



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

319 W. Fourth Street
Weslaco, TX 78599-0266

Winners. Innovators. Scholars. Doers.

Priscilla Canales, Ph.D., Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Meeting: | Special Board Meeting |
| Place: | WISD Board Room |
| Location: | 319 W. Fourth Street |
| Date: | November 15, 2018 |
| Time: | 6:00 P.M |

MINUTES

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

Erasmo Lopez, President
Isidoro Nieto, Secretary
Andrew Gonzalez, Trustee
Patrick Kennedy, Trustee
Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Trustee

Oscar Caballero and Dr. Richard Rivera were absent.

- III. Canvass Election Returns of the School Board Trustee Election of November 6, 2018 General Trustee Election

Superintendent Dr. Canales reviewed the votes as reported by the Hidalgo County Elections Department.

Listed below are the number of votes cast for each individual candidate.

| Place 4 | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Candidates | Votes |
| Jaime Rodriguez | 7,799 |

| Place 5 | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Candidates | Votes |
| Andrew Gonzalez | 7,532 |

| Place 6 | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Candidates | Votes |
| Armando "Coach" Cuellar | 6,705 |
| Oscar Caballero | 3,960 |

| Place 7 | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Candidates | Votes |
| Isidoro Nieto | 8,132 |

Board President Erasmo Lopez recognized Oscar Caballero for his years of service on the Weslaco ISD Board of Trustees and his dedication to the District. Mr. Caballero was not present at the meeting. A plaque will be delivered to Mr. Caballero.

IV. Declare Candidates Elected to Trustee Positions and Issue Certificates of Election for Each Elected Candidate

Board President Erasmo Lopez declared the candidates elected to the trustee positions and presented the Certificate of Election to the elected candidates:

- Place 4: Jaime Rodriguez
- Place 5: Andrew Gonzalez
- Place 6: Armando “Coach” Cuellar
- Place 7: Isidoro Nieto

Patrick Kennedy made the motion to declare the elected candidates to their trustee positions as presented by the Hidalgo County Elections Department. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Trustees

Place 4

Pastor Steven Parker from First Baptist Church administered the oath of office to Dr. Jaime Rodriguez.

Dr. Rodriguez made the following comments:

“Thank you to family members, Pastor Parker from First Baptist, and to my wife for always being there by my side and supporting in these decisions that we take on. I can pretty much say that everybody in this room has a common goal and all of us also, that we want to make our district the best district that it can be, and I promise that that is the ultimate goal and that’s what I’m here for. I look forward to servicing the community, our students, and our employees. I look forward to the next four (4) years in this position. Thank you.”

Place 5

Judge Renee Betancourt administered the oath of office to Andrew Gonzalez.

Mr. Gonzalez made the following comments:

“I thank my God, my wife Maria, my boys Ryan, Noah, and Jason, my mom, my dad, my stepmother, my sister and my brother Bert who is in the hospital or he would be here tonight. Thank my community for the continuous support. I look forward to continue serving with these gentlemen because what we started four (4) years ago, was to move this district forward, and I truly believe in my heart because when I vote, I vote with my heart, that we have moved forward. It’s been a blessing to serve my community and for that I thank you.”

Place 6

Nicole Cuellar administered the oath to Armando Cuellar, Jr.

Mr. Cuellar made the following comments:

“For a long time when I taught and coached, I used to sit over there where you guys are now and always wondered what it would be to sit up here. You know, if you live life long enough, I was told by a good friend Pete Vela, never say never. It’s never over. When I decided to do this, I was fully retired and knew I would have the undivided attention to give this position everything and all my efforts too.

First of all, I thank God for the opportunity and strength to endure a campaign. It was a journey, and a wonderful journey. I think I learned more about Weslaco and my father through the process than I ever imagined. To reacquaint myself with the people of Weslaco that I had lost contact with and former students and athletes, was a blessing. I want to thank my wife Nilda for being there by my side through the whole process, my daughter Nicole, my son-in-law Kaden, my son J.P., and Mando, Addie, Briana, for being out there every day. Thanks to all my friends and other family members and the people of Weslaco for supporting me because of your efforts, this was made possible. I could not have done this without all of you. Several of you guys here today, from the bottom of my heart – thank you very much for being there, for support to get me through trying times because never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that this thing would take everything out of me. I’m still picking up signs – it’s never over. This is something I want to commit to, and I am really looking forward to working with these board members. I know we share this goal of seeing Weslaco move forward and get better to make Weslaco ISD the right choice. It’s an honor to be up here with all of you.”

Place 7

Ivan Perez administered the oath of office to Isidoro Nieto.

Mr. Nieto made the following comments:

“I want to thank the good Lord for giving me the opportunity to serve on the Board again. A special thank you to my wife who couldn’t be here today due to a prior commitment, but I have my three sons, Zack, Dr. Brian Nieto, and Cristopher. My sisters, Janie, Cathy, and Lisa are here. Thank you for being here. As I said four years ago, I will continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of students and staff. Thank you to all my friends and all our stakeholders for allowing me to serve on the school board as a school board member. I will do the best job possible as a board member in the next four years. Thank you, and may God bless each one of you.”

VI. Re-Organization of the Board

Patrick Kennedy made the motion for the Board to move into reorganizing the Board. Andrew Gonzalez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A. President

Andrew Gonzalez nominated Isidoro Nieto as Board President. Patrick Kennedy seconded the motion. Since there were no further nominations, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Nieto took his chair as President and presided over the meeting.

Mr. Nieto thanked his fellow board members for the opportunity to serve as Board President. He stated, "I know that we will work together to go forward and make WISD the best district. Dr. Canales has done an excellent job so we will continue to work with her but, we, together will work together to make sure that we do what is in the best interest of students and staff of Weslaco ISD. That's my goal, and I believe that's our goal here together so thank you again. I appreciate it and thank you for the confidence."

B. Vice-President

Patrick Kennedy nominated Dr. Richard Rivera as Vice President. Erasmo Lopez seconded the motion. Since there were no further nominations, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Dr. Richard Rivera was absent due to a conflict in his work schedule.

C. Secretary

Dr. Jaime Rodriguez nominated Andrew Gonzalez as Secretary. Erasmo Lopez seconded the motion. Since there were no further nominations, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Gonzalez thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and stated, "It truly has been a pleasure. I'm looking forward to serving with all of you. We've moved this district forward and let's continue to move it forward. Thank you."

Board President Mr. Nieto thanked Mr. Erasmo Lopez for doing an excellent job as President of the Board for the past two years. "We've gone through a lot and I think we've worked together, and we will continue to work together. In any team, you got to have people to work together. If you don't, then it's going to be difficult to go forward, and I believe this district is in the right direction, and it was indicative when the elections come into play. There were four positions, but only one was – Coach Cuellar ran for it, so that tells us a lot from the stakeholders and the people of Weslaco, that hopefully we're doing a good job and we will try to do a good job every single time we meet, and we will continue to make Weslaco better alongside Dr. Canales."

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

A short reception for the new board members was held after the meeting.