



## **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 September 22, 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 Hearing on Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report.

Marla R. Knaub, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, provided an overview of the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas report for South Texas ISD. The FIRST report included the following disclosures as per Title 19 Texas Administrative Code:

- Superintendent's employment contract is posted on the district's internet site at [www.stisd.net](http://www.stisd.net) under Finance.
- Reimbursements received by the Superintendent and Board Members for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (Page 8 of FIRST Report).
- Outside compensation and/or fees received by the Superintendent for Professional Consulting and/or Personal services in fiscal year 2018-2019 (Page 10 of FIRST Report).
- Gifts Received by the Executive Officers and Board Members (and first-degree relatives, if any) in fiscal year 2018-2019 (Page 10 of FIRST Report).
- Business transactions between school district and Board Members for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the 12-month period ending August 31, 2019 (Page 11 of FIRST Report).
- South Texas ISD's rating under School FIRST for the year ending August 31, 2019 was "Superior Achievement" which is the state's highest with a score of 100. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row earning a "Superior Achievement" rating.

The Board President expressed congratulatory remarks to Ms. Marla R. Knaub and staff for a job well done.

#### 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 and remembering Irma Perez-Treviño, Becky Villarreal's husband and Yolanda Kamel's father, Mr. Antonio Trad.

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

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:04 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
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
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

\*Joined and participated as Board went into Executive Session.

The following Board members were absent:

Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
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  
Ramon Longoria

Ann Vickman

6. Awards & Recognitions.

A. Recognition of employee service award recipients for 2019-2020.

Mrs. Amanda Odom reported there were 109 employees that were recipients of an employee service award for the 2019-2020 school year. Of the 109 employees, 73 received for 5 years; 20 for 10 years; 3 for 15 years; 10 for 25 years; 2 for 30 years and 1 employee for 45 years to South Texas ISD. Traditionally, employees are recognized at their respective campus in a more personal basis, however, because of the circumstances with COVID-19 the district could not present them with the award. Service Awards will be delivered to staff this week with a note from the Superintendent and Board of Directors.

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 Mr. LeVrier, 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.

The Board did not receive requests for public audience for non-agenda topics for this meeting.

10. \*Action: Review and act on the August 25 and September 3, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

A. \*Report on student graduation plans.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. \*Action: Review and act on 2020-2021 appraisal calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Dr. Rick Villarreal reported on the following committee items:

- A. Report on the following projects:
  - 1. Mercedes Complex Electronic Marquee
  - 2. Medical Professions Classroom Wing Addition
  - 3. New Central Office Building Renovation

Mr. JP Villarreal provided a report on the status of each project as listed on agenda pages 26-31.

- B. Action: Review and act on approving the ranking of proposals for the construction services for the following projects:
  - 1. Edinburg Exterior Restroom project

A motion was made by Dr. Villarreal, seconded by Mr. Solis ranking the proposals for construction services for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project as recommended by the ranking committee; awarding the project to the top ranked contractor, D. Wilson Construction 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 \$ 245,000. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project

A motion was made by Dr. Villarreal, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia ranking the proposals for construction services for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project as recommended by the ranking committee; awarding the project to the top ranked contractor, Gerlach Builders dba Wil-Con 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 \$ 639,000. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Ramon Montalvo, III reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Report on school district investments:
  - 1. Investments owned by the district.
  - 2. Investments held by Wilmington Trust for the South Texas ISD Public Facilities Corporation.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. \*Report on 2019-2020 fourth quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. \*Action: Review and act on requisition #087587 Longhorn Bus Sales for the purchase of buses.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. \*Action: Review and act on the 2020-2021 General Fund, Budget Amendment #1.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. \*Action: Review and act on the following budget amendments to carry forward the 2019-2020 federal funds:

1. 204 (289) Title IV Part A, Budget Amendment #1
2. 211 Title I Part A, Budget Amendment #1
3. 212 Title I Part C, Budget Amendment #1
4. 224 IDEA B, Budget Amendment #1
5. 255 Title II Part A, Budget Amendment #1
6. 263 Title III Part A, Budget Amendment #1
7. 266 ESSER Grant, Budget Amendment #1
8. 410 Instructional Materials Allotment, Budget Amendment #1

Approved with the consent agenda.

G. Report on the following 2020-2021 Federal budgets:

1. 211 Title I Part A
2. 212 Title I Part C
3. 224 IDEA B
4. 244 Carl Perkins CTE
5. 255 Title II Part A
6. 263 Title III Part A
7. 289 Title IV Part A
8. 397 International Baccalaureate Incentive Award

Ms. Marla Knaub reported on the 2020-2021 federal budgets. No board action was needed.

H. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Payment application #1 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Preparatory Academy Parking Lot Expansion project.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, approving the payment application #1 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$11,995.95 for the Preparatory Academy Parking Lot Expansion project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Payment application #2 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the payment application #2 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$22,320 for the for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Payment application #1 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving the payment application #1 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$53,842.20 for the for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. Action: Review and act on proposed calendar for South Texas ISD Audit.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the calendar for the South Texas ISD Audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- J. Action: Review and act on the following donation(s):

1. \$1,000 from Dr. Ricardo Ochoa for Health Professions

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the \$1,000 donation from Dr. R. Ochoa as presented. 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. Flores
6. Science Academy - I. Castillo, Ed.D.
7. Attendance Reports - J. Hembree

Approved with the consent agenda.

##### B. \*Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

##### C. \*Action: Review and act on appointing School Health Advisory Council Members.

Approved with the consent agenda.

##### D. Action: Review and act on request from Board Member Irma Perez Trevino for reimbursement of 2020 board approved travel.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Lopez, approving Irma Perez Treviño's request for reimbursement as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. \*Action: Review and act on board members to attend the following:

1. STISD Day at the Capitol, February 9, 2021, Austin, TX
2. NSBA Annual Conference, April 10-12, 2021, New Orleans, LA

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. \*Action: Review and act on approval of Board delegates to attend the NSBA's Advocacy Institute, January 24-26, 2021 in Washington, DC.

Approved with the consent agenda.

G. \*Annual report on the Education Foundation of South Texas ISD.

Approved with the consent agenda.

H. Action: Review and act on request for additional district administrative professional and paraprofessional positions for the 2020-2021 school year and announcement of vacancies.

A motion was made by Dr. Villarreal, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving the additional two professional positions (Licensed Specialist in School Psychology and Human Resources Specialist); two paraprofessional secretary positions as presented (page 135) and approval of announcement of vacancies. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on proposed Board's procedures on public comment and public audience.

The Board President and Superintendent drafted proposed Board's procedures on public comment and public audience for the Board's review and feedback. Some board members expressed concern about offering to our school and business community only one source (via internet) to access the form to sign-up to address the Board. Board members suggested having other ways how we can better serve the community.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, approving the Board's procedures on public comment and public audience as presented. The motion passed with one against (Mr. E. Rodriguez).

J. Action: Review and act on Certification (Election Code 2.052) of unopposed status of candidates for election to the office of South Texas ISD School Board Director:

1. Sylvia S. Lopez - Cameron County Precinct 2
2. Irma Perez-Treviño - Cameron County Precinct 4
3. Israel G. Quintanilla - Willacy County Precinct 2
4. Hector Gonzales - Willacy County Precinct 3

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the Certification of unopposed status of candidates for election to the office of South Texas ISD School Board Director as presented (page 144). The motion passed unanimously.

- K. Action: Review and act on Resolution declaring each unopposed candidate, as per certification, elected to the office of School Board Directors and authorize an issuance of a certificate of election (Election Code 2.053).

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the Resolution declaring each unopposed candidate, as per certification, elected to the office of School Board Directors and authorized an issuance of certificate of election as presented (page 146). The motion passed unanimously.

- L. Superintendent's report on district activities August thru September.

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, gave a full report on the district activities during the months of August through September. Dr. Lara was very pleased and bragged about the staff and about the student's attendance. He reported the district has been diligently preparing for transitioning students to have face to face instruction. Teachers are expected to return next week to their classrooms.

15. \*Correspondence.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on September 22, 2020 at 8:05 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. Nurse
  - c. Counselor
  - d. Principal
  - e. Chief Academic Officer

- B. 551.072 Deliberation regarding real property; Closed Meeting

1. Report on the sale listing of 15.91 acres on Russell Lane in San Benito.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:17 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 of professional staff for the 2020-2021 school year.
  - a. Teacher(s)
  - b. Nurse
  - c. Counselor
  - d. Principal



## e. Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the following staff for the 2020-2021 school year: Nereyda Treviño as Chief Academic Officer (12 month contract); Jesse Coke Brown as Teacher (10 month contract); Amy Lee Peña as Counselor (11 month contract); and Biatris Sierra as School Nurse (10-month contract).

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

## B. 551.072 Deliberation regarding real property.

1. Action: Review and act on the contract with realtor for the sale of 15.91 acres on Russell Lane in San Benito and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign the contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar to table this item. The motion passed unanimously.

## 18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, adjourning the board meeting at 8:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.