



Always Innovating

**South  
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 7-12

## **Minutes of Regular Meeting**

### **The Board of Directors South Texas ISD**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held on August 25, 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. Public Budget Hearing for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations Ms. Marla Knaub, reviewed the projected revenues and the projected expenditures by function, object, and location for the 2020-2021 proposed budget.

Ms. Knaub reported the budget was prepared based on a tax rate of \$0.0492/\$100 valuation. The tax rate has not been increased since 2007.

The public was given an opportunity to ask any questions. The public hearing was adjourned.

#### 3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Board President Doug Buchanan.

#### 4. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

#### 5. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:17 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
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rebecca Villarreal	Penitas

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
Amanda Odom	Ana Castro
Marcos L. Flores	Criselda R. Flores
Efrain Garza	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Harry Goette	Ann Vickman
Ramon Longoria	

#### 6. Awards & Recognitions.

No awards & recognitions were presented at this time.

#### 7. Approval of Consent Agenda.

In order to promote efficient meetings, the Board may act upon more than one item by a single vote through the use of consent agenda. Consent items shall be items placed on the Agenda marked with an asterisk (\*) for which no Board discussion is anticipated and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. Prior to the meeting, at the request of any member of the Board of Directors, any item on the consent agenda shall be removed and given individual consideration. Requests for individual consideration are made at least a half-hour prior to Board meetings and requests must be directed to either the Board President or the Superintendent.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

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

9. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

Mr. Oscar Benavidez signed up to address the school board regarding in class versus virtual teaching. The Board President read the written statement submitted.

10. \*Action: Review and act on the August 4, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

11. Policy & Curriculum - Sylvia S. Lopez & Yolanda Kamel, Co-Chairs

Mrs. Sylvia S. Lopez reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Action: Review and act on the administrators to hold ARDs for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Action: Review and act on list of appraisers for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action: Review and act on the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) Members for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. Action: Review and act on Policy Update 115, Final Reading.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, adopting Policy Update 115 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Report on 2020 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate scores.

Deputy Superintendent Jeff Hembree provided a report on the Advanced Placement for the district and campuses. The AP Five-year School Summary report included both the number of STISD students taking AP exams and the number of qualifying scores at each campus. The 2019-2020 Advanced Placement exams were administered only online and at student's homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic

In addition, Mr. Hembree presented a report on the IB scores summary report. The report shows the continued development of the IB program and students at the STISD World Scholars

campus. The International Baccalaureate program used only examinations administered to students prior to the COVID-19 interruption of face-to-face instruction.

## 12. Buildings & Grounds - Dr. Rick Villarreal & Mr. Jaime Solis, Co-Chairs

Dr. Rick Villarreal reported on the following committee items:

### A. Report on the following projects:

1. Edinburg Exterior Restroom project
2. Science Academy CATE Building Renovation Project
3. Mercedes Complex Electronic Marquee
4. Medical Professions Classroom Wing Addition
5. New Central Office Building Renovation

Mr. JP Villarreal provided a report on the status of each project as listed on agenda pages 61-70.

### B. Action: Review and act on approving the ranking of proposals for construction services for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project.

A motion was made by Dr. Villarreal, seconded by Mr. Solis, ranking the proposals for construction services for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project as recommended by the ranking committee; awarding the project to the top ranked contractor, Gonzalez Enterprises and authorized the Superintendent to negotiate a construction agreement pursuant to Texas Government Code section 2269.155, authorized the Superintendent to execute the construction agreement on behalf of the District and approved the purchase order for the cost of the base bid in the amount of \$ 266,576.64. The motion passed unanimously.

## 13. Finance - Mr. Ramon Montalvo, III & Mr. Israel G. Quintanilla, Co-Chairs

Israel Quintanilla reported on the following committee items:

### A. \*Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

### B. \*Action: Review and act on approving the 2020-2021 Extra-Curricular and Athletic Activities Resolution and Stipend Agreements.

Approved with the consent agenda.

### C. \*Action: Review and act on removing obsolete capital assets from district inventory.

Approved with the consent agenda.

### D. \*Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing bank signatures for Rising Scholars Academy.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. \*Action: Review and act on contract with Moak, Casey & Associates for legislative services.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. \*Action: Review and act on 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Amendment #2 (final).

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. Action: Review and act on approving the following Request for Proposals:

1. Bus & Auto Parts (RFP 20-016)
2. Mats & Linens (RFP 20-017)
3. Pizza Products (RFP 20-018)
4. Petroleum Products (RFP 20-019)
5. Tow Truck Services (RFP 20-020)

A motion was made by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. A. Garcia accepting the following vendors for a one-year term with the option to extend for two additional one-year terms: Bus & Auto Parts to Burton Companies, Charter Chemical Solutions, Mid Valley Trailer Repair, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Rush Truck Centers of Texas and Texas Alternator Starter Service; Mats & Linens to Model Laundry, LLC; Pizza Products to Rainbow Pizza dba Domino's Pizza; Petroleum Products to Oil Patch Fuel & Supply and Tow Truck Services to Apollo Towing as recommended by the administration. The motion passed unanimously.

- H. Action: Review and act on Resolution adopting the tax rate for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving a Resolution adopting the tax rate for the 2020-2021 fiscal year at \$.0492. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. Action: Review and act on Resolution adopting the General Fund, Child Nutrition and Debt Service Budgets for the 2020-2021 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving a Resolution adopting the General Fund (199), Child Nutrition (240), and Debt Service (516) budgets as presented (board agenda pages 107-112.) The motion passed unanimously.

14. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.

A. \*Campus Reports

1. Preparatory Academy - A. Castro
2. Rising Scholars Academy - C. Rodriguez
3. World Scholars - E. Garza
4. Medical Professions - H. Goette
5. Health Professions - M. L. Flores
6. Science Academy - I. Castillo, Ed.D.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Action: Review and act on rescheduling the November 24, 2020 and January 26, 2021 board meetings.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. \*Action: Review and act on proposed Education Foundation of South Texas ISD Memorandum of Understanding for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. \*Action: Review and act on request for a Communications Media Specialist, a new non-professional position for the 2020-2021 school year and approval of announcement of vacancy.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. \*Action: Review and ratify Missed School Days Waiver submitted to the Texas Education Agency by Superintendent of Schools, as per Resolution granting him the authority due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. \*Action: Review and ratify Administrator/Teacher Appraisal Waiver submitted to the Texas Education Agency by Superintendent of Schools, as per Resolution granting him the authority due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- H. \*Action: Review and act on Request to Extend the Start of the 2020-2021 School Year Transition Beyond the Four-Week Limit Waiver and submit to the Texas Education Agency.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- I. \*Action: Review and act on Request for 40% Campus Hybrid Instruction for 9th-12th grade students Waiver and submit to the Texas Education Agency.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- J. \*Superintendent's comprehensive report on district operations as approved by Resolution to act in place of the Board of Directors during an emergency closure.

Approved with the consent agenda.

15. \*Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on August 25, 2020 at 7:45 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. Teachers
2. Retroactive recommendation of professional staff for 2020 summer programs.
3. Rescission of professional employment contract for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 7:58 p.m.

17. 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 recommendation for professional staff for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - a. Teachers

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the following staff for the 2020-2021 school year: Edna Martinez and Noel Khine 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.

2. Action: Review and retroactive approve professional personnel for 2020 summer programs.

Dr. Lara recommended the retroactive approval of the following professional staff for the 2020 summer programs: Jose R. Perez, Blanca Nieto and Lois Anne Bauer as district-wide coordinators and Josette Ramirez and Blanca Nieto as teachers.

A motion was made Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving the professional staff recommendations for the 2020 summer programs as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Action: Review and act on the rescission of professional employment contract for the 2020-2021 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzales, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar rescinding Daiyce Ovando's professional employment contract for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar adjourning the board meeting at 8:02 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.