



# WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street  
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

**Winners. Innovators. Scholars. Doers.**

*Dr. Priscilla Canales, Superintendent*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:

Place:

Location:

Date:

Time:

Special Board Meeting

WISD Board Room

319 W. Fourth Street &  
(via video conference @ 310 W.  
University Drive, Edinburg, Tx.)

April 27, 2018

12:00 Noon

## MINUTES

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

Erasmo Lopez, President  
Oscar Caballero, Vice President  
Isidoro Nieto, Secretary  
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee  
Patrick Kennedy (via video conference)  
Dr. Richard Rivera, Trustee

*Dr. Jaime Rodriguez was absent.*

- III. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Out of Valley Trips

The following trips were presented for approval:

### CTE Early College High School

•The CTE Early College High School students will attend and participate at the Floriculture and Landscape Nursery state competition in Huntsville, Texas on April 26-27, 2018. These events help students prepare for a career in agriculture by testing and challenging the student's technical, leadership, and teamwork skills.

### Weslaco High School

•The UIL Academics Team will participate in the UIL State Academic Competition at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas on May 3-5, 2018. Students will experience a level of competitive academic engagement where they will vie for state ranking against other state level competitors in Accounting, Ready Writing, and possible journalism.

Weslaco East High School

- The Portfolio Star Art Club students will travel to Dallas, Texas on May 4-6, 2018 to tour the UTD art department and the Dallas Museum of Art. Students will experience culture and view professional exhibits that will encourage them to utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills and preparation for culture.

Dr. Richard Rivera made the motion to approve the field trips as presented. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Purchase Band Uniforms for the Weslaco High School Panther Corps

At the April 17<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting the Board approved a budget amendment to purchase new band uniforms for the Weslaco High School Panther Corps.

Dr. Canales explained that during the transition from one head band director to another, an inventory review conducted by the new band director revealed that a total of 76 band uniforms were missing. In addition, the uniforms were mismatched. Thus, the purchase of new uniforms for the entire band members will ensure that Weslaco High School is well represented on the field and other performing events such as Pigskin Jubilee.

The administration recommended that the Board approve the purchase of 256 new band uniforms for the Weslaco High School Panther Corps from Fruhauf Uniforms, Inc. of Wichita, Kansas, a Buyboard approved vendor.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the purchase of 256 new band uniforms for Weslaco High School as recommended. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion.

Questions/concerns addressed by board members:

- Dr. Rivera: “How soon will the uniforms arrive?”

As per Mr. Ron Bissett, Fine Arts Coordinator, the company could not promise delivery before the first football game but will do their best to get them in before pigskin, which is in the middle of October. In the meantime, students will continue to wear the tops purchased last year that looked like a uniform coat look alike.

Dr. Rivera was not happy with the situation and stated that it was unacceptable for someone to lose so many uniforms.

- Mr. Kennedy asked to see a sample of the new uniform.

The colors of the new uniform displayed were purple and white. The drum majors will wear a solid white uniform.

The board members were pleased with the new uniforms.

- The Board President pointed out that the uniforms were missing prior to the new band directors coming on board. He wanted to know what steps had been take to ensure that this situation did not happen again and asked, “Who will be held accountable for these uniforms?”

› Mr. Leal, WHS Band Director, informed the Board that he would be responsible for all the band uniforms at WHS.

- › As per Mr. Bissett, both head band directors will provide him with an inventory update in December and in May, accounting for every uniform in inventory.
- Dr. Rivera wanted to know how many assistant band directors were still employed with the district prior to the missing uniforms. He wanted to know who was responsible for the uniforms and if they had a system in place for keeping track of the uniforms.
- › According to Mr. Leal, there was no system in place and duties were not assigned to the assistant band directors to keep track of the uniforms. The students were held accountable for their own uniforms.
- › Mr. Sergio Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, provided the following information on the status of the missing uniforms.
  - After the last board meeting, Mr. Garcia met with Principal Yvett Morales to follow up on the uniforms.
  - Mrs. Morales met with three (3) staff band members who informed her that the responsibility was delegated to the actual students. The inventory system was not very effective.
  - As a result of the missing uniforms, staff has now established a firm inventory system which will be reviewed by semester.
- Dr. Rivera questioned the cost of the missing uniforms.
  - › According to Dr. Canales, the total cost of the total number of missing uniforms is \$22,000.
  - The missing uniforms were 6 years old.
  - › Staff has filed an insurance claim and is waiting to hear from the property insurance company.
  - › Staff is still contacting former students to attempt to recover the uniforms.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Andrew Gonzalez to approve the purchase of 256 new band uniforms for the Weslaco High School Panther Corps from Fruhauf Uniforms, Inc. of Wichita, Kansas, a Buyboard approved vendor.

V. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider: 1) Approval of the Administration's Recommendation of the Ranking of the Proposals Received for the HVAC Upgrades Project at Rodolfo (Rudy) Silva Elementary School, Justice Raul Gonzalez Elementary School, and Joe Calvillo CATE Complex, and 2) To Authorize Administration to Enter into Contract Negotiations and Approve a Contract for this Project (CSP #18-04-26)

This project was ranked as a “need” by the Facilities Committee and was approved by the Board on February 13, 2017 as part of the overall facility needs list. On July 6, 2017 the Board hired Trinity MEP Engineering to design the plans and specifications. On October 9, 2017 the Weslaco ISD School Board voted to approve the competitive sealed proposals method of construction, delegated the ranking authority to the administration, and approved the criteria and points.

The original air conditioning units were installed as part of the original construction of the schools making them at least 16 years old. The district has spent considerable amount of money in supplies and labor in keeping these units in working condition. This project will include the installation of fourteen (14) new, high efficiency units for both Silva Elementary and Gonzalez Elementary, plus two (2) similar units at Calvillo (CATE) Complex. It will also include additional control points that will tie into the central controls system and modification of air ducts (as required), and all electrical work needed.

The district received five (5) proposals that were reviewed by the ranking committee. The committee recommended that the project be awarded to Aircool Teck-ACE, Corp from Alamo, Texas. This was the #1 ranked contractor who submitted the lowest bid at \$1,644,725.30.

Questions/concerns addressed by the board members:

▪Isidoro Nieto: “What was the original estimate and why were the bids much higher?

›Original estimate - \$1.2 million

›The project cost is over by \$400,000.

› As per Mr. Americo Garza, the budget amount was a year old and the cost for HVAC equipment has increased since then. However, staff has been looking at the specifications and will work on getting cost reductions through value engineering by eliminating items included in the project cost that may not be needed.

For example: Using galvanized pans instead of the stainless steel drain pans that come with the units.

Using existing controls instead of the new ones provided.

According to Mr. Leo Munoz from Trinity Engineering, the project cost could be reduced from \$75,000 to \$100,000 by using the existing controls. He confirmed that the warranty would not be void by using the existing controls.

Mr. Lopez addressed his concern on using the existing controls because if malfunctioning problems occur in the future, the use of the existing controls could be blamed for the problems and district employees would have more work on their hands. He would rather not jeopardize the savings on the project by cutting out the controls.

›Has this company done work for the district?

▪This company did the remodeling of the kitchen at Roosevelt through architect Rudy Gomez.

▪Trinity Engineering has worked with all the companies that submitted a bid and they have no problem recommending this company.

Mr. Munoz explained that the current system is comprised of two pieces: one that feeds outside air and one that provides cooling for the building. The new system has only one piece of equipment that will be better controlled and more efficient; thus, the district should see a savings in the energy bill. According to Mr. Munoz, prices for HVAC equipment have increased in the past 2-3 months and when they started on this project a lot of the accessories were not accounted for at the beginning. However, they will be able to take out and negotiate accessories and adjust as it best fits.

Andrew Gonzalez wanted to know if these services were available through the BuyBoard in order to lower the cost. Mr. Sanchez replied that a construction project cannot be done through the BuyBoard. The district can buy the equipment and replace it by itself, but the service for modifications and adjustments to improve the comfort of the climate cannot be obtained through BuyBoard. Mr. Munoz explained that the equipment will take about 8 to 10 weeks to arrive from the manufacturer and they would like to finish this project over the summer.

The Board President commented that the district would lose control of the cost if they were to buy the equipment separately. He questioned the age of the old ac units and said that the district has rented cranes to replace compressors that are in bad shape and which has resulted in additional costs to the district. He stated, “The longer we wait, the more expensive it gets.” He did not like the fact that the project was over budget, and asked if this cost would impact the kids or teachers in any way.

Mr. Sanchez informed the Board that a budget of \$1.2 million had been allocated for this project from the Fund Balance Assigned for Facilities or Other Needs in the Local Maintenance Fund. There is still an additional \$1 million available in this account.

The Board President requested a hard copy accounting for all expenses made using the monies borrowed from the loan and from the district's savings. He asked that staff provide this information by Monday or Tuesday of the following week.

Mr. Munoz pointed out that board approval will grant him permission to go out and negotiate the project cost close to the original budget as possible. Mr. Sanchez recommended that the Board delegate administration the authority to negotiate and approve the contract. As customary, staff will meet with the first ranked company to try and negotiate, but if staff is not able to negotiate terms, staff will end negotiations and continue with the second ranked company and so on.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the Administration's ranking and to award the project to Aircool Teck-ACE, Corp from Alamo, Texas for the HVAC Upgrades Project at Rodolfo (Rudy) Silva Elementary School, Justice Raul Gonzalez Elementary School, and Joe Calvillo CATE Complex, and authorized administration to enter into contract negotiations and approve a contract for this project. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion.

Dr. Rivera commented that these schools were built by Landmark through a design-build concept and because of the issues that surfaced at that time, he wanted to know if all 3 schools had gone bad at the same time or if problems had occurred since back then.

Mr. Americo Garza replied that the system was working properly; however, the systems is at the end of its life expectancy and has required a lot of repairs. Last year staff replaced 19 compressors between the three schools which cost the district \$2,000 per compressor. Mr. Munoz further explained that the current system consist of rooftop units outside and become corroded, unlike a chiller system that is inside a mechanical room and has a longer life expectancy.

Dr. Rivera wanted to know if the students were uncomfortable as a result of the problems with the units. As per Mr. Garza, the system is functioning at 50% and therefore the environment feels "muggy" at times.

Mr. Lopez wanted to know if the compressors that were removed could be used on other facilities in the district and what would become of them.

Mr. Garza pointed out that the compressors use a refrigerant that is very expensive because it has been phased out and the district does not have any ac units large enough for the compressors. He does not recommend using the compressors; however, staff will salvage what they can from the units before they are removed from the district.

Dr. Rivera asked that staff monitor and visit the sites on a daily basis to ensure the district is getting what is needed.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Oscar Caballero to approve the Administration's ranking and to award the project to Aircool Teck-ACE, Corp from Alamo, Texas for the HVAC Upgrades Project at Rodolfo (Rudy) Silva Elementary School, Justice Raul Gonzalez Elementary School, and Joe Calvillo CATE Complex, and authorized administration to enter into contract negotiations and approve a contract for this project

Isidoro Nieto left the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

**VI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:**

The Board convened in closed meeting at 12:40 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 Non-Certified Contract for District Administrator on One Year Contract
    - b. Discussion of Renewal of Term Contract for Teachers for the 2018-2019 School Year
- 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)

**VII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:**

The Board returned to open meeting at 1:15 p.m. to take action on the following items:

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

Non-action item.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Employment of Personnel

Non-action item.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on Resignations

The following retirements/resignations were presented.

Name	Position/Location	Reason/Effective Date
1. De Leon, Christian Dylan	Teacher Weslaco High School	Christian Dylan De Leon is resigning to accept a position with the San Benito CISD, effective April 20, 2018.
<b>ADDENDUM</b>		
1. Cordero, David	Teacher Weslaco High School	Mr. Cordero is resigning at the end of the school year effective June 1, 2018.
2. Inlow, Stephanie	Counselor Weslaco East High School	Stephanie Inlow is retiring after 28 years in education, with 19 years of service at Weslaco ISD, effective June 20, 2018.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to accept the resignations as discussed in closed meeting. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and Possible Action to Renew Non-Certified Contract for District Administrator on One Year Contract

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the renewal of non-certified contract for District Administrator on one year contract for the 2018-2019 school year as discussed in closed meeting.

Name	Position	Location
1. Villarreal, Antonio	Warehouse Administrator 230 Days	Warehouse

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve as recommended by the Superintendent. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Discussion and Possible Action to Renew Term Contracts for Teachers for the 2018-2019 School Year

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the renewal of term contracts for teachers for the 2018-2019 school year as discussed in closed meeting.

Name	Contract 18-19	Position	Location
1. Valle, Alexis	Term	Teacher	WHS
2. Rosch, John	Term	Teacher	WHS
3. Martinez, Yolanda	Term	Counselor	WHS

Name	Contract 18-19	Position	Location
1. Medina, Ricardo	Term	Teacher	WEHS

Name	Contract 18-19	Position	Location
1. Zamora, Carlos	Term	Teacher	WHS

Name	Contract 18-19	Position	Location
1. Martinez, Mariela	Term	Teacher	Cuellar

Name	Contract 18-19	Position	Location
1. Solis, Martha	Term	Teacher	Sam Houston

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the renewal of term contracts for teachers for the 2018-2019 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.