



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

Winners. Innovators. Scholars. Doers.

Priscilla Canales, Ph.D., Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:
Place:
Location:
Date:
Time:

Special Meeting
WISD Board Room
319 W. Fourth Street
October 23, 2017
6:03 P.M.

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by Erasmo Lopez, Board President.
- II. A quorum is established. The following board members are present.

Erasmo Lopez, President
Oscar Caballero, Vice President
Isidoro Nieto, Secretary
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee

*Dr. Jaime Rodriguez joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.
Patrick Kennedy and Dr. Richard Rivera were absent.*

- III. Discussion and Possible Action on Out-of-Valley Trips for Students

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the Weslaco East High School AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students to deliver needed school supplies to Brundrett Middle School located in Port Aransas, Texas on October 24, 2017, as a result of damage due to Hurricane Harvey.

AVID is a college preparation course offered to students in high school. One of the curriculum components is volunteer work.

Dr. Cantu, Weslaco East High School Principal, informed the Board that the students took the initiative on this project and raised almost \$3,000 through donations and a helmet drive fundraiser. Supplies were donated from Office Depot and Mid Valley Office Supply, and additional school supplies were also purchased through monetary donations from Sam's Club and Walmart. Over 400 AVID students participated in the fundraisers but only 18 students were chosen to travel to Port Aransas to deliver the supplies.

Oscar Caballero made the motion to approve the AVID students from Weslaco East High School to travel to Port Aransas, Tx., on October 24, 2017. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Purchase of Classroom SIPPS Phonics Sets for Kinder through 3rd Grade Classrooms at all Elementary Schools

The Superintendent recommended approval of the sole source purchase of SIPPS Phonics sets for Kinder through 3rd grade classrooms at all elementary schools.

The SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) offers a systematic approach to decoding to support students from grades K-12 in gaining reading fluency and comprehension. The sets have been used in some campuses and will now be utilized at all campuses, grades Kinder through 3rd grade.

The cost of this purchase is \$80,050.00 and will be paid with the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA) funds.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the sole purchase of SIPPS Phonics sets for Kinder through 3rd grade classrooms at all elementary schools to support instruction from the Center for the Collaborative Classroom in Alameda, California. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Purchase of Classroom Libraries for 27 Kinder and 33 First Grade Classrooms

The Superintendent recommended approval of the sole source purchase of Classroom Libraries for 27 Kinder and 33 First grade classrooms from Scholastic Classroom & Community Group from Jefferson City, Missouri.

Classroom Libraries help support the literacy program by giving students access to a large, varied collection of reading material throughout the school day. Six elementary campuses received classroom libraries during the 2016-2017 school year. The remaining five elementary campuses will receive the classroom libraries: Memorial, Sam Houston, Airport, Margo, and Cleckler-Heald. The libraries consist of 214 books for kinder and 227 for first grade.

The cost of this purchase is \$47,908.23 and will be paid with the Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA) funds.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the purchase of Classroom Libraries for 27 Kinder and 33 First grade classrooms from Scholastic Classroom & Community Group from Jefferson City, Missouri. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Purchase of the New Herman Method Dyslexia Models, Language! Live Student and Teacher Packages, 1-Year Licenses, and 2 Days of Training to Support Instruction

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the sole source purchase of the New Herman Method Dyslexia Models, Language! Live Student and Teacher Packages, 1-Year Licenses, and 2 days of training to support instruction from Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. from Dallas, Texas.

The Herman Method is a multi-sensory Orton Gillingham based intervention program for students with characteristics of Dyslexia, as required by the Texas Dyslexia Handbook, for the elementary level. This purchase will include kits with all of the resources and a day of training. The kits include: teacher's guide, reproducibles, magnetic letters, and a mat. The full day of training will include activities and lessons that demonstrate how to implement the program.

Language! Live is also an intervention program for dyslexic students in the secondary setting and is available online. It will provide lessons and activities used for the purpose of intervention and monitoring. Online options will allow staff to monitor progress, or lack of, instantaneously. This program will be used at the four middle schools.

Oscar Caballero made the motion to approve the sole source purchase of the New Herman Method Dyslexia Models, Language! Live Student and Teacher Packages, 1-Year Licenses, and 2 days of training to support instruction from Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. from Dallas, Texas. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Andrew Gonzalez wanted to know if the two days of training was sufficient.

Mr. Abel Aguilar, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education & Leadership, informed the Board that the two days of training is sufficient. Staff will still be using the Susan Barton program while they transition to the Herman Method. The Herman Method model will allow staff to work with more students at a time as oppose to the Susan Barton which limits service because it is more of a one on one basis. The Herman Method is currently being used by the following school districts: P.S.J.A, Mission, La Joya, and Harlingen.

The cost of this purchase is \$30,377.50 and will be paid with funds allocated in the Local Maintenance Fund budget for Dyslexia Intervention.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Oscar Caballero and seconded by Andrew Gonzalez to approve the sole source purchase of the New Herman Method Dyslexia Models, Language! Live Student and Teacher Packages, 1-Year Licenses, and 2 days of training to support instruction from Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. from Dallas, Texas.

VII. Closed Meeting:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 6:14 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)
 - a. Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Process

B. Conduct a Level Three Grievance Requested by R. Rodriguez Pursuant to Weslaco ISD Policy DGBA

The Board convened at 7:11 p.m. to hear the Level Three Grievance for R. Rodriguez.

Present at the Grievance:

Board members: Erasmo Lopez, Oscar Caballero, Isidoro Nieto, Andrew Gonzalez, and
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez
Dr. Priscilla Canales, Superintendent
Attorney Representing the Board: Ivan Perez
Attorney Representing Administration: Greg Kerr
Attorney Representing Grievant: Tony Connors

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 Independent School District 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. Deliberation Regarding Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code 551.072)

VIII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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

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

1. Employment of Personnel

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as presented.

Name	Position	Location
1. Garcia, Cruz Javier	8 th Grade Language Arts Teacher	B. Garza Middle School
2. Lopez, Celeste Cisneros	6 th Grade Math/Science Teacher	B. Garza Middle School
3. Medina, Ricardo James	Biology Teacher	Weslaco East High School

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as recommended by the superintendent. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion.

2. Resignations

Non-action item.

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)

a. Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Process

Non-action item.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Level III Grievance Requested by R. Rodriguez Pursuant to Weslaco ISD Policy DGBA

No motion was made by the Board.

The Board President announced that if the Board does not make a decision regarding the complaint by the end of the next regular scheduled meeting, a lack of a response by the Board will uphold the administration's decision at Level II.

- 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 Independent School District 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.

- E. Deliberation Regarding Real Property (Tex. Gov't Code 551.072)

Non-Action item.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.