



# 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:	August 17, 2017
Time:	5:45 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  
Isidoro Nieto, Secretary  
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee  
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Trustee

*Patrick Kennedy joined the meeting at 5:49 p.m.*  
*Dr. Richard Rivera joined the meeting at 5:55 p.m.*  
*Oscar Caballero was absent.*

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

Superintendent Dr. Canales recommended that the Board approve the following trips as presented.

### Weslaco High School

- The Volleyball Team will participate in the Floresville Jaguar Classic Volleyball Tournament in Floresville, Texas, on August 17-19, 2017.
- The Varsity Football Team will travel to Richmond, Texas to participate in a non-district football game against Richmond George Ranch on September 2, 2017.
- The Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams will travel to Corpus Christi, Texas, on September 22-23, 2017 to participate in the 2017 Islander Splash Cross Country Invitational.
- The Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams will travel to Round Rock, Texas, on September 29-30, 2017 to participate in the 2017 McNeil Cross Country Invitational.
- Twenty migrant senior students from Weslaco High School, Weslaco East High School, Early College High School, and South Palm Gardens High School will attend an out-of-state college trip to Michigan on October 23-27, 2017. The students will visit Michigan State and Western Michigan University.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the out of valley trips as presented. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### IV. Discussion and Possible Action on a Revised Academic Calendar for the 2017-2018 School Year

Superintendent Dr. Canales provided the following information on the recommended adjustments to the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar as a result of changes in state law and the state testing calendar. Mrs. Sue Peterson, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Leadership and Instruction, surveyed staff on the change for the work day due to the state law requirement that school districts cannot have school on Memorial Day.

- The Weather Day originally scheduled for April 16, 2018 was moved to April 2, 2018 (Easter Monday).
- The last day of school for students moved from May 17, 2018 to May 25, 2018 due to STAAR testing at the elementary and middle school level the week of May 14, 2018.
- The Early Release day originally scheduled for May 17, 2018 moved to May 25, 2018.
- The Work Day original scheduled for May 18, 2018 moved to May 28, 2018.  
(As per changes in state law, districts cannot have school on Memorial Day)
- Enrichment Days for students: May 29, 30, 31, and June 1

Dr. Canales recommended that the Board approve the revised calendar in order to be in compliance with state law and to support the state testing calendar.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the revised Academic Calendar for the 2017-2018 school year as presented. Dr. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### V. Discussion and Possible Action on the WISD Student Handbook for the 2017-2018 School Year

The Student Handbook is the Texas Association of School Boards Model Student Handbook which is aligned to Board policy. The handbook outlines regulations and/or standards by which students abide. The standards will provide order and an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development. The handbook describes the expectations for behavior and conduct in the WISD community and outlines the procedures to be followed at all campuses.

Upon approval, the handbook will be made accessible on the district website in English and Spanish. Parents may also request a copy of the handbook from the campus principal.

The Superintendent recommended approval of the handbook.

Mr. Nieto wanted to know if all school districts followed the same handbook. Dr. Canales replied, "Yes".

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the WISD Student Handbook for the 2017-2018 school year as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action on the WISD Student Code of Conduct for the 2017-2018 School Year

The WISD Student Code of Conduct is visited every two (2) years by the school district administrators since the Texas Legislature convenes on a two (2) year cycle and either amends or adds new laws.

A district committee led by Mrs. Sue Peterson and secondary school administrators reviewed the TASB Model Student Code of Conduct and aligned it to the district policies. This document will assist district Administrators and staff in managing student behavior. The Code provides information to the parents and students regarding standards of Conduct, consequences of misconduct and procedures for administering discipline. A copy of the Student Code of Conduct will be posted on the district's website.

As per Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, school districts are mandated to develop and adopt a student code of conduct. Dr. Canales recommended that the Board adopt the Student Code of Conduct developed by the district committee.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the WISD Student Code of Conduct for the 2017-2018 school year as presented. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on an Optional Flexible School Day Program

Mrs. Norma Brewer, Student Support Services/State Compensatory Director, presented information on the Optional Flexible School Day Program during a Public Hearing held on Monday, August 14, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

The Texas Education Agency allows districts in Texas to provide flexible hours and days for attendance for students in any grade who have dropped out of school or are at risk of dropping out. The program will be implemented at Weslaco High School, Weslaco East High School, and South Palm Gardens High School. Students will have the opportunity to attend school at a flexible time that meets their individual needs. The flexible schedule will allow students who work or have families to attend school at a time that is more convenient for them. This program will also help WISD increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates. The district will receive funding for students as long as they attend class for a minimum of 45 minutes a day. Students enrolled in this program are required to take the TAKS or STAAR and will still be eligible to participate in UIL activities.

The Superintendent recommended approval of the Optional Flexible School Day Program as presented.

Board President Erasmo Lopez commented that this program has been offered to students for the past 7 years and it is a good program to renew because it helps students at risk of dropping out of school.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the Optional Flexible School Day Program as recommended by the superintendent. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action on Rescheduling the August 2017 Regular Board Meeting

Dr. Canales recommended that the Board consider changing the August Regular Board Meeting to Monday, August 21, 2017.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to reschedule the August Board Meeting to Monday, August 21, 2017 as recommended. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 5:54 p.m.

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)

X. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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

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. Gomez, Adrian	Special Education Teacher	Weslaco High School
2. Jimenez, Herica	Registered Nurse	Weslaco High School
3. Macias, Jesus Manuel	Criminal Justice Teacher	Weslaco High School
4. Martinez, Mariela	Science Teacher	Cuellar Middle School
5. Martinez, Yolanda	Counselor	Weslaco High School
6. Rodriguez, Rommel	Campus Instructional Facilitator	Central Middle School
7. Zamora, Carlos	Science Teacher	Central Middle School

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the contracts for certified professional personnel as recommended by the superintendent. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Patrick Kennedy, Andrew Gonzalez, Isidoro Nieto, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez. Dr. Rivera voted against the motion. Motion carried with a 4-1 vote.

2. Resignations

The Superintendent recommended that the Board accept the resignations as presented.

Name	Position/Location	Reason/Effective Date
1. Camacho, Antonio, Jr.	Spanish Teacher Weslaco High School	Mr. Camacho has been on administrative leave since April 13, 2017. He resigned for personal reasons, effective August 11, 2017.
2. Candanoza, Paola D.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher Sam Houston Elementary School	Resigned to accept a promotion as Counselor with Progreso ISD, effective May 27, 2017.
3. Juarez, Liza	Counselor Weslaco High School	Resigned to accept a position with another school district, effective June 20, 2017.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to accept the resignations as presented. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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)

Non-action.

#### XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.