

OPINION // EDITORIALS

# Editorial: Edgewood ISD is back on track

**Express-News Editorial Board**

June 15, 2020 | Updated: June 15, 2020 4:43 p.m.



In this 2019 photo, Edgewood ISD Superintendent Eduardo Hernandez, center, and Pre-K 4 SA CEO Sarah Baray, left, greet a student. After four years of intensive state intervention, Edgewood ISD is finally back on track. The hiring of Hernandez was one important step in that process.

Photo: Marvin Pfeiffer /

Edgewood Independent School District, one of the poorest districts in the state, is finally back in the hands of an elected board.

It's been a long four years since board dysfunction brought the business of this district to a standstill. Dysfunction and disarray prompted state intervention and resulted in the removal of the elected board and the appointment of a superintendent by Texas Education Agency.

News Coronavirus Weather Business Election 2020 Sports Lifestyle Food Opinion News!

decisions ahead as school districts across the state navigate distance learning and make budget decisions during the novel coronavirus pandemic and recession.

The removal of an elected school board, the appointment of trustees and hiring of a superintendent by the education commissioner are drastic measures taken only in extreme cases. In Edgewood, which serves about 11,000 students, the removal of the board came after months of a 3-3 vote deadlock that kept the district from replacing a trustee who had resigned and hampered efforts to hire a permanent superintendent.

The transition out of state control began in June 2018 with the hiring of Eduardo Hernández to replace the state appointed superintendent. It followed with the replacement of some of appointed board members with trustees who had been elected, but had been waiting in the wings to assume their positions. Dina Serrano and Luis Gomez were recently sworn in as trustees completing Edgewood's transition to a fully elected governing board.

As a backstop, TEA will continue to have some oversight through the appointment of San Antonio businessman Roy Soto as a conservator. Soto had served as president of the appointed board.

Before the pandemic, Edgewood was battling high teacher turnover rates and declining enrollment. Those remain important priorities, but bridging the digital divide is also a major factor.

We urge the new elected Edgewood school board to maintain a high degree of transparency and a robust line of communication with families in the district. Social distancing makes it impossible to attend board meetings in person and the level of poverty in the district means many parents can't access meetings on the internet.

Regaining the public's trust will take time. The pandemic only makes this task more difficult.

<a href="#">Our Company</a>	<a href="#">Terms of Use</a>
<a href="#">Newspaper Delivery Safety Procedures</a>	<a href="#">Advertising</a>
<a href="#">Privacy Notice</a>	<a href="#">Careers</a>
<a href="#">Your California Privacy Rights</a>	<a href="#">e-edition</a>
<a href="#">Interest Based Ads</a>	

**CONTACT**

<a href="#">Archives</a>	<a href="#">Frequently Asked Questions</a>
<a href="#">Customer Service</a>	<a href="#">Newsroom Contacts</a>

---

**HEARST** *newspapers*  
©2020 Hearst