



# BOARD UPDATE

February 23, 2021

## Action Items

The Board of Directors took action on the following:

- Approved Board Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 19, 2021\*
- Approved Board Meeting Minutes of the January 26, 2021 Special Board of Directors Meeting\*
- Approved Budget Amendments for January 31, 2021\*
- Approved Expenditure Reports as of January 31, 2021\*
- Approved Child Nutrition Program - South Texas Cooperative Further Processing of USDA Foods for SY21 RFP 21-AGENCY-000077, Extension 1 of 3\*
- Approved Energy Aggregation and Consultant Services RFP 21-AGENCY-000088 to Tradition Energy – Stamford, CT, upon a negotiated and fully executed agreement, for a term of two (2) years with the option to extend up to two (2) additional two (2) year periods, if both parties are in agreement.\*
- Approved Classroom and Office Space for Region One ESC Adult Education Program RFP 21-AGENCY-000090 to lease property offered by LBJ Family Limited Partnership, at a negotiated rate of \$8,500/month, upon a fully executed

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## Interim Executive Director's Report

In his Interim Executive Director's Report, Dr. Eduardo Cancino reported on the following:

- Dr. Cancino called upon Jacob Martinez, Director, Facilities and Operations and Ali Kolahdouz, Deputy Director, Division of Technology for Learning to provide a building and technology status report to the Board following the recent freezing temperatures. Mr. Martinez shared that the building experienced some minor leaks despite precautions to protect outdoor pipes. There was intermittent loss of power from Thursday until Monday in the east side building and the west side of the building lost all electricity for that duration.
- Mr. Ali Kolahdouz, Deputy Director, Division of Technology for Learning reported that due to the on and off power surges the emergency generator which serves as a back up to the data center malfunctioned. ESC IT staff reported to the site throughout the weather period to manually power up the generator to avoid any damage. Mr. Kolahdouz reported that the weather affected data systems statewide including the iTTCS system which many school districts depend on for their business operations. Region One IT and Business Office staff worked together to ensure there was no disruption to regional school districts systems. Mr. Kolahdouz added that the weather event put all staff members on alert and have prompted a review of emergency systems and procedures.
- Ms. Anabel Rangel, Director of the Brownsville Extension Office, updated Board Members on professional development offerings being provided by the Brownsville staff. Most notably was the two-day virtual conference held in the fall of 2020, *Moving Forward with Serenity*, which focused on student and parent social emotional learning.
- Ms. Theresa Cantu provided an Early Childhood Intervention Program update. Ms. Cantu reported that although the ECI team was forced to transition to a telehealth method of service, the ECI program met and exceeded program goals set forth by the state office and referrals are on the rise.
- Dr. Cancino provided an update regarding the upcoming Board of Directors election. He noted that on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, a formal drawing for positions on the election ballot will be conducted. The event will take place via Zoom and all candidates have been notified and invited to attend. Following the drawing for places on the ballot, ballots will be mailed to Region One school districts.

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- Dr. Cancino provided background for the Charter School Representative position on the Region One Board of Directors in preparation for a later Action Item. He explained that the term for the Charter School Representative is a one-year term and the charter member is appointed by the Texas Education Commissioner. He advised that Mr. Roberto Moroles, current Charter School Representative, requested to continue serving the ESC in that capacity. Dr. Cancino explained the process to request a waiver for a one-year extension to TEA.
- Melissa I. Lopez, Administrator for the Office of College, Career, and Life Readiness shared information about a new initiative, *Literacy Champions Family Initiative*, set to launch this April will provide supports to educators and parents so they may support students. The initiative includes Trainer-of-Trainers workshops, a summer literacy challenge, a literacy festival, and literacy academies for parents. Lopez says in the interactions with parents through the GEAR UP and other OCCLR activities, they have learned that parents are eager to help their students.
- Dr. Judith M. Solis, Deputy Director for Administrative Leadership, School, and Community Support reported that Region One ESC is partnering with Edinburg CISD and Hidalgo County to provide 36 school nurses with the COVID-19 vaccination at ECISD's Robert Vela High School location. Dr. Solis reported that in early January, school districts and charter schools were contacted to identify those school nurses wishing to receive the vaccine who had not yet been vaccinated. As of the date of the vaccination event, eight (8) school districts and/or charter schools responded. The survey identified that while most of the 611 school nurses in Region One school districts and charter schools had received the vaccination, many in mostly smaller school districts had not.
- Dr. Cancino reported that an internal Reopening Task Force (R-OTF) has been working to evaluate the transition of ESC staff back to the workplace and the initiation of in-person professional development offerings. Dr. Cancino added that the R-OTF created subcommittees to study the feasibility of utilizing un-used meeting room space within the facility to serve as office areas for staff to provide a more socially distanced work setting. A proposal for an in-person Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was presented to the Board for their consideration.
- Regarding building construction, Mr. Jacob Martinez reported that he is working to ensure that all punch-list items are addressed. The only pending item is the installation of the external signage on the north and west side of the new facility.
- Dr. Cancino updated Board Members on the Executive Director Search Timeline. The closing date for applicants is March 31, 2021, and the tentative first day for the new Executive Director is scheduled for July 1, 2021.
- In his Personnel Matters Report, Dr. Cancino provided information about the following **New Hires**: Andy Salinas, *Specialist-Network and Data Center, Division of Technology for Learning*. **Role Changes**: Dr. Eduardo Cancino, *Deputy Director/Interim Executive Director*. He also reported on the following **Resignations**: Magdalena Ojeda, *Specialist-Learning Resources, Division of Technology for Learning*. ❖



**Next Regularly Scheduled  
Board Meetings:**

**April 20, 2021**

*(tentatively scheduled as a Zoom meeting)*

lease agreement – December 31, 2021 with the option to extend up to three (3) additional one (1) year periods with the option of month-to-month tenancy beyond this term if both parties are in agreement.\*

- Approved Region One Purchasing Cooperative Copy Paper, Envelopes, Tabs, Labels, Binding, Printing-Equipment and Supplies RFP 19-AGENCY-000062, Extension 2 of 3, to the following vendors: Coast to Coast Computer Products, Inc. - Simi Valley, CA; Fasclampitt Paper Co. – McAllen, TX; C&L Business Adventures dba LaserLux – Mercedes, TX; DD Office Products, Inc dba Liberty Paper - Los Angeles, CA; Marketing and Technical Materials also known as MTM – Tualatin, OR; Quill Corporation - Lincolnshire, IL; Ray’s Business Products - Pharr, TX; School Specialty, Inc. - Greenville, WI; JP Gould DBA Western BRW / Bosworth Papers - Austin, TX.\*
- Approved Interim Executive Director to Submit a One Year Extension Waiver Application to TEA to Extend the Term for the Board of Director’s Charter School Representative, Mr. Roberto Moroles.

*\*Consent Agenda Items*

## UPCOMING DATES

### March

Spring Break    March 15-19, 2021  
*Region One ESC Offices Closed*

### April

Board of Directors Meeting                      Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Easter Holiday                                        Friday, April 2, 2021  
*Region One ESC Office Closed*

ESC Inclement Weather Day                   Monday, April 5, 2021  
*Region One ESC Office Closed*

### May

Board of Directors Meeting                      Thursday, May 13, 2021

## Board of Directors 2020-2021

Raul R. Chapa, Chairperson  
Place 7 – Brooks County & Willacy County

Sonia A. Falcon, Vice-Chairman  
Place 4 – Hidalgo County

Dr. Manuel Gomez, Jr., Secretary  
Place 6 – Cameron County

Alicia E. Requenez  
Place 1 – Hidalgo County

Ricardo Gutierrez  
Place 2 – Jim Hogg County, Starr County  
& Zapata County

Laura A. McCoy  
Place 3 – Webb County

Ruben Cortez, Jr.  
Place 5 – Cameron County

Roberto Moroles  
Charter Schools Representative

## Administration

Dr. Eduardo Cancino  
Interim Executive Director  
Deputy Director, Instructional Leadership,  
School Improvement, & College Readiness Support

Dr. Judith M. Solis  
Deputy Director, Administrative Leadership, School  
& Community Support

Connie Lopez, CPA  
Deputy Director, Business,  
Operations & Finance Support

Ali Kolahdouz  
Deputy Director  
Division of Technology for Learning



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