



# WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street  
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:  
Place:  
Location:  
Date:  
Time:

Special Board Meeting  
WISD Board Room  
319 W. Fourth Street  
August 7, 2017  
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, President  
Oscar Caballero, Vice President  
Isidoro Nieto, Secretary  
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee  
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Trustee

*Patrick Kennedy and Dr. Richard Rivera were absent.*

- III. Approval to Amend Memorandum of Understanding Between Hidalgo County Juvenile Board and Weslaco Independent School District for Expulsion Services

Mr. Sergio Garcia, Assistant Superintendent of Administration, explained the reason for amending the Memorandum of Understanding with Hidalgo County Juvenile Board.

Currently, students who violate certain rules in the Student Code of Conduct are placed in an alternative education program with hopes that they will correct their behavior. Students who commit first offenses of certain violations are sent to the district's in-house AEP (Horton). When students commit a second offense, they are recommended for expulsion from the district to an outside AEP, which is the Student Alternatives Program, Inc. located on Pike Boulevard in Weslaco. According to Mr. Garcia, students from Mercedes, Progreso, Donna, and La Villa were sent to this facility last year.

Due to concerns addressed with curriculum and instruction, and being that the program has only one certified educator, district administration recommended that the discretionary-expelled students be sent to JJAEP-McAllen (Southwest Keys, Inc.) for the 2017-2018 academic school year. Currently, WISD sends mandatory-expelled students to JJAEP in McAllen. Transportation is provided for these students.

Mr. Garcia informed the Board that WISD spent \$248,000 for the 2016-2017 school year. A total of \$200,000 has been budgeted for the 2017-2018 school year. The information provided below are the number of students who are returning for enrollment at DAEP because they did not complete their time.

Weslaco High School	5
East High School	11
Middle Schools	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Information was also provided to the Board on the history of discretionary and mandatory expulsions, which have decreased from year to year, from 2011 through 2017. Mr. Garcia acknowledged the principals for working with their students and using more restorative discipline approaches at the campuses.

Dr. Rodriguez wanted to know how these services would affect the transportation budget due to previous discussions on budget cuts for the transportation department. Mr. Sanchez assured the Board that the District would have to make some adjustments to the budget.

Isidoro Nieto wanted to know if the district received ADA for students attending the JJAEP Program. According to Mr. Garcia, the district does not receive ADA for mandatory expulsions because the state pays for these services. The district has a total of 60 slots reserved at a cost of \$86.00 per student in attendance at the JJAEP program. He will follow up on the ADA for the discretionary students.

Dr. Canales pointed out that the number of discretionary students has remained the same while the number of mandatory students has decreased. Principals and staff are working together to try to keep the kids at the campuses instead of sending them to an alternative setting. Since students have to travel back and forth to the McAllen facility, they are hoping this will serve as a deterrent for some students. The administration believes that discretionary students will receive a more comprehensive service with a certified teacher at the JJAEP facility and therefore recommended that the Board amend the MOU with Hidalgo County Juvenile Board for expulsion services.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to amend the Memorandum of Understanding between Hidalgo County Juvenile Board and Weslaco Independent School District for expulsion services. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### IV. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 6:25 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, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of A Public Officer or Employee (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074 and 551.071)
  - a. Superintendent's Recommendation for the Position of Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education & Leadership

B. Consultation Regarding Pending Litigation

1. Steven Ray Brooks v. Priscilla Canales and Weslaco ISD, C-3434-17-H, in the 389<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Hidalgo County, Texas

V. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:14 p.m. to take action on the following items:

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

1. Employment of Personnel

Superintendent Dr. Priscilla Canales recommended approval of contracts for certified professional personnel as presented.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Cavazos, Eric	ACE Program Coordinator	Roosevelt Elementary School
2. Gallegos, Jesus	Band Teacher	Weslaco East High School
3. Lopez, Norma	Parent Specialist	Weslaco East High School
4. Saurez, Vanessa	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher	Gonzalez Elementary School
5. Valle, Alexis	Credit Recovery Teacher	Weslaco High School
<b>ADDENDUM</b>		
1. Amador, Kassandra	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher	Gonzalez Elementary School
2. Garza, Diamond	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher	Weslaco High School
3. Hinojosa, Ricardo Noe, Jr.	English Teacher	Weslaco High School
4. Ortega, Mindy	Elementary Teacher	ELF Academy

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

2. Resignations

The superintendent recommended that the Board approve the resignation of certified professional personnel as presented.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Reason/Effective Date</b>
1. Cardoza, Corina	Teacher Silva Elementary School	Ms. Cardoza is relocating to San Antonio, Texas, effective May 27, 2017.
2. Diaz, Juana	Teacher - North Bridge Elementary School	Ms. Diaz is relocating to Magnolia, Texas, effective May 27, 2017.
3. Garcia, Daniel	Teacher Weslaco East High School	Mr. Garcia is resigning to accept a position closer to home and family, effective May 27, 2017.
4. Torres, Juan	Teacher Weslaco High School	Mr. Torres is resigning to accept a position with Brownsville ISD, effective May 27, 2017.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the resignation of certified professional personnel as presented. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Deliberation Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of A Public Officer or Employee (Tex. Gov't Code 551.074 and 551.071)
  - b. Superintendent's Recommendation for the Position of Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education & Leadership

Dr. Canales recommended that the Board approve Mr. Abel Aguilar for the position of Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education & Leadership. Mr. Aguilar is currently the Principal at Sam Houston Elementary.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the recommendation as presented by the superintendent. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Non-action item.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.