



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

Winners. Innovators. Scholars. Doers.

Dr. Priscilla Canales, Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting:	Special Meeting
Place:	WISD Board Room
Location:	319 W. Fourth Street
Date:	September 25, 2017
Time:	5:53 P.M.

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order by Erasmo Lopez, Board President.
- II. A full quorum was established. The following 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. Discussion and Possible Action for the Board to Consider Approval of a Resolution Adopting the 2017-2018 Total Tax Rate of up to \$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 up to \$0.02

Dr. Canales recommended that the Board consider approval of a resolution adopting a total tax rate of up to \$1.1597 for fiscal year 2017-2018 on each \$100 of assessed taxable property value with a M&O tax rate of \$1.1397 and an I&S tax rate of up to \$0.02 with one of the following options:

1. \$1.1597 (\$1.1397 M&O + \$0.02 I&S)
2. \$1.1497 (\$1.1397 M&O + \$0.01 I&S)
3. \$1.1397 (\$1.1397 M&O + \$0.00 I&S)

The Board President announced that a Public Hearing was held prior to this meeting, at which time, there was a consensus from the public and the committee that a 2 cent increase was good for the district. He provided the public an opportunity to comment on the tax rate prior to the Board taking action.

Mr. Nieto made the motion to approve Option 1: \$1.1397 M&O + \$0.02 I&S for a combined tax rate of \$1.1597. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion.

In respect to his fellow board members, administration, and the committee, Mr. Kennedy clarified his reason for voting against the tax rate. He stated, “During the candidate’s forum when I ran for election, I promised the citizens that I would not support a tax increase, and then when we chose to take out a loan to build the 19 projects I had spoken to administration at the meeting and I was told there was money in the budget and that we could absorb the payment without having to raise taxes and I said, therefore I would support it. I felt I could not sleep well at night to make those kind of declarations and then change my mind at the last second; although, I do respect the decisions of the Board. The second issue is that there were about 1400 people who said they were unable to pay the taxes, so I’m gonna vote to be their voice. I respect your decisions and I guess we can agree to disagree.”

Dr. Rivera commented that WISD has a lot of facility needs. For informational purposes to the community, he requested that staff present information on the next Superintendent’s Report indicating how they plan to spend the \$1 million dollars.

Dr. Canales informed the Board that staff will be gathering input from the District Facilities Committee prior to making recommendations to the Board.

A vote was called for on the motion made by Mr. Nieto and seconded by Andrew Gonzalez to approve Option 1: \$1.1397 M&O + \$0.02 I&S for a combined tax rate of \$1.1597. Voting in favor of the motion were Andrew Gonzalez, Oscar Caballero, Isidoro Nieto, Dr. Richard Rivera, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez. Patrick Kennedy voted against the motion. The motion carried with a 5 to 1 vote.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Judge Mario E. Ramirez, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center Boot Camp Facility to Receive Instructional Services and Support for Students from Weslaco ISD

Weslaco ISD is responsible for providing educational services to juveniles that reside at the facility because they reside within district boundary lines. The District receives a Title I, Part D, Subchapter 2 entitlement for this program. WISD provides additional resources that are required by this at-risk population. The facility follows the WISD calendar and services are provided from August to July. WISD provides instructional services and support to students while they are incarcerated.

Dr. Canales and Mr. Sergio Garcia toured the facility located at 1711 North Bridge Ave. in Weslaco to see how the program operates. As per Dr. Canales, the MOU stipulates a student/teacher ratio of 12:1, and a 24:1 ratio for P.E. The District provides about \$43,000 to run the Boot camp which is used to pay college tutors, summer school, general supplies, supplemental materials, as well as two full-time teachers and one instructional assistant. Dr. Canales provided the following information on student participation.

	2016	2017	Present
Total Number of Students Participating	61	65	30
WISD Students	7	10	2

The school attorney pointed out that this is the first year the District has a fully detailed MOU with the Center.

Dr. Rivera made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Judge Mario E. Ramirez, Jr. Juvenile Justice Center Boot Camp Facility to receive instructional services and support for students from Weslaco ISD. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Selection of Computer and Printer Manufacturers for Campuses and Departments for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Purchases

Mr. Carlos Martinez, Executive Director of Technology, provided the following information on the process used in selecting the manufacturers.

- The Technology Department identifies computer and printer manufacturers.
- Six manufacturers were invited to present their products to the committee.
- The committee reviewed the presentations, products, and literature of each manufacturer and rates them in the five categories.
- Committee voted by rubric method
 - › The committee was comprised of 19 members from elementary and secondary campuses.
 - › The committee members were selected by the principals.

Listed below is the district technology committee’s selection of manufacturers:

Equipment Item	Selected Manufacturers	
Desktops	Dell Corporation	Lenovo
Laptops	Dell Corporation	Lenovo
Chromebooks	Dell Corporation	Hewlett Packard
Black and White Laser Printer	Dell Corporation	Hewlett Packard
Color Laser Printer	Dell Corporation	Hewlett Packard

According to Mr. Martinez, \$1 million is allocated for technology. The classrooms are in desperate need of projectors; therefore, Mr. Martinez would like to use \$700,000 for computers and \$300,000 for projectors. At this point, the Board is only selecting the manufacturers. Once the specifications are determined, he will send out quotes to vendors that are part of Buyboard, DIR, TIPS, and other coops. Computer and printer purchases will be presented for Board approval at the October Board Meeting.

Oscar Caballero made the motion to approve the district technology committee’s selection of the manufacturers for computers and printers for campuses and departments as recommended. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Contract with Rike Ogden Figueroa Alexx Architects for the Design of Improvements to the Following CTE Facilities:

1. Advanced Manufacturing Technology Shop at Joe Calvillo CATE Complex
2. Welding/Woodworking Shop at Pete Abrigo Ag Farm

On March 9, 2017, the Board awarded these projects to ROFA Architects. Both of these projects were ranked “as needed” by the Facilities Committee and both require the assistance of an architect. The projects will consist of the following:

- › Remodeling of one shop for the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Course at the Calvillo CATE Complex
- › Remodeling of an existing building for the Welding Course at the Pete Abrigo Ag Farm

The estimated project cost for this project is \$840,000 and includes architect fees and any testing needed. Legal counsel reviewed the contract and made changes which are reflected on the contract. The architect fee is 6%. According to Mr. Sanchez, \$200,000 was budgeted from the loan. There is monies available in the construction fund that has not been allocated to any projects. The monies is from previous transfers from the local maintenance fund to the construction fund and therefore can be used to pay the difference.

Dr. Rivera made the motion to approve the contract with Rike Ogden Figueroa Alexx Architects for the design of improvements to the CTE facilities: Advanced Manufacturing Technology Shop at Joe Calvillo CATE Complex and the Welding/Woodworking Shop at Pete Abrigo Ag Farm. Isidoro Nieto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action to Ratify a Letter of Engagement with Mullen Coughlin LLC for Investigation, Legal Advice, and Assistance with Data Security Incident

Dr. Canales informed the Board that there were 229 current and former employees whose personal identifiable information was inadvertently posted on the district's website for a total of 12 days. The data was posted as part of an attachment for disability insurance which was out to bid. The file was immediately taken down once the error was realized.

A claim was filed with RSUI, the District's cyber liability carrier. RSUI works with the law firm of Mullen Coughlin LLC who specializes in cyber breach situations. The firm will bill the insurance carrier directly. The district signed a letter of engagement with Mullen Coughlin LLC for investigation, legal advice, and assistance with potential data security incident and recommended that the Board ratify the letter of engagement.

The school attorney reviewed the agreement and pointed out that it was broad enough to deal with the issues that had surfaced.

Dr. Rivera made the motion to ratify the letter of engagement with Mullen Coughlin LLC for investigation, legal advice, and assistance with potential data security incident. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion.

As per Dr. Canales, a letter was sent to the employees on Friday notifying them of the incident and advising them to expect another letter explaining additional steps to be taken.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Dr. Rivera and seconded by Andrew Gonzalez to ratify the letter of engagement with Mullen Coughlin LLC for investigation, legal advice, and assistance with potential data security incident.

VIII. Closed Meeting:

The Board convened in closed meeting at 6:14 p.m. to hear a Level III Grievance.

- A. Conduct a Level Three Grievance Hearing Requested under Weslaco ISD Policy DGBA by D. Garza

Present at the Grievance:

Board members: Erasmo Lopez, Oscar Caballero, Isidoro Nieto, Andrew Gonzalez, Patrick Kennedy, Dr. Richard Rivera, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez

Dr. Priscilla Canales, Superintendent

Attorney Representing the Board: Ivan Perez

Attorney Representing Administration: Greg Kerr

Attorney Representing Grievant: Ruben Pena

- B. Consultation with Attorney Regarding: a) Pending or Contemplated Litigation: b) a Settlement Offer, or c) a Matter in Which the Duty of the Attorney to the Weslaco 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)

IX. Reconvene in Open Meeting:

The Board convened in open meeting at 7:16 p.m.

- A. Discussion and Possible Action on Level Three Grievance Hearing Requested by D. Garza

Isidoro Nieto made the motion to uphold the Level II response by administration on this grievance. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion.

Voting in favor of the motion were Patrick Kennedy, Andrew Gonzalez, Oscar Caballero, Isidoro Nieto, and Dr. Jaime Rodriguez. Dr. Rivera voted against the motion and stated that some of concerns had already been addressed. Motion carried with a 5 to 1 vote.

- B. Consultation with Attorney Regarding: a) Pending or Contemplated Litigation: b) a Settlement Offer, or c) a Matter in Which the Duty of the Attorney to the Weslaco 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)

Non-action item.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.