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**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 7-12

Minutes of Special Meeting The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held on September 3, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM and was conducted via Video/Audio Conference Pursuant to Governor Greg Abbott's Temporary Suspension of Open Meetings Laws issued on March 16, 2020. The board meeting was audible to the Board and public and allowed for two-way communication.

1. Welcome.

Doug Buchanan, Board President, welcomed the guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Board President Doug Buchanan.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:03 p.m. at which time he was assured by Superintendent, Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr. that notices of the meeting were posted properly according to the laws of Texas and that a quorum of the board was present.

The following board members participated remotely:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Graciela Camargo	Weslaco
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Javier Farias	McAllen
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco

Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen

The following Board members were absent:

Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Rebecca Villarreal	Penitas
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following staff members participated remotely:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Jeff Hembree
J.P. Villarreal	Marla R. Knaub
Lissa Frausto	Sonia E. Rodriguez
Efrain Garza	Ramon Longoria

5. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive requests to address the Board of Directors on agenda topics for this meeting.

6. Action: Review and act on revisions to Policy DEC (LOCAL) - Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the revisions to Policy DEC (LOCAL) to add to the definition of catastrophic illness or injury and to add a new bereavement leave as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Action: Review and act on the revised Masters in Field incentive plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Administration made a recommendation based on TASB’S most recent STISD salary study which included teacher stipend comparisons at local school districts to change the Master’s Degree in a Teaching Field Incentive Program. It was recommended to discontinue the annual incremental pay stipends according to completed college hours, to also discontinue the need to provide staff development sessions in order to continue a master’s stipend, and finally to discontinue a master’s stipend for holding two master’s degree. The Administration recommended that Master’s degree stipend increases only be implemented in the new budget year (September 1); proposed guidelines will continue to offer \$4,000 annual master’s stipend based on the classroom teachers’ teaching field (content area); new hires with a master’s degree in their teaching field are eligible; current employees who already receive the \$4,000 stipend continue to be eligible; current employees who currently receive a \$6,000 stipend for two master’s degrees will no longer receive the stipend beginning 2021-2022 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving the revised Masters in Field incentive plan for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Action: Review and act on recommendation to increase district contribution to employee health insurance benefit for the 2020-2021 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo approving to increase the health insurance allotment by \$26 monthly for a total of \$490 per month per employee as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Action: Review and act on 2019-2020 ESSER Grant (266) Budget Amendment #1 (final).

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the 2019-2020 ESSER Grant (266) Budget Amendment #1 (final) as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on September 3, 2020 at 7:25 p.m. in a closed or executive session as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, 551.084 and 551.001, the Board may go into Executive Session to discuss the following::

- A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters: Closed Meeting
 1. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - a. Teacher(s)
 - b. Chief Academic Officer
 - c. Principal

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 7:38 p.m.

11. OPEN SESSION: Action on any Item Deliberated in Closed Meeting

- A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters:
 1. Action: Review and act on professional staff recommendations for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - a. Teacher(s)
 - b. Chief Academic Officer
 - c. Principal

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the following staff for the 2020-2021 school year: Aaron Arturo Nino and Joshua Lloyd Zamora as teachers (10-month contract).

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, approving the employment of professional staff as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Dr. Garza, adjourning the board meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.