

Harris County Department of Education
Minutes of Special Board Meeting
June 15, 2021

The Harris County Board of School Trustees met in a Special Meeting on June 15, 2021 in room 502, at 6300 Irvington Boulevard, Houston, Texas. Danny Norris, Board President, called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m. and declared a quorum present, that the meeting was duly called, and that notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Gov't. Code §551.041 and §551.051.

Board Members Present: Danny Norris, Board President; Andrea Duhon, Second Vice President; and Eric Dick

David Brown participated via Zoom.

Richard Cantu, First Vice President arrived at 12:03 p.m.

Board Members Absent: Erica Davis; and Amy Hinojosa

Board Attorney: Sarah Langlois

Administration: James Colbert, Jr., County School Superintendent; Jesus Amezcua, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services; Jonathan Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Support Services; CJ Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for Education and Enrichment; Danielle Bartz, Chief of Staff; Danielle Clark, Chief Communications Officer; Karla Cantu, Board Secretary; Natasha Truitt, Executive Director Human Resources; and Rich Vela, Senior Director Facilities

Visitors: JP Grom, LAN

The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:43 a.m.

4. **Closed session – Tex. Govt. Code Section 551.071:** Consultation with Board Attorney regarding all matters as authorized by law

A.Obtain legal advice regarding termination of agreement with architect for Renovation of the Reagan (Irvington) Administration building project.

The Board entered into Open Session at 12:17 p.m.

1. **Open Forum – Gov’t Code 551.003(5) – Public Participation.** Pursuant to Policy BED (Local), a citizen who wishes to speak may do so by completing a participation request card available at the Board room at least 10 minutes prior to a regular Board meeting. At called board meetings, the Board shall hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board on agenda items.

No one from the public requested to address the Board.

2. **Public Hearing – Retention Incentive**

A public hearing was held regarding the one-time retention incentive. No one from the public requested to address the Board.

3. **Consider approval of resolution regarding one-time retention incentive**

Motion made by Andrea Duhon, seconded by Eric Dick that after public hearing and discussion, the HCDE Board of Trustees approve a Board Resolution amending the 2020-2021 budget and compensation plan to approve a one-time retention incentive payment to (1) all full-time benefits-eligible employees of record at September 8, 2020 and who are returning for and complete the 2021-2022 fall semester in the amount of \$500 and (2) all part-time benefits-eligible employees of record at September 8, 2020 and who are returning for and complete the 2021-2022 fall semester in the amount of \$250, as set forth in the Board Resolution. Such payment is being made for the public purposes of ensuring continued retention, high job satisfaction and productivity; and maintaining sound fiscal management and stability in times of unprecedented additional job duties, and the funds for this payment shall come from the general fund. The payment will be distributed on or about August 20, 2021 as further set forth in the Resolution.

Motion passes with 5-0 voting to approve the Resolution.

5. **Reconvene for possible action on items discussed in executive session.**

A.Consider termination of agreement with architect for Renovation of the Reagan (Irvington) Administration building project and delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute all necessary documents to effectuate such termination.

Motion made by Eric Dick, seconded by Richard Cantu to terminate the agreement with the architect for the Renovation of the Reagan (Irvington) Administration building project and delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute all necessary documents to effectuate such termination.

Motion passes with 5-0 voting to terminate.

B. Consider selection of Cre8 Architects for the HCDE Capital Improvement Program Project of Renovation of the Reagan (Irvington) Administration building project – funded through Series 2020 Maintenance Tax Notes, based on demonstrated competence and qualifications, pursuant to RFQ #20/043IA, and delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute a contract for the project for a fair and reasonable price.

Motion made by Eric Dick, seconded by Richard Cantu to select Cre8 Architects for the HCDE Capital Improvement Program Project of Renovation of the Reagan (Irvington) Administration building project – funded through Series 2020 Maintenance Tax Notes, based on demonstrated competence and qualifications, pursuant to RFQ #20/043IA, and delegate authority to the Superintendent or his designee to negotiate, finalize, and execute a contract for the project for a fair and reasonable price.

Motion passes with 5-0 voting to select.

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Eric Dick, seconded by Andrea Duhon to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passes with 5-0 voting to approve.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Board President

Board Vice President