



# WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street  
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

Winners. Innovators. Scholars. Doers.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:	Special Board Meeting
Place:	WISD Board Room
Location:	319 W. Fourth Street
Date:	April 17, 2018
Time:	6:11 P.M

## MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by Erasmo Lopez, Board President.
- II. A quorum was established. The following board members were present.
  - Erasmo Lopez, Board President
  - Oscar Caballero, Vice President
  - Isidoro Nieto, Secretary
  - Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee
  - Patrick Kennedy, Trustee
  - Dr. Richard Rivera, Trustee
  - Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Trustee
- III. Approval of Budget Amendment for the Weslaco High School Band to Purchase 250 Marching Uniforms

Dr. Canales informed the Board that the new band director, Rodrigo Leal, had conducted inventory of the band uniforms and discovered that 76 band uniforms were missing. The Fine Arts Coordinator and the two band directors have now established a process which will include replacing band uniforms every 10 years for each high school.

Staff requested that the Board approve a budget amendment of \$118,145 to purchase 250 marching uniforms for Weslaco High School in order to have them ready for the beginning of the season or possibly mid-season.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the budget amendment as requested. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Dr. Rivera was very disappointed that someone was not careful to inventory this equipment. He stated, "That's just plain bad. I don't know who's to blame, but someone has to be responsible." He asked staff to follow up and make every effort to find the missing uniforms.

Mr. Nieto agreed with Dr. Rivera, but pointed out that Mr. Bissett and the band directors have a plan in place for conducting proper inventory of the band uniforms and therefore this situation should not occur again.

Mr. Caballero agreed with Dr. Rivera in trying to track down the missing uniforms.

Dr. Canales informed the Board that the uniforms were missing prior to Mr. Bissett and Mr. Leal's employment with the district.

Mr. Bissett commented that they are planning to purchase 250 purple and white uniforms. According to Mr. Bissett, the design is very nice and the uniform is constructed to last for ten years, up to year 2028. Both directors will be reporting to him at the end of the year with an accounting of their uniforms as part of the new inventory plan.

Mr. Leal reported that they had a total of 174 band uniforms and approximately 245 band students. They only had 114 complete uniforms because some of the uniforms were mismatched and therefore they were not able to accommodate all the students in the band program. His solution was to purchase tops that were a uniform coat look alike and they borrowed the black pants from the previous Weslaco East High School band uniforms. Mr. Leal explained that the current uniform was a wash and wear so the students would take their uniform home to be washed and there was no record of the uniforms being checked out. He questioned all the current students who did not return their uniforms and also made every effort to contact former seniors to try and retrieve their uniforms, but many of them responded that they did not have the uniform.

According to Mr. Bissett, the uniform being recommended will have to be dry cleaned, so the uniform will never leave the band hall unless the student is on his way to a performance or is on the person marching to the stadium. New check out procedures are in place which require that the student and parent sign for the uniform and the information is then entered into the data base.

Mr. Nieto commented that both bands did very well this past year and deserve to have new uniforms. He is hopeful that this will not happen again with the new procedures in place.

Mr. Kennedy wanted to know what they were going to do with the old uniforms. According to Mr. Leal, the old uniforms will be taken to warehouse to be auctioned off.

Mr. Gonzalez thanked Mr. Leal for his efforts in trying to retrieve the uniforms. He stated, "It is unfortunate and it's not neither one of your fault, it didn't fall on you all. Obviously, we didn't have a system in place and the child shouldn't be the one to be left behind in this case, not being able to participate in an actual band uniform."

Dr. Rodriguez questioned the type of uniform used at East High School. Mr. Bissett replied that the band students at East High School will have the same type of uniform which is very modern looking. This campus has the same inventory procedures in place which he established when he was at East.

Board President Erasmo Lopez asked the superintendent to get other staff members to assist in recovering the missing uniforms. He stated, "We owe it to our tax payers and to everybody else to try and recover as many uniforms as we can. They are property of WISD and what's right is right." He suggested that Melissa Escalon, Safety & Security Director, assist in the recovery efforts.

Dr. Rivera wanted to know if there were any assistant band directors left from that period and stated, "Someone needs to be accountable. I can't blame the students. I'm going to vote yes on this one, for the students, but I'm very disappointed in the administrators, the teachers, whoever it was to lose this number of uniforms. It's tax payer's abuse."

Mr. Lopez asked staff to follow up and report back to the Board through their weekly update.

Dr. Canales reported that the uniforms could be delivered sometime between 120 and 165 days. If staff was not able to get them in before the start of the school year, they would wait for the 2019 season.

Dr. Rivera commented that the students cannot be performing with inadequate uniforms; therefore, staff needs to get the uniforms ordered and ready for this coming school year.

Mr. Lopez asked Mr. De La Rosa to follow up to see if the district had any type of insurance that could cover the loss.

The board members voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Andrew Gonzalez and seconded by Isidoro Nieto to approve the budget amendment to purchase 250 marching uniforms for the Weslaco High School Band program.

#### IV. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Administration's Recommendation to Rent or Lease Portable Buildings to House our Students During the Renovation of the Field House Building at Weslaco East High School

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the district to rent up to six (6) portable buildings to house student athletes during the renovations project at Weslaco East High School. Staff will also look to see if it is feasible to use existing portable buildings in the district that could be moved and would require slight renovations.

Oscar Riojas, WISD Athletic Director, informed the Board that there are approximately 400 boys and girls that will need to be accommodated on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff agreed that it was in the best interest to take the project into Phase 1 and Phase 2, which will include renting up to six (6) portable buildings for Weslaco East High School only. The football field house should be ready when they begin the project at Weslaco High School, so the football kids would be moved into the field house and the remaining programs would be relocated to Lackey gym without the need to rent anymore buildings for the WHS renovations. The advantages to going this route are as follows:

- Contractor will hold the price for the entire length of the project.
- The project will be going out to bid with the intent to have the projects constructed simultaneously.
- The bid package will remain as is, but they will issue an addenda identifying Phase I and Phase II.
- The cost will be locked in even though the WHS project will start 4 to 6 months later.

According to Coach Riojas, they will have 4 portable buildings as changing rooms with lockers and 2 shower/restrooms buildings (1 for boys and 1 for girls).

Mr. Lopez questioned the need for portable buildings at Weslaco High School. He does not want to encounter issues with students not being able to take showers due to any kind of overflow, etc. Coach Riojas replied that the Lackey gymnasium has full showers and locker rooms that could also accommodate non-football male students.

The total cost for this project which will include the rental of buildings and onetime set up fee is \$241,060. The cost for the rental will be paid from the Local Construction Fund. According to Mr. Sanchez, the remaining balance in the construction fund will be \$1 million dollars.

Dr. Richard Rivera made the motion to approve the district to rent up to six (6) portable buildings to house student athletes during the renovations project at Weslaco East High School. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion.

Andrew Gonzalez wanted to know if the lease could be extended in case they needed another building. Coach Riojas replied that the company has been very helpful and since the lease is on a monthly basis, it can be extended if necessary. He pointed out that staff had located a couple of portable buildings that were very functional; therefore, the cost could potentially decrease if they decide to use them. However, they will have to rent the restrooms and showers. He will provide an update to the Board if the cost on the project is reduced.

Dr. Rivera wanted to know if the coaches at East High School were aware of what they were getting and if they were in agreement with this plan. As per Coach Riojas, a meeting was held with the coaches early this morning to discuss the portable buildings. Coach Guzman who was in the audience replied that he was okay with the plan.

Mr. Lopez questioned the utilities. As per Coach Riojas, meetings have been held with Mr. Americo Garza to discuss where to place the portable buildings due to sewage, water, and electrical connections. At this time, they are considering using the parking space areas or the practice fields. According to Mr. David Iglesias, an addenda will be included in the project showing the connections for water, sewage, and electrical and the cost will be included as part of the renovation bid package. The only cost would be for the portables and the actual hook-up.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Dr. Richard Rivera and Patrick Kennedy to approve the district to rent up to six (6) portable buildings to house student athletes during the renovations project at Weslaco East High School.

V. Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize a Lease Purchase Agreement or Public Property Finance Act Contract for the Proposed Acquisition and Installation of a Scoreboard at District Facilities

At the April 10, 2018 Regular Board meeting the Board tabled the agenda item for approval for the financing of the new digital scoreboard for Bobby Lackey stadium. Dr. Canales informed the Board that staff worked together with bond counsel to prepare a request for bids to finance the scoreboard. A request was mailed to 9 banks (8 Weslaco banks) and the leasing company that works with Daktronics. The district received five bid responses. Staff is recommending the lease purchase agreement proposed by PNC Equipment Finance LLC who has the lowest financing cost.

The Board President mentioned that an item was posted for closed session to discuss the scoreboard advertising agreements and felt that it was important for the Board to know how much the district would be making on sales advertisements prior to making a decision on the financing. He suggested that they discuss this item after they returned from closed session.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to change the order of the day and discuss this item in closed session. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 6:35 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 on Possible Rescission of Termination of Probationary Contract

B. 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)

1. Discussion Regarding Scoreboard Advertising Agreements

Dr. Richard Rivera left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

VII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:16 p.m. to take action on the following items:

- A. Possible Action, If Necessary, on Items Discussed in Closed Meeting
- B. Discussion and Possible Action on Employment of Personnel

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the recommendation of contracts for certified professional personnel as discussed in closed meeting.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Sandy Corpus	Librarian	Rudy Silva Elementary School

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as recommended by the Superintendent. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action on Resignations

The following retirements/resignations were presented.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Reason/Effective Date</b>
1. Boswell, Malinda	Teacher Sam Houston Elementary School	Malinda Boswell is retiring after (34) years in education, with (27) years of service at Weslaco ISD; effective date is May 31, 2018.
2. Campos, Lidalia	Teacher Gonzalez Elementary School	Lidalia Campos is retiring after (46) years in education, with all (46) years of service at Weslaco ISD; effective date is May 31, 2018.
3. Sosa, Jorge	Teacher Horton AEP	Jorge Sosa is resigning due to personal reasons; effective June 1, 2018.

Non-action item.

- D. Discussion and Possible Action to Rescind Termination of Probationary Contract

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to rescind the termination of the probationary contract of J. Sosa and accept his resignation effective the end of the 2017-2018 contract year. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- E. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Scoreboard Advertising Agreements

Non-action item.

The Board President announced that Item V was discussed in closed session to allow the board members to hear information on the possible revenues made by the new scoreboard. The school attorney also shared information with the Board on on-going negotiations with some companies. No action was taken in closed session.

V. Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize a Lease Purchase Agreement or Public Property Finance Act Contract for the Proposed Acquisition and Installation of a Scoreboard at District Facilities

Dr. Canales recommended that the Board approve the financing of the new digital scoreboard with a lease purchase agreement as proposed by PNC Equipment Finance LLC as the best offer to the district.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to accept the terms offered by PNC Equipment Finance, LLC in response to the District's solicitation for the scoreboard financing issued April 12, 2018 and that the Superintendent and the District's legal counsel be authorized to negotiate and enter into an agreement on behalf of the District for the financing subject to the terms of the District's solicitation. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Questions addressed by the Board:

- Mr. Kennedy said that information that was provided to them indicated that some banks offer a variable rate starting in the year 6 through 10. He wanted to know the interest rate assumed in the calculation.
  - ›As per Mr. Sanchez, the calculations are based on the current rate.  
For example: Texas National Bank offers a 3.75% which is calculated using the Wall Street Journal prime rate, minus 1% because WISD is their depository client.  
If WISD is still their client after 5 years they will continue with the same rate, but if the district is no longer their client, they will remove the 1% discount and the rate will increase to 4.75% or higher based on what the Wall Street Journal prime rate is at that time.
  - ›By requesting bids, the interest rate with PNC went from 5.95% fixed rate to 5.25% fixed rate, lowering the interest cost from \$330,932.04 to \$291,121.79.
  - ›The first payment with PNC will be March 15, 2019.
  - ›If the district receives more revenues from advertisements, the loan could be paid off in 2 or 3 years without incurring any penalties.
  - ›Staff will work on finalizing the contract and negotiations with PNC in order for the work to begin before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Andrew Gonzalez to accept the terms offered by PNC Equipment Finance, LLC in response to the District's solicitation for the scoreboard financing issued April 12, 2018, and that the Superintendent and the District's legal counsel be authorized to negotiate and enter into an agreement on behalf of the District for the financing subject to the terms of the District's solicitation.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.