



# WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street  
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

**W**inners. **I**nnovators. **S**cholars. **D**oers.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:	Regular Board Meeting
Place:	WISD Board Room
Location:	319 W. Fourth Street
Date:	August 21, 2017
Time:	6:20 P.M.

## MINUTES

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

Erasmo Lopez, President  
Oscar Caballero, Vice President  
Isidoro Nieto, Secretary  
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee  
Patrick Kennedy, Trustee  
Dr. Richard Rivera, Trustee  
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Trustee

### III. Opening Prayer

The invocation was delivered by Gilbert Reboloso, Weslaco High School Campus Instructional Facilitator.

### IV. Pledge of Allegiance/Texas Pledge

The following students from Weslaco High School led the pledge of allegiance:

- Immanuel Lopez is the son of Jose and Zenia Lopez. He is a senior at Weslaco High School and is a four-year member of the Panther Corps and Head Drum Major. Immanuel recently won first place for Outstanding Team Conducting during the Contempo Leadership Camp. He has also won four Division I ratings in Solo & Ensemble competition and three superior ratings at marching camp. Outside band, Immanuel was a state qualifier for Business Professionals of America. Immanuel is a member of the Science National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society and participates in Destination Imagination. In the future, Immanuel plans to attend St. Edward's University and major in Graphic Design.
- Gabriela Saenz is the daughter of Jaime and Laura Saenz. Gabriela is a junior and first assistant Drum Major of the Panther Corps. Gabriela has received Division I ratings for the past two years in Solo and Ensemble competition and she is a member of the Conducting Team that recently won first place. Gabriela is a superior honor roll student and is currently ranked third in her junior class. Gabriela has participated in the National Hispanic Institute as a member of the 2017 Texas Lorenzo De Zavala Youth

Legislative Session House of Representatives. After graduation, Gabriela plans to attend the University of Texas in Dallas and major in Computer Science.

- Alexis N. Gomez is the daughter of Margarita Gomez. She is a senior and assistant Drum Major of the Panther Corps. Alexis has earned four Division II distinctions in UIL Solo & Ensemble competition and was part of the Conducting Team that won first place in camp. Alexis is also active in Business Professionals of America where she was a state qualifier. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Jazz Band, and Destination Imagination. Alexis hopes to attend Texas A&M University in College Station to study Biomedical Sciences.

## V. Awards and Recognitions

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program recently recognized several students for their exceptional achievement on AP exams. These students took part in college-level courses while still in high school to earn college credit, advanced placement or both.

AP Scholars completed three or more AP exams with scores of 3 or higher in subjects that include Biology, Chemistry, World History, and English Literature.

Weslaco East High School		
Marcos T. Aleman	Ariel Becerra	Jacob D. Blas
Baldemar Castillo	Rebecca I. Cruz	Arantxa Espinoza
Joyce C. Garcia	Haley P. Germain	Leslie G. Guerra-Jimenez
Yaritz Y. Marin	Pablo E. Murguia-Bravo	Kimberly V. Ramos
Amalia A. Rivera	Katya V. Vallejo	

Weslaco High School		
Clarissa De La Garza	Matthew DeSantiago	Hannah Diaz
Rolando Garcia	Lorena Guerra	Sarah Johnson
Luis Ledesma	Jasmin Medrano	Morgan Parker
Cecilia Pena	Samuel Reyes	Prycilla Rios
Lesly Villanueva	Jenna Wells	

**Alejandra Garcia:** Earned the AP Scholar with Honor award. This student had an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scored a 3 or higher on four exams.

**Cesar Maldonado:** Earned the AP Scholar with Distinction award. This student had an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scored a 3 or higher on five or more exams.

## REGION VII REGIONAL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

The Board acknowledged Weslaco ISD Athletic Director Oscar Riojas who received recognition as the Region VII Regional Athletic Director of the Year for the second year in a row. Coach Riojas has been instrumental in shaping the Weslaco’s athletics into a district of champions for the past ten years.

With a coaching staff of over 250, Coach Riojas oversees the middle school and high school sports programs in Weslaco ISD. He has served as a speaker at numerous state conferences and has held several clinics reviewing UIL policies. During his tenure, the Panthers and Wildcats have advanced to state competition in different sports. Both boys and girls teams have won numerous district championships or area championships in football, basketball, cross country, swimming, golf, tennis, track and field, softball, baseball, wrestling, and soccer. The powerlifting boys and girls teams have also won numerous state championships.

## VI. Public Comments

- Ramon Montalvo III, 208 S. Texas, Weslaco, Tx.

Mr. Montalvo provided the following information to the Board:

› Background:

- Specializes in Public Entity Insurance for the past 40 years.
- His agency has staff of 8 who reside in the community
- Taxpayer
- Long-time supporter: Kiss Cam, annual scholarship, and the recent firework show

› Named agent for WISD in 2011

- Detected major deficiencies:

› New campuses (Cuellar & Sam Houston) were not on the list of properties to be insured

› Buildings that were no longer around were included on the list.

› Brought in an expert in property valuation that made major adjustments in property limits, which most were under insured in 2011.

› Saved the District 15% due to remodel upgrades

› Continue to be the eyes and ears on any new exposure

- Suggested that staff upgrade the present value at the stadium due to the installation of new turf.

- Has also made several suggestions regarding contents that were under insured at many locations.

› His agency was able to assist in a situation where a campus received damage as a result of flooding, but was not covered. They were able to come in and get the matter resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the district.

› As a former board member, he insisted on the Worker's Comp. going to a self-insured plan, which resulted in a significant amount of savings for the District.

According to Mr. Montalvo, his agency produced a proposal that fully complies with the specification providing full limit coverage of \$438,000,000 as called for on the specifications. He further states, "I've seen the competition say they were offering the same, but if you dig deeper, limits could be reduced, items left out, and Inland Marine policy could have less coverage such as: not covering rental equipment that's used, or equipment breakdown could not have the spoilage limits that you need. We strongly recommend that the District take advantage of the 1% name storm deductible, which is huge."

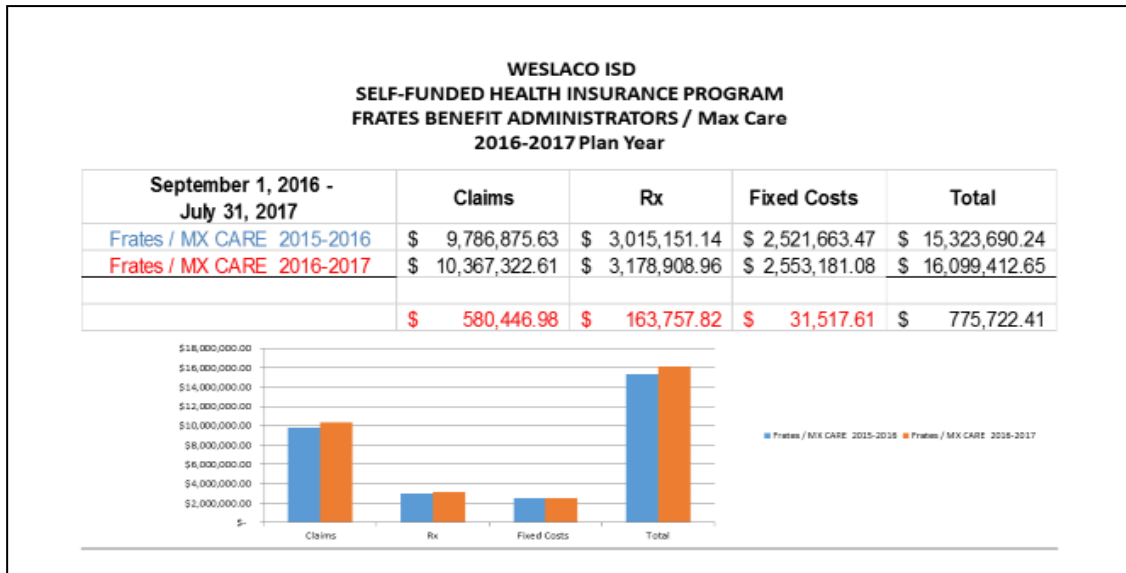
He provided the following example: 1% of a building valued at \$40 million would be \$400,000 which is what the district would have to pay in case of a name storm.

He stated, "We are offering that and, in addition, there is a maximum \$1 million limit on the deductible for any year. So, that to me compares to what you had before and probably would be a 2% or higher with somebody else where your maximum would be \$8 million if there was a 4 or 5 category hurricane that blew through. The cost to do that is about the same as what you had last year, about \$700,000. Public entity insurance is complex, it has many variables and even consultants have difficulty navigating through it. If there was an apples to apples comparison and not a stripped down coverage, there would be a minimal difference in premium. So, based on what I know about the other proposer and the offer, my broker could offer about \$160,000 less, but then you would have less coverage. Finally, our agency has had a recent experience with the same competing agency on a large district down the Rio Grande River. We had an auto quote that was a good deal higher, but the other quote did not have physical damage and that's why they were lower. You have to know you really get what you pay for. I want to thank you for your time and I hope we can continue to be of service. Remember, if there are large differences in premiums, it only means large gaps in coverage.

VII. Superintendent's Report

• **Insurance**

Mr. Mike De La Rosa, Risk Management Director, provided the following report.



- Total spent on plan year 2016-2017 as of July 31, 2017 is \$16,099,412.65 compared to \$15,323,690.24 spent in 2015-2016, for a 5% increase of \$775,722.41.

**WESLACO ISD  
SELF-FUNDED WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM  
July 2017**

	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
Budgeted for Plan Year	\$ 500,000	\$ 300,000
Claims	105	95
Total Medical Claims, Rx, Admin, Indemnity & Services Incurred Through July	\$ 384,972	\$ 379,149
Total Paid through July Inclusive of all Plan Years	\$ 202,167	\$ 182,593
Total Reserves	\$ 219,167	

- Total Reserves: \$219,167
- Staff will present a recap for total plan year ending September 1, 2017, at the next board meeting.

Dr. Rivera wanted to know if staff had audited and monitored the fixed cost due to lawsuits that had surfaced regarding issues with the fixed cost several years ago.

Mr. De La Rosa replied that staff reconciles the fixed cost every month. A statement is received from the company every month and staff runs it against payroll to make sure it matches.

Dr. Rivera pointed out that a discussion had been held in regard to doing an audit on the health insurance. The school attorney replied that the consultant recommended that they wait until the end of the plan year before initiating the audit.

## 2017 Accountability Ratings

Mrs. Sue Peterson, Assistant Superintendent Secondary Education & Leadership; and Mr. Abel Aguilar, Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education & Leadership, presented the 2017 Accountability Ratings.

- The District is rated on the following four (4) Indexes:

<i>Index Measures</i>	
• <b>Index 1 Student Achievement</b>	• Provides a snapshot of all student performance across subjects
• <b>Index 2 Student Progress</b>	• Measures year-to-year progress
• <b>Index 3 Closing the Performance Gaps</b>	• Emphasizes the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged students
• <b>Index 4 Postsecondary Readiness</b>	• Emphasizes the importance of earning a high school diploma that provides students with the foundation necessary for success in college, job training programs, the workforce, or the military

- Index 4: Staff is looking at the number of elementary and middle schools students who scored at the Meets grade level or above.

High Schools: Includes the graduation rate, graduation plan, and post-secondary indicators.

- The chart below shows the index comparison from 2016 to 2017:
  - The District had increases at almost every campus and at almost every indicator for each index (areas highlighted in green reflects an increase).
  - All campuses are MET STANDARD for this school year.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out that the campuses that did not show increases remained the same. Dr. Rivera commended staff for a job well-done.

Campus	Index 1: Achievement		Index 2: Progress		Index 3: Closing Gap		Index 4: Post Secondary		Rating	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
<b>District Targets</b>	60	60	22	22	28	28	60	60		
Weslaco ISD	70	72	39	38	38	41	77	77	Met	Met
<b>High School Targets</b>	60	60	17	17	30	30	60/21*	60/21*		
WHS	70	69	20	22	37	38	79	79	Met	Met
WEHS	65	68	23	28	37	41	76	79	Met	Met
Early College	67	72	18	21	39	41	20*	40*	Improvement Required	Met
<b>Middle School Targets</b>	60	60	30	30	26	26	13	13		
Mary Hoge	67	70	36	36	37	39	30	28	Met	Met
Cuellar	62	70	35	38	31	38	29	34	Met	Met
Central	72	75	39	39	39	42	47	55	Met	Met
B. Garza	70	75	35	35	34	40	34	37	Met	Met
<b>Elementary Targets</b>	60	60	32	32	28	28	12	12		
Roosevelt	66	67	39	41	35	37	29	32	Met	Met
Sam Houston	86	89	49	55	49	54	44	49	Met	Met
Silva	68	71	37	39	30	40	23	34	Met	Met
Gonzalez	72	72	43	42	40	43	35	39	Met	Met
Margo	81	81	42	46	44	46	39	41	Met	Met
Airport	76	76	42	46	39	40	30	32	Met	Met
Memorial	80	84	43	47	42	45	41	46	Met	Met
North Bridge	64	68	38	41	34	38	25	30	Met	Met
Rico	68	69	37	46	37	37	30	34	Met	Met
Cleckler-Heald	80	83	45	52	43	50	36	44	Met	Met
Ybarra	71	72	38	38	37	42	25	29	Met	Met
<b>AEA Targets</b>	35	35			13	11	33	33		
SPG	59	56	N/A	N/A	36	38	100	100	Met Alternative	Met Alternative

Mr. Abel Aguilar presented information on the Distinction Designations received for the District.

### *Distinction Designations*

- Campuses that achieve the MET STANDARD rating are eligible to earn distinction designations
- These are earned when the campus performs at the top of their group of 40
- The 40 schools are grouped by size, grade level, and student demographics
- Weslaco ISD had a significant increase in the number of Distinction Designations received by our elementary and middle schools

- The table below shows the categories by content area and multiple indexes.
  - Secondary campuses can earn up to 7 distinctions
  - Elementary campuses can earn up to 6 distinctions
  - Social Studies is not measured in the elementary grade level.

### 2017 Accountability Distinction Designations

School	Read/ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies	Student Progress	Closing Gap	Post-Secondary	Num Met of Num Eval
Weslaco ISD								0 of 1
Weslaco High								0 of 7
Weslaco East High		✓			✓			2 of 7
CTE Early College High								0 of 7
Mary Hoge Middle						✓		1 of 7
Cuellar Middle		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	5 of 7
Central Middle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7 of 7
B. Garza Middle	✓			✓		✓	✓	4 of 7
Roosevelt								0 of 6
Sam Houston	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	6 of 6
Silva								0 of 6
Gonzalez								0 of 6
Margo	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	5 of 6
Airport								0 of 6
Memorial	✓	✓			✓		✓	4 of 6
North Bridge								0 of 6
Rico			✓					1 of 6
Cleckler-Heald	✓		✓		✓	✓		4 of 6
Ybarra								0 of 6

■ Not Eligible

### *Distinctions from Year-to-Year*

	Total Number of Campuses with Distinctions	
	2016	2017
Elementary	3	5
Middle Schools	2	4
High Schools	1	1

## *Distinctions from Year-to-Year*

	Total Number of Distinction Designations	
	2016	2017
Elementary	6	20
Middle Schools	8	17
High Schools	2	2
<b>District Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>

- Overall, the District had a total of 39 distinctions, an increase of 23 for the 2017 school year.

Superintendent Dr. Canales acknowledged two (2) campuses who met all their distinctions:

- Sam Houston – received 6 of 6
- Central Middle School – received 7 of 7

Dr. Rivera commended the following schools for a job well-done in receiving the following distinctions:

- Cuellar Middle School – received 5 of 7
- B. Garza Middle School – received 4 of 7
- Sam Houston Elementary School – received 6 of 6
- Margo Elementary School – received 5 of 6
- Memorial Elementary School – received 4 of 6
- Cleckler-Heald Elementary School – received 4 of 6

Andrew Gonzalez congratulated all the principals and teachers for their hard work and achievements. He wished everyone the best of luck for the coming school year.

### • **FIRST Rating for Fiscal Year 2015-2016**

Dr. Canales informed the Board that WISD received a Superior Achievement Rating by obtaining a PERFECT SCORE of 100 out of a maximum 100 points. This is the first year WISD has obtained a perfect score.

- WISD has received a Superior Achievement rating for the past 14 years.

**Weslaco Independent School District  
FIRST Rating**

- On August 8, 2017, TEA released the preliminary ratings for the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Indicators for the fiscal year 2015-2016.
- Weslaco ISD received a Superior Achievement Rating by obtaining a PERFECT SCORE of 100 out of a maximum 100 points.
- The Superior Achievement rating shows that our Business Office Staff has been doing a very good job managing the District's finances. This is the fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) year in a row that Weslaco ISD receives the Superior Achievement rating.
- Within two months of the release of its final School FIRST rating (or preliminary FIRST rating if not appealed), school districts must announce and hold a public meeting to distribute a financial management report that explains the district's rating and its performance under each of the 15 indicators for the current and prior fiscal year.
- We would like to tentatively hold the public hearing on October 9, 2017 before the regular Board meeting.

The board members congratulated Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance, and his staff for a job well-done.

- **Convocation 2017**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation was held on August 16, 2017, for all staff members. This year’s theme was “Lit for Literacy.”

Dr. Canales thanked all the principals, teachers, directors, and all the departments for a wonderful event. The Convocation featured great student performances and a keynote speaker.



- Dr. Canales thanked the committee members for all their work in preparing for this event and making sure that everything ran smoothly, from the graphic design to the layout of the program, working with the kids, and getting the buses to the Performing Center on a timely manner.

2017 Convocation Committee Members
Dr. Priscilla Canales, Superintendent
Sue Peterson, Assistant Superintendent Secondary Education & Leadership
Sergio Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Administration
Abel Aguilar, Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education & Leadership
Norma Brewer, Director of Student Support Services
Elizabeth Alaniz, Director of Staff Development
Carlos Robledo, Director of Instructional Television
Arminda Munoz, Director of Public Relations
Ronald Bissett, Coordinator of Fine Arts
Erica Garcia, Director Parental Involvement
Rick Flores, Specialist of Evaluation & Accountability
Elias Trevino, Director of Bilingual/ESL
Araceli Chavarin, Weslaco East High School CIF





Dr. Canales concluded with the following remarks: “WISD is the Right Choice, where everybody comes together to make sure that when our students graduate, our diploma is gold and everybody recognizes that across the state and the nation.”

Board President Erasmo Lopez commented that WISD students are constantly receiving recognition for their achievements throughout the year, which is attributed to the dedication that teachers and principals have in making sure that students are successful.

#### VIII. Consent Agenda

Board President Erasmo Lopez pulled out items T and U for further information. Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of the items pulled out for discussion. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

##### A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 6, 2017 and the Special Meeting of August 7, 2017

The Board approved the minutes as presented.

##### B. Approval of Out of Valley Trips

No trips were presented.

##### C. Approval of 2017-2018 Membership Fee to Participate in Region One’s Library Services and Media Cooperative

The Board approved the agreement with Region One Education Service Center to participate in the Region One Library Services and Media Cooperative. The cost of these services is based on WISD’s ADA of 17,409 for the 2017-2018 school year. The fee is \$3.10 per student. Each campus will pay an amount equivalent to its ADA for a district total of \$53,967.90.

WISD will receive the following services:

- MackinVia eResource Management System containing shared eBooks and databases
- Virtual Library Databases for elementary, middle school and high school level reference and research use
- Professional development:
  - › Provide on-site support
  - › Monthly Library Leadership Network meetings for district library contacts

- Library Purchasing Co-op will allow members to participate in the Library Purchasing Co-op for school purchases:
  - › Consultants (authors, illustrators, storyteller, trainers, presenters)
  - › Instructional Software/Applications, Library Books, Furniture, Supplies, Multi-media equipment and magazine subscriptions.

D. Approval of 2017-2018 Membership Fee to Participate in the Equity Center

The Board approved the membership renewal to participate in the Equity Center for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Equity Center is the largest research and advocacy organization of its kind in the United States which focuses solely on advocating for the fair and equitable treatment of Texas taxpayers and children. The Equity Center provides reliable information and data school districts can count on when it matters most. Their goal is to achieve an equitable and adequate school finance system that provides all public school districts fair and equal access to Texas' resources, while recognizing real cost differences among students and districts.

The Equity Center is a nonpartisan non-profit organization of over 700 school districts across the state ranging in size, demographics, and location. The membership fee remains the same as last year at \$9,500.00 for the 2017-2018 school year.

E. Approval of Contract Agreement with Devinco Counseling Services to Provide Mental Health Counseling Services to Weslaco ISD Students

The Board approved the contract with Devinco Counseling Services for the purpose of providing mental health counseling services to Weslaco ISD students.

Services are free of charge to the district. The term of contract will be from August 14, 2017 through August 14, 2019.

F. Approval of Contract Agreement with Positive Awakenings Counseling Agency to Provide Mental Health Counseling Services to Weslaco ISD Students

The Board approved the contract with the Positive Awakenings Counseling Center for the purpose of providing mental health counseling services to Weslaco ISD students.

Services are free of charge to the district. The term of contract will be from August 14, 2017 through August 14, 2019.

G. Approval of Contract Agreement with Serving Children and Adults in Need, Inc. (SCAN) to Provide Mental Health Counseling Services to Weslaco ISD Students

The Board approved the contract with Serving Children and Adults in Need, Inc. (SCAN) for the purpose of providing mental health counseling services to Weslaco ISD students.

Services are free of charge to the district. The term of contract will be from August 14, 2017 through August 14, 2019.

H. Approval of Contract Agreement with Sky's the Limit Counseling Center to Provide Mental Health Counseling Services to Weslaco ISD Students

The Board approved the contract with Sky's the Limit Counseling Center for the purpose of providing mental health counseling services to Weslaco ISD students.

Services are free of charge to the district. The term of contract will be from August 14, 2017 through August 14, 2019.

I. Approval of Contract Agreement with the Counseling Center to Provide Mental Health Counseling Services to Weslaco ISD Students

The Board approved the contract with the Counseling Center for the purpose of providing mental health counseling services to Weslaco ISD students.

Services are free of charge to the district. The term of contract will be from August 14, 2017 through August 14, 2019.

J. Approval of Contract Agreement with Valerie M. Aguero Olivarez to Provide Mental Health Counseling Services to Weslaco ISD Students

The Board approved the contract with Valerie M. Aguero Olivarez for the purpose of providing mental health counseling services to Weslaco ISD students.

Services are free of charge to the district. The term of contract will be from August 14, 2017 through August 14, 2019.

K. Approval of Independent Contract with Consultant Heriberto Reynoso of Reybotics for Migrant Problem Based Learning Experience

The migrant students enrolled in the Career & Technology course, “Practicum in STEM” will have the opportunity to intern with, and be mentored by former NASA engineer, Heriberto Reynoso, while they work to develop a robotic unit that will provide a sustainable source of light in a Weslaco “colonia” for Hidalgo County Precinct 1. Throughout the school year students will be bused, periodically, to the Reybotics workshop in Mercedes to begin designing and building their robot prototype.

Professionals in the STEM field via skype conferencing and engineers from NASA, SpaceX and other leading companies will be accessible to our migrant students to assist them with completion of this very challenging and exciting project.

WISD will pay \$80,000 (migrant funds) to the consultant for services to be rendered.

L. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Weslaco Independent School District and Texas State Technical College (TSTC) to Offer Dual Enrollment Courses for the 2017-2018 School Year

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with Texas State Technical College (TSTC) for the 2017-2018 school year as presented.

Due to the diversity in programs offered by local post-secondary institutions, STC and TSTC, district CTE students will benefit from dual credit opportunities in programs that STC does not provide. CTE students will be served within the 2017-2018 school year by CTE teachers who serve as TSTC adjuncts. CTE students who take advantage of this opportunity can further their education by completing credit hours towards a TSTC Associate’s degree in the program tied to their district CTE courses.

This agreement will save students both time and money. Approximately \$5,000 in student tuition fees will be allocated through CTE funds.

- M. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Weslaco Independent School District and the Region One Education Service Center's Adult Education Program for the Purpose of Establishing an Adult Education and Literacy Program for Eligible Participants from August 2017 through June 2018

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Region One Education Service Center's Adult Education Program for the purpose of establishing English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for eligible participants during the 2017-2018 school year.

The establishment of the ESL classes is to provide Weslaco citizens the opportunity to attend classes to learn the English language. The classes will be held at the WISD's Library Services facility which is an environment appropriate, safe, and secure for the implementation of instructional services to adult learners. This initiative is at no cost to the district with the exception of the use of the facility.

- N. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Weslaco Independent School District and Hidalgo County Head Start Program for Special Education Services for the 2017-2018 School Year

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hidalgo County Head Start Program for the 2017-2018 school year.

The purpose of this agreement is for Weslaco ISD to collaborate with Hidalgo County Head Start for the purpose of evaluating and servicing individuals with disabilities at Hidalgo County Head Start Program who reside within WISD boundaries as required by law.

No additional costs will be incurred as a result of entering into this agreement. All services will be provided to eligible students in Head Start Programs are required by law whether the agreement is approved or not.

- O. Approval of Agreement Between Franklin Covey Client Sales, Inc. and Weslaco Independent School District for the Leader in Me Coaching System

The Board approved the agreement with Franklin Covey Client Sales, Inc. for the implementation of the Leader in Me Coaching System.

The Leader in Me Foundation has provided funding to each middle school for one day of coaching to support the implementation of Leader in Me. Franklin Covey found additional coaching to be beneficial at the sites where they have piloted the Leader in Me for middle schools. An additional two days of coaching for the first year is recommended for middle schools that are becoming Leader in Me campuses.

This agreement will provide two additional days of onsite coaching for each middle school at a total cost of \$22,600.00 to be paid with local funds.

- P. Approval of the Weslaco Independent School District's Annual Performance Goals, Activities, and Strategies Implemented with High School Allotment Funds

The Board approved the District's annual performance goals, activities and strategies implemented with the high school allotment funds as presented.

In accordance with the Texas Education Code (TEC), Chapter 42, Subchapter E, the Texas Education Agenda distributes funds to school districts based on the average daily attendance in grades 6-12. The intent of the High School Allotment funds are to:

- Prepare underachieving students to enter institutions of higher education
- Encourage students to pursue advanced academic opportunities
- Provide opportunities for students to take academically rigorous courses
- Align secondary and postsecondary curriculum and expectations

**Goals:**

- The percentage of students graduating from high school in four years will increase from 88% to 90%.
- The percentage of students successfully completing advanced courses at the high school level will increase from 28% to 33%
- The percentage of College-Ready graduates will increase from 20% to 25%.

**Q. Approval of T-TESS Professional Appraisal Calendar, Timeline, and Approve List of Certified Appraisers for the 2017-2018 School Year**

The Board approved the T-TESS Professional Appraisal Calendar, Timeline, and approved the list of Certified Appraisers for the 2017-2018 school year.

Teachers are required to be appraised each year using the Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). The appraisal calendar and the certified appraisers must be approved for teacher observations and evaluations. Prohibited days include the days before and after holidays and days scheduled for testing.

2017-2018 T-TESS Calendar	
Appraisal Period	September 11, 2017 thru March 29, 2018
Prohibited Observation Days	August 28 thru September 8, 2017 November 17 - 27, 2017 December 21, 2017 January 9, 2018 March 9, 19, 29, 2018 April 3, 2018  & Any other days scheduled for end-of-semester tests, state-mandated assessments, and other standardized tests.
End of Year Conference	On or before April 27, 2018

The timeline and list of Appraisers are on file.

**R. Approval of Purchase of Continued Istation Online Interactive Program for the Fifth Year to Enhance the Reading Abilities for Students in Elementary, Middle Schools, Early College High School, Boot Camp and Horton that will Include a Home Bundle to Support At-Home Reading Practice**

The Board approved the sole source purchase of the Istation online program to enhance the reading abilities for students in Elementary, Middle schools, CTE Early College High School, Bootcamp and Horton. The purchase will also include a Home Bundle to support at home reading practice.

The Istation online program will provide an online interactive reading program consisting of engaging interactive content in a game-like format. This scientific validated and research-based online program targets reading with an emphasis on fluency, spelling, comprehension, vocabulary, phonics, and phonological awareness. This program was selected by a committee of teachers and

administrators. It is one of 10 approved reading assessments on the Commissioner’s list. Districts are required to use one these assessments when gathering student information for PEIMS reading indicator code reporting. The total cost of this program is \$158,576.50.

S. Approval of Purchase of the Digital Science Curriculum STEMscopes from Accelerate Learning, Inc. for Grades K-12 for the 2017-2018 School Year

The Board approved the sole source purchase of the digital science curriculum STEMscopes from Accelerate Learning, Inc. for grades K-12 for the 2017-2018 school year.

The renewal of this digital subscription to the STEMscopes digital science curriculum has been utilized at K-12 grade levels at all elementary, middle school, and high school campuses. This curriculum allows teachers to create a digital student roster, assign formal assessments, grades, and vocabulary interactives. It also provides support to new science teachers with multiple lesson plans that utilize the 5E science instructional model of Engagement, Exploration, Explanation, Extension, and Evaluations. The subscriptions services 12,443 students in grade levels K-12 across all campuses in WISD, including district Disciplinary Alternative Education Programs and Early College High Schools. The cost of this program is \$70,000.

T. Approval of TASB Policy Update 108

This item was pulled out for discussion.

U. Approval of Revisions to Policy FFA (Local) Student Welfare: Wellness and Health Services

This item was pulled out for discussion.

V. Approval to Increase the Price of Adult Meals for Breakfast and Lunch at School Cafeterias for School Year 2017-2018

The Board approved the price increase of an adult meal for breakfast and lunch as follows:

	Current	Proposed	Increase
Breakfast	\$ 2.05	\$ 2.10	\$ 0.05
Lunch	\$ 3.60	\$ 3.70	\$ 0.10

The price increase for adult meals will become effective for the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

W. Approval to Reject the Proposals Received for Child Nutrition – Cafeteria Tables & Equipment - Outdoor Tables Only (Proposal #17-06-45)

As recommended by the administration and superintendent, the Board rejected all of the bids received for the outdoor tables which was part of the proposal #17-06-45 Child Nutrition – Cafeteria Tables & Equipment.

X. Approval of Extension Awards:

1. Embroidered Items (Proposal #16-08-48)

The Board awarded the extension for embroidered items to the following vendors:

Vendor	Location	Award Status
Embroidery Express	Weslaco, Texas	Primary Vendor
Duratex	Pharr, Texas	Primary Vendor
Water Colors Printing	Weslaco, Texas	Primary Vendor

Stitching services to items such as shirts, jackets, caps, and backpacks is provided. These embroidered items are purchased by district administrators for students and staff as a reward or as an incentive for their hard work and dedication. Purchases will be made from the vendor that can provide the required item, delivery in the quickest manner and has the best price. The term of contract will be for one (1) year effective August 15, 2017.

2. Automotive & Bus – Parts & Supplies District-Wide (Proposal #16-08-49) - Extension

The Board awarded the extension for Automotive & Bus – Parts & Supplies district-wide to the following vendors:

Vendor	Location	Category
NAPA Auto Parts	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive
O'Reilly Auto Parts	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive
Bill Bunton Auto Parts	Mercedes, Texas	Automotive
Burton Companies	Weslaco, Texas	Automotive
Chalks Bus Parts	Houston, Texas	Bus
Creative Bus Sales	Irving, Texas	Bus
Rush Bus Center	Selma, Texas	Bus

Automotive and bus parts, equipment, supplies, and related items are purchased and used for the repair and maintenance of the district's bus and vehicle fleets throughout the school year. These items will be purchased as needed and only one quote will be required from any of the listed vendors awarded in each category. However, if an item cost is over \$500, then three quotes will be obtained from the listed vendors. The vendor that offers the lowest prices and has the items available in stock (or can get them faster) will be awarded the purchase.

Y. Approval of Proposal Awards:

1. Athletics: Weslaco High School Soccer Supplies (Proposal #17-07-60)

The Board awarded the proposal for soccer supplies to the following vendors:

Company	Location	Award Amount
American Team Sports	Richardson, Texas	\$24,019.75
Barcelona Sporting Goods	La Feria, Texas	\$ 3,362.25
Bill Guthrie Sports	Harlingen, Texas	\$ 8,942.20
Eastbay, Inc.	Wausau, Wisconsin	\$ 5,966.30
GTM Sportswear	Manhattan, Kansas	\$ 5,872.50
MCM Sporting Goods	Mission, Texas	\$ 1,306.00
Pyramid School Products	Tampa, Florida	\$ 3,057.28
S&S Worldwide	Colchester, CT	\$ 201.96
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$52,728.24</b>

This proposal includes soccer supplies for Weslaco High School, Bea Garza Middle School, and Central Middle School. Supplies will be purchased as needed throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

2. Athletics: Weslaco East High School Soccer Supplies (Proposal #17-07-61)

The Board awarded the proposal for soccer supplies to the following vendors:

Company	Location	Award Amount
American Team Sports	Richardson, Texas	\$ 5,827.55
Barcelona Sporting Goods	La Feria, Texas	\$ 1,167.00
Bill Guthrie Sports	Harlingen, Texas	\$ 16,855.02
Eastbay, Inc.	Wausau, Wisconsin	\$ 5,385.99
McAllen Sports	McAllen, Texas	\$ 2,266.00
Pyramid School Products	Tampa, Florida	\$ 508.88
Soccer.com	Hillsborough, NC	\$ 6,635.65
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 38,646.09</b>

This proposal includes soccer supplies for Weslaco East High School, Cuellar Middle School, and Mary Hoge Middle School. Supplies will be purchased as needed throughout the 2017-2018 school year.

3. Plumbing Supplies and Equipment District-Wide (Proposal #17-08-64)

The Board awarded the proposal for plumbing supplies and equipment to the following vendors:

Vendor	Location	Award Status
Bush Supply	Harlingen, Texas	Primary Vendor
Central Plumbing & Electric	Weslaco, Texas	Primary Vendor
Morrison Supply Co.	McAllen, Texas	Primary Vendor

The total amount of the purchase cannot be determined at this time since it is not known which items or quantities of items will be purchased throughout the year, nor from what vendor will they be purchased. However, if the cost of the items being purchased total more than \$500, quotes will be obtained from all three vendors to ensure the district is getting the best price, value, and service.

Z. Approval of Budget Amendments

The Board approved the budget amendments as presented.

1. Weslaco East High School (Dr. Raul Cantu, Jr.) – Local Maintenance Fund: \$250.00  
To reclassify funds to reimburse administrators for travel expenses.
2. State Vocational (Sandra R. Avila) – To reclassify funds to cover travel expenses for Summer professional development and trainings for staff, and to pay for summer student tuition for ECHS students: \$27,000
3. State Gifted & Talented (Samantha J. Mize) - To reclassify funds to purchase computer and laptop, and office furniture for GT Director: \$ 5,865.00

Transfers to/from Fund Balance & Changes in Revenues, Other Resources/Uses

1. Local Maintenance Fund (Javiel Ruiz – Budget Director) Debt Service Fees: - \$1,558  
Javiel Ruiz – Budget Director Operating Transfer Out: \$1,558

To decrease budget for debt issuance costs of Limited Maintenance Tax Notes, Series 2017 & increase budget of Operating Transfer Out due to a refund in estimated debt fees.



AA. Approval of Monthly Tax Adjustments for June 2017 & July 2017

The Board approved the tax adjustments for the months of June and July 2017 as recommended by the Hidalgo County Tax Office.

All the tax adjustments are listed in the monthly tax collection report summarized by tax year (current & prior years) and is further broken down by the type of tax involved (M&O, I&S, etc.)

Listed below are the total tax adjustments for June 2017:

Type of Tax	Current Levy	Prior Years Levies	Roll Back Taxes	Total
M & O Taxes	(\$ 24,142.49)	(\$ 6,614.03)	\$ 0.00	(\$ 30,756.52)
I & S Taxes	\$ 0.00	(\$ 317.43)	\$ 0.00	(\$ 317.43)
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>(\$24,142.49)</b>	<b>(\$ 6,931.46 )</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>(\$ 31,073.95)</b>

The Board approved the tax adjustments for the months of July 2017 as recommended by the Hidalgo County Tax Office. Listed below are the total tax adjustments for July 2017:

Type of Tax	Current Levy	Prior Years Levies	Roll Back Taxes	Total
M & O Taxes	(\$ 73,54)	(\$ 14,679.25)	\$ 0.00	(\$ 14,752.79)
I & S Taxes	\$ 0.00	(\$ 2,100.94)	\$ 0.00	(\$ 2,100.94)
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>(\$ 73,54)</b>	<b>(\$ 16,278.29)</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>(\$ 16,351.83)</b>

These negative tax adjustments represent a decrease in the tax collections for the year.

ITEMS PULLED OUT FOR DISCUSSION:

T. Approval of TASB Policy Update 108

This item was pulled out by Board President Erasmo Lopez for informational purposes. Mr. Lopez mentioned that the Board met in a workshop setting to review and discuss these policies and the first reading of Policy Update 108 was also presented to the Board during the Regular Board Meeting held on July 6, 2017.

The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) recommend that the Board approve the changes to the local policies as presented.

Mr. Sergio Garcia, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, provided a summary of the policies:

- EF (Instructional Resources): The term “instructional materials” has been replaced with the broader term “instructional resources” to clarify the scope of the policy; deleting detail about APPEAL documents that is addressed in the grievance policies; and Clarifying at Guiding Principals that a parent may request that his or her child not be permitted access to challenged resources.
- EFA (Instructional Resources – Instructional Materials): This policy has been deleted.
- EFAA (Instructional Materials – Selection and Adoption): This policy is recommended for deletion.
- EHDB (Alternative Methods for Earning Credit – Credit by Examination with Prior instruction): Revisions to local policy on credit by examination with prior instruction are to clarify that the examinations used must be board approved and to reflect current statutory wording about failing to earn credit “or a final grade” because of excessive absences.
- EIF (Academic Achievement – Graduation): Policy has been revised to delete references to the minimum, recommended, and advanced/distinguished achievement graduation programs.

- EL (Campus Charters): Recommended revisions are intended to better align with the statutory provisions and current TEA expectations and include: clarification at the beginning of the policy that the term “campus charter” includes program charters.
- GKB (Community Relations – Advertising and Fundraising): Based on numerous district requests, TASB recommends a revision to the local policy to add an affirmative statement that the district shall not accept paid political advertising. This common district practice allows the district to avoid the appearances of taking sides in election matters.

U. Approval of Revisions to Policy FFA (Local) Student Welfare: Wellness and Health Services

This item was pulled out for discussion by Board President Erasmo Lopez for informational purposes.

Mrs. Dora Pena, School Nutrition Services Director, provided the following information on Policy FFA (local) pertaining to Wellness and Health Services:

- First Reading of Policy FFA was presented to the Board at the July 6, 2017 Regular Board Meeting.
- This policy was mandated to reduce childhood obesity and promote the general wellness of all students through nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities.
  - › Parents need to be notified of the wellness activities going on throughout the day, such as physical activities and the types of nutritional meals being served.
- Revisions are necessary to meet the requirements of the federal regulation.
- WISD updated this policy in 2015 to include changes involving the new USDA Smart Snack nutritional standards implemented in July 2014.
  - › Campuses cannot sell items that do not meet nutritional standards.
  - › Campuses cannot market items through signage or billboards during the school day.
  - › When a fundraiser is being held at a campus, snacks cannot be sold until thirty minutes after the bell rings at 3:30. Therefore, snacks can be sold from 4:00 p.m. to midnight.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve Item U and T as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Oscar Caballero, Andrew Gonzalez, Isidoro Nieto, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez. Patrick Kenney voted against the motion. Motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

IX. Discussion Items:

A. Interim Financial Report for the Eleven Months Ended July 31 2017

The Board acknowledged the Interim Financial Reports for the eleven months ended July 31, 2017 as prepared by the Business Office.

Mr. Andres Sanchez, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, presented the following report.

Source	Budget	Received & Receivable	Variance	Percentage
5700 Local Source	25,000,728	25,740,807	740,079	102.96%
5800 State Source	129,137,305	120,330,349	(8,806,956)	93.18%
5900 Federal Sources	15,131,753	13,286,571	(1,845,182)	87.81%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>169,269,786</b>	<b>159,357,727</b>	<b>(9,912,059)</b>	<b>94.14%</b>

Out of \$174,405,765 budgeted, the district spent \$144,569,057 which is equivalent to 82.89% through July 31, 2017.

B. Presentation of 2017 Anticipated Collection Rate of Property Taxes for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Section 26.04 Property Tax Code, requires the Hidalgo County Tax Assessor/Collector to certify to the governing body of the taxing unit the anticipated collections in calculating the debt component of its Rollback Tax Rate for the current year by August 1<sup>st</sup>, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

The Hidalgo County Tax Assessor-Collector certifies that the 2017 anticipated collection rate for Weslaco ISD for the fiscal year 2017-2018 has been projected at a 100% rate. The 2016-2017 Estimated Tax Collection Rate was also projected at 100% and consequently no excess Debt Tax collections are to be reported in Schedule B of the 2017 Debt Service Report.

C. Acknowledgement of Hidalgo County Tax Office Collection Reports for June 2017 & July 2017: Current and Delinquent Taxes

The Board acknowledged the Collection Report for June & July 2017 as presented. Section 31.10 Property Tax Code requires the Tax Assessor/Collector to submit to the governing body of the taxing unit a written report made under oath accounting for all taxes collected for the unit during the preceding month.

Listed below is the June 2017 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office:

	Original Tax Levy	Taxes Collected to Date	Tax Modifications (Adjustments) to Date	Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2016-2017	% Tax Collections 2015-2016	2016-2017 vs. 2015-2016
Current Taxes	\$24,363,529	\$ 22,609,726	(\$ 204,367)	\$ 1,549,436	93.59%	93.32%	.27% Higher
Delinquent Taxes- Prior Years Levy	4,404,049	1,000,592	( 187,359)	\$ 3,216,098	23.73%	24.54%	0.81% Lower
Rollback Taxes	14,896	22,431	7,871	336	98.53%	0.00%	N/A
Totals	\$ 28,782,474	\$ 23,632,749	(\$383,855)	\$ 4,765,870			

- The collection of current taxes for fiscal year 2016-2017 through June 30 is 0.27% higher than the current taxes for fiscal year 2015-2016.
- The collection of delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2016-2017 through June 30 is 0.81% lower than the delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2015-2016.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments (September through June 2017) reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in their June 2017 report.

Listed below is the July 2017 report from the Hidalgo County Tax Office:

	Original Tax Levy	Taxes Collected to Date	Tax Modifications (Adjustments) & Purge (End of Year Write-Off)	Taxes Outstanding To-Date	% Tax Collections 2016-2017	% Tax Collections 2015-2016	2016-2017 vs. 2015-2016
Current Taxes	\$24,363,529	\$ 22,772,761	(\$ 204,440)	\$ 1,386,327	94.26%	94.07%	0.19% Higher
Delinquent Taxes- Prior Years Levy	4,404,049	1,068,725	( 203,637)	\$ 3,131,687	25.44%	26.30%	0.86% Lower

Rollback Taxes	14,896	22,431	7,871	336	98.53%	0.00%	N/A
Totals	\$ 28,782,474	\$ 23,863,917	( \$400,206)	\$ 4,518,350			

- The collection of current taxes for fiscal year 2016-2017 through July 31 is 0.19% higher than the current taxes for fiscal year 2015-2016.
- The collection of delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2016-2017 through July 31 is 0.86% lower than the delinquent taxes for fiscal year 2015-2016.
- The column for tax modifications represents the cumulative tax adjustments (September through July 2017) reported by the Hidalgo County Tax Office for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in their July 2017 report.

According to Mr. Sanchez, collections for delinquent taxes should be getting close to the 27% goal once the August collections are received. The goal for the current taxes was 93%; collections are already at 94.2%.

X. Discussion and Possible Action Items:

A. Discussion and Possible Action to Endorse a Nominated Individual from Another School Board Within our TASB District to Fill a Position on the TASB Board of Directors

The Board of Trustees were given the opportunity to endorse a nominated individual to fill a position on the TASB Board of Directors. The following candidates were nominated by their local Board and complied with the bylaws requirements.

Candidate	District
1. Jesus Amaya	Los Fresnos CISD
2. Alex Cantu	La Joya ISD
3. Ricardo Garza	Laredo ISD
4. Patricia Ocana-Olivarez	Mission CISD
5. Jacqueline Padilla	Monte Alto ISD
6. Leah Theys	Santa Rosa ISD
7. Carrie Gregory	Gregory-Portland ISD
8. Moises Alfaro	Mathis ISD
9. Charles Cunningham	Humble ISD

If a majority of the Active Members of the Region endorses a candidate, that individual will be elected to the TASB Board. If at least 25 percent, but not a majority, endorse the candidate, that individual will be included on the official ballot at the TASB Delegate Assembly. The nomination from the individual's local board is counted as an endorsement. The election ballot will be presented to the Delegate Assembly during the TASA/TASB Convention held in October.

Trustees elected to serve are charged with carrying out the policies established by the Delegate Assembly of the Association. The nominee should be a capable, experienced school board member who can assist in providing the Association with outstanding leadership. A Director of the Board is expected to attend four (4) meetings each year with one of the meetings being at the same time as the annual state convention in the fall. In addition, the Director will be asked to serve on a standing committee that will meet on an as needed basis, normally in conjunction with a Board meeting. The term of office of each Director shall be three years and shall begin at the completion of the final official session of the annual convention during which the Director was elected by the annual Delegate Assembly.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to endorse Patricia Ocana-Olivarez from Mission, Texas. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Mr. Caballero pointed out that Jacqueline Padilla was recently hired as Principal at Rico Elementary and was also a nominated candidate to fill this position, and she could possibly be a voice for the Weslaco community.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Patrick Kennedy to endorse Patricia Ocana-Olivarez from Mission, Texas. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Patrick Kennedy, Isidoro Nieto, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez. Voting against the motion were Oscar Caballero, Dr. Richard Rivera, and Board President Erasmo Lopez. The vote was 3-3 and therefore did not pass. Andrew Gonzalez was not in the boardroom at this time and did not vote on this motion.

Oscar Caballero made the motion to endorse Jacqueline Padilla from Monte Alto ISD. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and Possible Action to Designate a Delegate and Alternate Representative to Serve on the 2017 TASB Delegate Assembly

Delegates and Alternates will meet with TASB Directors to discuss issues coming before the Assembly and to clarify Delegate Assembly processes. The decisions made by the Assembly will set the course for the TASB organization for the coming year.

The Delegate Assembly charts TASB's future in three significant ways:

- Elects TASB's leadership – officers and members of the TASB Board of Directors
- Amends TASB Bylaws to ensure a responsive and effective Association
- Formally adopts TASB's Advocacy Agenda, the legislative "roadman" for issues critical to public education for the foreseeable future

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to appoint Andrew Gonzalez as the Delegate and Dr. Richard Rivera as the Alternate to serve on the 2017 TASB Delegate Assembly. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Expansion of the WISD Early Learning Foundation Program Partnership with the Hidalgo County Head Start Program to Service Donna and Progreso Sites

The Hidalgo County Head Start administration is extremely pleased and impressed with the service that WISD has provided to the Head Start Program and thus invited Weslaco ISD to expand the ELF program to provide services to two (2) sites in Donna, Texas and one (1) site in Progreso, Texas.

According to Mrs. Janie Pena, Executive Director for C&I, WISD will provide a certified teacher to these sites which will increase the district's total enrollment by approximately 240 students.

This program will provide each student with an early start to school as it provides vocabulary, social skills, literacy skills and fine and gross motor skills. Each child will learn from a WISD Early Childhood certified teacher using the WISD state adopted curriculum while the Head Start teacher implements the head start curriculum embedded with social emotional techniques to foster the early stages of child development.

Andrew Gonzalez commended Mrs. Pena for her exceptional work with the ELF Program and for everything she has done for this district.

Dr. Rivera made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between WISD and Hidalgo County Head Start Program for the expansion of services to Head Start sites in Donna & Progreso. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the WISD Early Learning Foundation Academy Collaboration with Weslaco Daycares

The partnership with Weslaco Daycares will provide a quality, rigorous academic program to all students with high quality standards that will enable them to develop their potential, nurture their sense of individual worth, and build a strong foundation to be kindergarten ready. Research supports that quality early childhood education is an effective link to closing the achievement gap for second language learners and children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

This program will provide each student with an early start to school as it provides vocabulary, social skills, literacy skills and fine and gross motor skills. Each child will learn from a WISD Early Childhood certified teacher using the WISD state adopted curriculum while the Head Start teacher implements the head start curriculum embedded with social emotional techniques to foster the early stages of child development.

Dr. Rivera made the motion to approve the WISD Early Learning Foundation Academy collaboration with the Weslaco DayCares as presented. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Administration's Recommendation for the Ranking of the Qualifications Statements Received from Design Build Firms for the Construction of a New Digital Scoreboard for Bobby Lackey Stadium (RFQ #17-08-65)

The scoreboard has been in operation for the past ten years; however, it has now become a weekly challenge to ensure that the score board functions well for Friday's football games and all other scheduled events held at the stadium. Some of the challenges include: malfunctioning panels, problems with controls console, and issues with the time clock, horn problems, and program advertisements.

A request for proposals was sent out to seven (7) vendors, all of which specialize in athletic scoreboards. Staff received a total of three qualification statements for this project. As part of the Design-Build Method of Construction, school districts must approve up to five (5) firms. Since the district received only three proposals and all have experience installing scoreboards, the Administration recommended that the school board qualify and select all three (3) firms as "Finalists for the Digital Scoreboard Project at Bobby Lackey Stadium".

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the Administration's ranking recommendation to include all three (3) Design Build Firms that submitted qualifications statements as finalists for the design and construction of a new digital scoreboard at Bobby Lackey Stadium as follows:

- Daktronics, Inc. of Brookings, South Dakota
- NEVCO, Inc. of Greenville, Illinois
- VCRNOW powered by Formetco of Red Oak, Texas

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve all three (3) finalists as recommended by the administration. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Mr. Sanchez provided responses to questions from the Board:

- Funding will come from selling the naming rights to the field or from getting a loan in the amount of \$1.2 or \$1.3 million.
- The current scoreboard was paid in 11 years and paid for itself.
  - › It generated about \$100,000 per year.
- The speakers that were purchased last year will be utilized with the new scoreboard.
- The firm from South Dakota has local technicians who will respond to do the necessary repairs when needed.
- The project should be completed by December 2017.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Patrick Kennedy and seconded by Isidoro Nieto to approve all the three (3) finalists as recommended by the administration.

F. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Proposal Award for Property & Casualty Insurance – Boiler & Machinery, Inland Marine, and Flood (RFP #17-08-66)

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the proposal for Property & Casualty, Boiler & Machinery, Inland Marine, and Flood Insurance (Option 4) to McGriff Siebels & Williams out of Houston, Texas.

Board President Erasmo Lopez expressed his concern on the difference in pricing of the proposals submitted. The district has had the same insurance coverage for several years and the current company has provided good service and no complaints have been addressed. He wanted to make sure that the District was not getting shortchanged since the proposal submitted by an outside company came in at a cheaper rate.

According to Mr. Mike De La Rosa, Risk Manager, both of the proposals met and exceeded the District's coverage needs, but the proposal from McGriff Siebels provided the greatest premium value to the District. He provided the following information on the proposals:

- Current coverage (Option 1): Offers a 1% deductible
- Current coverage (Option 2): Offers a 5% name storm deductible
- Recommended Company (Option 3): Offers a 2% name storm deductible
- Recommended Company (Option 4): Offers a 5% name storm deductible
- Difference in deductible is \$100,000 vs. \$50,000 with the recommended company
- Different sub-limits of coverage were offered
  - › Name storm sub-limits
    - The maximum the insurance will pay is \$75 million across the Board.
    - Only difference besides that deductible was the AOP per occurrence (All Other Perils)
- No sub-limits on current proposal
- Recommended company has a \$75 million sub-limit
- Difference in Inland Marine:
  - › Incumbent: \$1,000 deductible and a higher deductible (\$2,500) for cameras and band instruments vs. \$1,000
  - › Tractors, backhoe, band instruments, and camera equipment are all covered based on a schedule that is submitted to the company.
- Boiler & Machinery: Products offered were pretty much identical.
- Contents are covered as a percentage of the total value which is currently at 20%.

Mr. Gonzalez wanted to know if both companies were provided the same schedule and if both companies were quoting the same amount of \$438,015,542. A brief discussion continued on the difference of coverage between Option 2 and Option 4.

Mr. Lopez asked if the consultant had reviewed the proposals. Mr. De La Rosa replied that he did not see a need to have the proposals reviewed by an outside firm. Therefore, he reviewed the proposals, along with Mr. Sanchez, Dr. Canales, and members of the Board Committee.

Mr. Nieto preferred that the consultants look at the proposals. Mr. Sanchez pointed out that the coverage will expire on August 31; therefore, they have a timeline of two weeks to have the proposals reviewed. A special called meeting would be necessary prior to August 31 to allow the Board to take action on this item.

Mr. Lopez wanted to know if the RFQ that was sent out allowed the Board to pick their own agent. If so, he would go with this proposal but if they are not allowed to select the agent, he would prefer that SWBC review the proposals.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to table this item pending further review of the proposal by the insurance consultant. Dr. Rivera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

G. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Proposal Award for Specific and Aggregate Stop Loss Insurance for Self-Funded Medical/Rx Employee Benefit Plan (Proposal #17-08-67)

The Superintendent recommended that the Board award the proposal for Specific and Aggregate Stop Loss Insurance for the District's self-funded employee benefit program to Partner Re Insurance through SA Benefit Services. SWBC, the district's employee benefit consultants assisted Risk Management in this process and recommended Partner Re.

Mr. De La Rosa provided the following information on the two (2) proposals received.

- ISL Premium: Self-funded plan covers all cost up to \$125,000 deductible; after that, the insurance company takes over with no limit.

Admin. fee per month per Employee

- › Current Proposal w/Partner Re: \$66.59 per employee
- › Proposal 2 (Gerber Life): \$63.05

- Aggregate Stop Loss Premium: When the plan, as a whole, reaches a certain dollar amount, the district is then reimbursed \$1 to \$2 million depending on the plan that was selected.
- Recommended proposal is roughly \$100,000 more: \$1,867,844.40 vs. \$179,803.56.
- Gerber's proposal included six (6) lasers and four individuals that were excluded entirely from the plan; thus, exposing the district to \$2.9 million in additional liability. Therefore, this outweighed the \$100,000 less in the yearly premium.

- › The recommended proposal indicated three (3) lasers which were for specific diagnosis.

Questions from the Board:

- "Who is the agent?"
  - › SA Benefit Services from San Antonio, Texas (Stephanie Chatta)
  - › They have assisted the district with the operations over the year in presenting all claims/information to the actual company to ensure that the district gets reimbursed.
- "How many years with the current company?"
  - › This will be the second year.



- “Why were only two (2) proposals submitted?”
  - › According to Mr. De La Rosa, the District has experienced significant loss runs over the last three (3) years.
    - This year, there were 11 individuals who went over the specific deductible, three (3) went over \$90,000 and eight (8) went over \$65,000 in claims.
    - The District paid \$1.6 million last year.
    - The District is not a very good risk.
    - The consultants were quite active in reaching out to the stop loss market and encouraged them to submit proposals. They were surprised that only two companies responded.
- “Why did the premium go up so high?”
  - › According to SWBC consultant, the amount increased by 14% due to the losses incurred by the District. The laser set-up was very high, perhaps because the other company did not want to take on a risk. He was comfortable with the proposal submitted by Partner Re.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to award the proposal for Specific and Aggregate Stop Loss Insurance for the District’s self-funded employee benefit program to Partner Re Insurance through SA Benefit Services. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion.

Mr. Kennedy questioned if the language for the agenda item was specific enough for the Board to take action on both the plan and the agent. According to Mr. De La Rosa, the proposal was submitted by the MGU and the coverage and the agent are intertwined. The school attorney confirmed that the Board could take action tonight if the proposal submitted identified an agent as part of the proposal. However, if there was some sort of intent to want to separate the agent and possibly look at another agent, then the Board could take action to approve the proposal with the caveat that it not include the agent.

Dr. Rodriguez wanted to know if the consultant had any input on generating the language on the RFP. Mr. Ybarra responded that they were only asked to review the proposal and provide their opinion. They were provided with a copy of the RFP as per Mr. De La Rosa.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Oscar Caballero to approve the proposal from Partner Re Insurance through SA Benefit Services for the Specific and Aggregate Stop Loss Insurance for the District’s self-funded employee benefit program.

Mr. Lopez requested that the consultants work on getting more proposals for other insurances in the future.

H. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Administration’s Recommendation for a Playground Resurfacing Project at Roosevelt Elementary (RFCQ #2017-04)

The scope of this project will consist of a total removal and resurfacing of the existing playground’s rubberized surface. Back in October 2015, the entire playground became flooded due to heavy rains and thus damaged the rubberized surface.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve to award the competitive quote for the playground resurfacing project at Roosevelt Elementary School to Robertson Industries, Inc. located in Tempe, Arizona. This company has installed fifteen (15) rubberized playground surfaces at elementary campuses over the last two years at another school district.

Dr. Richard Rivera made the motion to award the competitive quote for the playground resurfacing project at Roosevelt Elementary School to Robertson Industries, Inc. located in Tempe, Arizona as recommended by the administration. Oscar Caballero seconded the motion.

Mr. Gonzalez wanted to know why these repairs were not covered by the district's insurance policy. According to Mr. De La Rosa, the district's flood coverage does not cover any type of outdoor structures or surfaces. However, the district was able to obtain funding for this project by applying for a grant through FEMA. Hence, the district has received \$81,000 as part of the FEMA reimbursement. The total cost of this project will be \$90,234.30. The difference will be paid from non-project allocated construction funds.

The Board President pointed out that the project needs to be done; otherwise, the district will have to return the funds to FEMA.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Dr. Richard Rivera and seconded by Oscar Caballero to award the competitive quote for the playground resurfacing project at Roosevelt Elementary School to Robertson Industries, Inc. located in Tempe, Arizona as recommended by the administration.

I. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between WISD and South Texas College for the Continuation of the Dual Credit Program for the 2017-2018 School Year

The Superintendent recommended approval of the MOU with South Texas College for the continuation of the dual credit enrollment program for the 2017-2018 school year.

Students who meet eligibility are offered an opportunity to enroll in dual credit courses that provide them college and high school credit. Students are eligible to participate upon meeting Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment minimum passing scores established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the South Texas College Dual Credit Course Prerequisites.

The program is offered at no cost to the student. One hundred seven (107) students participated in the program this year, and the administration projects 600 students will participate next year. Weslaco High School offers 44 dual enrollment classes while Weslaco East High School offers 26.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between WISD and South Texas College for the continuation of the Dual Credit Program for the 2017-2018 school year as recommended. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

J. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Agreements with the Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco, Inc. to Provide Services to WISD Students at Four Elementary Campuses for School Year 2017-2018

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco Inc. to provide services at the following four campuses for the 2017-2018 school year.

- Memorial Elementary School
- Cleckler-Heald Elementary School
- Rodolfo "Rudy" Silva Elementary
- PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary

The cost of the services will be \$125,000 to be paid at \$12,500 per month for 10 months from September 2017 through June 2018.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco as presented. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Andrew Gonzalez and Oscar Caballero excused themselves from participating on the discussion and of this item due to a conflict of interest. Both board members sit on the Board for the Boys & Girls Club Program.

Dr. Rivera wanted to know if background checks were made on all employees. Mrs. Melva Segura, Human Resources Director, confirmed that background checks were conducted.

Board President Erasmo Lopez wanted to know if the campuses were satisfied with the services provided and questioned why other campuses were not providing the services. According to Mr. Abel Aguilar, Assistant Superintendent Elementary Education & Leadership, all principals at the four campuses are happy with the services being provided. He will look at options available for the other campuses and provide an update to the Board.

The board members present voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion made by Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve the agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco as presented.

*Andrew Gonzalez and Oscar Caballero did not participate or vote on this item.*

- K. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of Agreements with the Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco, Inc. to Provide Services to WISD Students for School Year 2017-2018 as Part of the Ace Grant

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco Inc. to provide services to WISD students for the 2017-2018 school year as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ACE Program Grant.

This grant will provide additional (limited) services after school to the seven elementary schools in the District not currently served by the Boys & Girls Club during the day. The cost for these additional limited services will be provided by the Boys & Girls Club at a cost of \$10,000 to be paid separately from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Federal Grant. A \$1,000 payment will be paid per month for 10 months starting September 2017 through June 2018.

Andrew Gonzalez and Oscar Caballero excused themselves from participating in the discussion of this item due to a conflict of interest. They both sit on the Board for the Boys & Girls Club Program.

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Weslaco Inc. to provide services to WISD students for the 2017-2018 school year as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ACE Program Grant. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, with a 5 to 0 vote.

*Andrew Gonzalez and Oscar Caballero did not participate or vote on this item.*

- L. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Final Amended Budgets for the General Fund and Debt Service Fund for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

The Official Adopted Budget with all the amendments must be filed with TEA through PEIMS (Public Education Information Management System). Budget amendments are mandated by the state for budgeted funds reallocated from one function level to another. A school district must amend the official budget before exceeding a functional expenditure category. This is done before the end of the fiscal year, which is August 31, 2017, to make sure all of the functional expenditures levels are in legal compliance with TEA Financial Accountability System Resource Guide.

Increases and decreases in revenues and expenditures have been allocated in the 2016-2017 fiscal year budgets for the general funds and the debt service fund to cover any additional revenues or expenditures that could be recorded as the books close for the fiscal year.

The amended budget shows:

- A decrease of \$476,750 in revenues in the general fund.
- A decrease of \$4,000,000 in expenditures in the general fund.
- Staff is conservatively projecting a net budget surplus of \$3,523,250 in the general fund.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the 2016-2017 fiscal year final amended budgets for the General Fund and the Debt Service Fund as presented. Dr. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Dr. Rivera wanted to know if there were any accounts in the red.

Mr. Sanchez informed the Board that the following accounts were close to budget and therefore money was added to the accounts, but they were not in the red.

- › Function 12 (Instructional Resources & Media): Increased by \$16,000
- › Function 32 (Social Work Services): Increased by \$90,000
- › Function 33 (Health Services): Increased by \$35,000
- › Function 36 (Co-Curricular): Increased by \$435,000
- › Function 41 (General Administration): Increased by \$203,000
- › Function 61 (Community Services): Increased by \$186,000

As per Mr. Sanchez, funds are being reduced from Function 11 (Instruction) due to a surplus in this account. Once all the bills have been paid, he will inform the Board if there are any accounts that have gone in the red, as requested by Dr. Rivera.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to approve the 2016-2017 fiscal year final amended budgets for the General Fund and the Debt Service Fund as presented.

M. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Dr. Canales recommended that the Board approve the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for 2017-2018 as presented. The compensation plan is reflected in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Mrs. Melva Segura, Human Resources Director, provided the following information:

- Teacher Salary Progression table which shows yearly pay raise dating back to 1994 to present.
- Information from TASB regarding district pay raises in the state and region.
  - › Region I is proposing a 2% raise across the board for teachers, administrative professionals, auxiliary staff, and paraprofessionals.
- Report on teacher salaries:
  - › Current salary for new teachers
    - Weslaco ISD pays \$47,000
    - Laredo United pays \$47,500
    - La Joya ISD pays \$48,000

Board President Erasmo Lopez commented that during a budget workshop Dr. Rivera insisted that staff find an additional \$200.00 for teachers and provide a 5% raise for paraprofessionals. He wanted to know if the proposed budget included these amounts.

According to Mrs. Segura, the proposed budget includes the following pay raises:

- Teachers will receive \$1,200
- Paraprofessionals will receive a 5% raise
- Administrative staff will receive a 2% raise

On behalf of all employees, Mrs. Segura thanked the Board for their efforts in making the compensation plan very competitive. She stated, "As you can tell by the scores and distinctions, our staff works extremely hard but we do appreciate the time and effort you all put in, to making sure that we are compensated for our hard work and that we're able to support our families. Thank you for being financially responsible for that task."

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to approve the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for fiscal year 2017-2018 as presented. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion.

Dr. Rivera commended staff for a job well done on the pay raises. He questioned the number of employees who were not getting a pay raise due to being maxed out.

Mrs. Segura informed the Board that there are 190 employees who have maxed out; however, the Board has been generous in giving everyone a raise, including those who have maxed out. She stated, "If you approve the proposed budget, then you're including the raise for everybody."

Dr. Rivera asked for clarification on whether an individual who has maxed out was getting a full raise or anything at all. The school attorney replied, "There was one employee by contract, through activity of the Board, and the employee, through a process, that I know of that contractually doesn't receive a raise. So, regardless of the maximum amount that's on the compensation plan for that particular paygrade, the representation is that the employee will receive more than the max amount if the 5% goes over the max from the midpoint of that particular grade."

Because of the distinctions the district received, Mr. Nieto felt that everyone deserved to get a raise this year. Mr. Kennedy called for the question.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Patrick Kennedy and seconded by Isidoro Nieto to approve the Weslaco ISD Compensation Plan for fiscal year 2017-2018 as presented.

For future purposes, the Board President asked staff to include hard copies of pertinent information relating to the budget, etc. in their weekly packet.

N. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Transferring Surplus Funds from the District's General Fund to the Debt Service Fund

The Superintendent recommended that the Board find that there exist surplus funds in the District's General Fund (Fund 199) in the amount of \$1,700,000 not otherwise designated for a specific purpose, which are available to be transferred to the District's Debt Service Fund (599), in order to pay debt service obligations arising in the 2016-2017 budget year, as permitted by Section 45.105(c) of the Texas Education Code; and, accordingly, to authorize a transfer, in the amount of \$1,700,000 to be made from Fund 199 to Fund 599 effective on September 1, 2017.

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to approve the transfer of surplus funds from the District's General Fund to the Debt Service Fund as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

O. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval to Adopt the District's General Fund and Debt Service Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

The Texas Education Code and Board Policy CE require all education agencies to prepare a budget of anticipated revenues and expenditures on or before August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Budget is to be approved by the District's Board of Trustees by August 31<sup>st</sup> or earlier. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) requires that the General Fund and the Debt Service Fund be included in the Official District Budget.

Superintendent Dr. Canales recommended that the Board adopt the District's General Fund and Debt Service Fund Budgets for fiscal year 2017-2018 as presented.

Three (3) budget workshops were held to inform the Board about the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Pay Raises for District Staff for 2017-2018 will be as follows:

- › Teachers, Nurses/Librarians, Athletic Trainers & Campus Technology Coordinators (CTC's) \$1,200/\$1,107 (higher than FY 2016-2017)
- › Administrators: 2% of midpoint (same as FY 2016-2017)
- › Paraprofessional Staff: 5% of midpoint (same as FY 2016-2017)
- › Total pay increases for all funds is approximately: \$3,430,000

The general fund budget includes \$620,171 recorded to function 11 for future additional allocation to schools based on priorities submitted for their educational needs.

Highlights included in the Proposed 2017-2018 Budget are as follows:

- Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year 2017-2018
- Certified Taxable Value of \$2,292,112,169
- Tax Rate of 1.1597 (M&O \$1.1397 and I&S \$0.02)
- Current Tax Collections are projected on a 91% tax collection rate. Collection goal is 93%.
- Delinquent Tax Collections are projected on a 20% tax collection rate. Collection goal is 27%.
- Increase in budgeted ADA from 16,100 in 2016-2017 budget to 16,170 in 2017-2018
- The Local Budget Non-Payroll Allocation to Campus (Excluding Band) remained the same since the budgeted ADA remained the same at 16,100 plus the additional 70 ADA for the ELF Academy through the Head Start program. The basic allocations are: Elementary Schools \$120, Middle Schools \$135, and High Schools \$200.
- Weslaco High School Band's allocation is \$171,980 (including funds for Central MS and B. Garza MS)
- Weslaco High School Band \$50,000 additional allocation for band instruments
- Weslaco East High School Band's allocation is \$140,720 (including funds for Mary Hoge MS and Cuellar MS)
- Weslaco East High School Band \$50,000 additional allocation for band instruments
- For 2017-2018, included is a budget allocation for the Choir program at both high schools and all middle schools besides Band, Orchestra and Mariachi.
- Fine Arts Allocation for Schools: HS-Theatre Arts, Dance & Visual Arts, MS – Theater Arts, Dance & Visual Arts, and ES – Music & Visual Arts
- Increase in local maintenance funds for the Early College High School CTE (4<sup>th</sup> year of operations)
- Contribution to Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund will remain approximately at \$500,000
- The State Compensatory Education Budget includes enough funds to provide for accelerated instruction of students that are At-Risk of dropping out of school.
- Transfer to Debt Service Fund to pay bond debt \$1,700,000
- No transfer to Construction Fund for facilities has been included.

Dr. Richard Rivera made the motion to adopt the District's General Fund and Debt Service Fund Budgets for fiscal year 2017-2018 as presented. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Dr. Rivera, Andrew Gonzalez, Oscar Caballero, Isidoro Nieto, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez. Patrick Kennedy voted against the motion. Motion carried with a 5 to 1 vote.

- P. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2017-2018 Total Tax Rate of \$1.1597 on Each \$100 of Assessed Taxable Property Value with a Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Tax Rate of \$1.1397 and an Interest and Sinking (I&S) Tax Rate of \$0.02 **OR** for the Board to Delay Approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2017-2018 Total Tax Rate until September 2017

The Superintendent recommended that the Board consider approval of a resolution adopting the 2017-2018 total tax rate of \$1.1597 on each \$100 of assessed taxable property value with a M&O tax rate of \$1.1397 and an I&S tax rate of \$0.02 **or** for the Board to delay approval of a resolution adopting the 2017-2018 total tax rate until September 2017.

Mr. Sanchez informed the Board that the tax rate did not have to be approved until the end of September. Districts are required to advertise in the newspaper no less 10 days or no more than 30 days before the meeting. Staff advertised the tax rate in the newspaper on August 11.

Board President Erasmo Lopez wanted to know how the increase would affect the taxes for senior citizens. According to Mr. Sanchez, the taxes for tax payers who have applied for an exemption at age 65, will not increase because their taxes are frozen at the same amount.

Isidoro Nieto made a motion to wait until September to adopt the tax rate. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Dr. Rivera pointed out that Weslaco ISD has not raised taxes in the last twenty years, other than through a bond election which was approved by the community. He asked staff to inform the community of the possibility of a \$0.02 cent increase and to explain the reason why the district needs the money.

Mr. Nieto suggested that staff provide information to the community which compares the tax increase based on the property value of their home.

Dr. Canales stated that discussions were held on establishing an advisory committee. Mr. Sanchez mentioned that perhaps they could use the same members who served on the bond committee.

Mr. Lopez suggested that principals recommend a parent or several individuals from the community and have at least two or three meetings to gather input. He wants to make sure the community is made aware of what is going on with the tax rate and the possibility of a tax increase.

Andrew Gonzalez also suggested that staff advertise a comparison of the tax rates from neighboring school districts in the newspaper. He would like the public to see that WISD has the lowest tax rate; nonetheless, the district has a lot of needs.

Patrick Kennedy commented that he was against raising taxes.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Isidoro Nieto and seconded by Dr. Jaime Rodriguez to wait till September to adopt the tax rate. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- Q. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Approve a Contract with M. Garcia Engineering, LLP to Design the Plans and Specifications and Oversee the Construction of the Parking Lot Improvements Project at Rodolfo “Rudy” Silva Elementary and Justice Raul Gonzalez Elementary

The Principals at Rudy Silva Elementary and Raul Gonzalez Elementary had addressed the need for additional parking lot spaces at their campuses due to traffic congestion. The parking lot spaces available at each campus are mostly taken up by district staff; thus, limiting the spaces available for parents or other visitors during the day. In addition, the parking spaces will also alleviate traffic congestion while parents are picking up students at the end of the day.

On February 13, 2017, the Board approved the construction of the Parking Lot Improvements at Silva Elementary and Gonzalez Elementary School project as part of the priority facilities projects for the District. On April 10, 2017, the Board approved the competitive sealed proposals method of construction as the procurement method of construction for this project.

- Silva Elementary will gain 58 new parking spaces including lighting.
- Gonzalez Elementary will gain 56 new parking spaces including lighting.
- Total Engineering cost of both schools: \$37,039

Dr. Richard Rivera made the motion approve the contract with M. Garcia Engineering, LLP to design the plans and specifications and oversee the construction of the Parking Lot Improvements Project at Rodolfo “Rudy” Silva Elementary and Justice Raul Gonzalez Elementary. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XI. Closed Meeting to Discuss:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 8:26 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. Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Position of Principal for Rudy Silva Elementary School
  - b. Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Position of Principal for Sam Houston Elementary School
  - c. Superintendent’s Recommendation for the Position of Special Education Director

B. Deliberation Regarding Real Estate (Tex. Gov’t Code 551.072)

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)

1. No.: 16-0925; Adan Perez, Jr. vs. Weslaco Independent School District, In the Supreme Court of Texas Appeal No. 13-15-00033-CV, Adan Perez, Jr. vs. Weslaco Independent School District, Thirteenth Court of Appeals, Corpus Christi, Texas; and Cause No. C-641-11-F, Adan Perez, Jr., vs. Weslaco Independent School District and Richard Rivera, In the 332<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County, Texas



XII. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

Mr. Patrick Kennedy left the meeting prior to open meeting.

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:00 p.m. to take action on the following items:

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.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Powell, Sonia	English Teacher	Weslaco East High School
2. Sosa, Jorge	Science Teacher	Horton AEP

<b>REASSIGNMENT</b>		
	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
1. Villagomez, Adrian	Teacher Weslaco East High School	Campus Technology Coordinator

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

2. Resignations

Non-action.

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. Superintendent's Recommendation for the Position of Principal for Rudy Silva Elementary School

The Superintendent recommended Ms. Sonia Gonzalez as the Principal for Rudy Silva Elementary School.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve Ms. Sonia Gonzalez as the Principal for Rudy Silva Elementary School as recommended by the Superintendent. Dr. Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Superintendent's Recommendation for the Position of Principal for Sam Houston Elementary School

The Superintendent recommended Ms. Selma Gutierrez as the Principal for Sam Houston Elementary School.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve Ms. Selma Gutierrez as the Principal for Sam Houston Elementary School as recommended by the Superintendent. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Superintendent's Recommendation for the Position of Special Education Director

The Superintendent recommended Mr. Neil Garza for the position of Special Education Director.

Dr. Rodriguez made the motion to approve Mr. Neil Garza as the Special Education Director as recommended by the Superintendent. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were Andrew Gonzalez, Isidoro Nieto, Dr. Richard Rivera, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez. Oscar Caballero voted against the motion. Motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

B. Deliberation Regarding Real Estate (Tex. Gov't Code 551.072)

Non-action.

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)

- a. No.: 16-0925; Adan Perez, Jr. vs. Weslaco Independent School District, In the Supreme Court of Texas Appeal No. 13-15-00033-CV, Adan Perez, Jr. vs. Weslaco Independent School District, Thirteenth Court of Appeals, Corpus Christi, Texas; and Cause No. C-641-11-F, Adan Perez, Jr., vs. Weslaco Independent School District and Richard Rivera, In the 332<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County, Texas

The school attorney recommended that the Board approve the settlement as discussed in closed session.

Andrew Gonzalez made the motion to approve the settlement as discussed in closed session. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.