensus, but what we know is we had a great group of candidates. After long consideration and discussion, we might come to a decision here this evening. I would like to thank the candidates for their time and efforts

and for participating and taking time out of their schedule to give us their very best because there is no question that we as a Board have learned a tremendous amount not only our district but about the quality of people that are really out there, people that have genuine care and concern for the community of Weslaco, for the children they serve in whatever district or capacity they serve in. We had some tremendous people!

Thank you Dr. Leo for your time and effort over the past 6 to 7 months. Thank you for your time, consideration, and guidance. You didn't walk into an easy situation. You've been very patient with us throughout this process. You never rushed us, you never gave us a time restriction or a deadline or said you needed to go even though you have other family issues to consider. On behalf of the Board, we like to say "Thank You" because it is genuinely a beautiful gift to give of yourself when you could be tending to your own needs and matters at home, so thank you for your sacrifice and everything that you've given of your heart to this district and for giving our employees and students the guidance and the care that they deserve.

There are other people outside of the seven board members I want to thank. We had legal counsel guiding us along the way and working with other consultants who gave us direction and to their staff for assisting us in this process. We are at a critical time in our school district and it's important we move forward. We acknowledge that, and we thank you, as a community, for your patience. We did not want to rush it. We wanted to make sure we got a really good candidate, so after all the discussions we might come to a conclusion at this point and time."

Trustee Isidoro Nieto made the following comments:

"When I ran for the Board alongside some of the board members and I can't speak for them, but I've always said that I was going to make the best decisions in the best interest of the students and staff. Like Mr. Fuentes said, there were excellent candidates, but my decision is based on what is best for students and staff at WISD. In decisions that we make, we're going to make some people happy and some people unhappy, but we have to go forward and there's where I stand as a board member."

Trustee Adrian Gonzalez made the following comments:

"I want to thank the Board because as you all know I'll be stepping down pretty soon. We spent hours together doing all these interviews and it's a tough decision. I want to thank the attorney as well who was there by us. I want to make sure Weslaco continues to grow and continues to be successful. The way I vote is the way I believe in and that's why I got elected, so with that being said, I just want to thank everybody from the bottom of my heart. I enjoyed serving everybody for the past four years."

A. Discussion and Possible Action on Naming of Lone Finalist for the Position of Superintendent of Schools

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to name Dr. Priscilla Canales as the lone finalist for the position of Superintendent. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Isidoro Nieto, Andrew Gonzalez, Erasmo Lopez and Oscar Caballero. Voting against the motion were Dr. Richard Rivera and Adrian Gonzalez. Motion carried with a 4-2 vote.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Delegation of Authority to Negotiate a Contract

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion as discussed in closed meeting to delegate negotiating authority to Board President to general counsel for the superintendent's contract. School Board Attorney Ivan Perez explained that legally the Board cannot vote on a contract until after 21 days. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor of the motion.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.