



## **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 October 27, 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 remembering Becky Villarreal’s husband, Javier Farias’ mother, Olga Farias and Israel G. Quintanilla’s mother, Patty Quintanilla.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:00 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
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
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Javier Farias	McAllen
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
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	Harry Goette
Ann Vickman	Ramon Longoria

5. Awards & Recognitions.
  - A. Recognition of Health Professions senior for selection as KVEO "More than an Athlete" honoree.
  - B. Recognition of Medical Professions senior for selection as KRGV "Student of the Week."
  - C. Recognition of Science Academy student for her drive and commitment to completing her high school coursework no matter the obstacles faced.
  - D. Recognition of Medical Professions teacher Elizabeth Carr for receiving the 2020 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award.
  - E. Recognition of Human Resources Staff in honor of Texas Education Human Resources Day, October 14.
  - F. Recognition of Dr. Barbara Heater for her retirement and years of service as Health Professions Principal.
  - G. Recognition of principals in honor of Principals' Month.
  - H. Recognition of all four high schools for receiving 2020 College Success Awards from GreatSchools.
  - I. Recognition of the district and all six campuses for ranking among the best in the state and nation for the seventh consecutive year in the Niche Best Schools Rankings.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized Claire Reed, Health Professions senior for the selection as KVEO “More than an Athlete” honoree; Jeremias Nunez, Medical Professions senior for the selection as KRGV “Student of the Week;” May Mendez, Science Academy student for completing her high school coursework no matter the obstacles faced; Elizabeth Carr, Medical Professions teacher for receiving the 2020 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award; Lissa Frausto and Blanca Anguiano in honor of Texas Education Human Resources Day; Dr. Barbara Heater for her retirement and service as Health Professions Principal; campus principals in honor of Principals’ Month; high school campuses for receiving 2020 College Success Awards from GreatSchools; and all campuses for ranking among the best in the state and nation in the Niche Best Schools Ranking.

6. 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 Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

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

8. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

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

9. \*Action: Review and act on the September 22, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Mrs. Yolanda Kamel reported on the following committee items:

A. \*Report on gender and ethnicity of all students.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Report on home districts of all students.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Report on College Entrance Scores.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. \*Report on Honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and IB Enrollment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. \*Action: Review and act on revisions to Policy BED(LOCAL).

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. Report on the 2020-2021 District Improvement Plan (First Reading).

Mr. Jeff Hembre reported on the 2020-2021 District Improvement Plan. The plan puts an emphasis on face to face instruction but also addresses virtual instruction. This was the first reading of the report, the Administration will bring this report for a second and final reading for board action at the next board meeting.

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

Dr. Rick Villarreal reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Action: Review and act on extending the lease agreement with Delfino Cornejo, Jr. for the San Benito property.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. \*Action: Review and act on authorizing the administration to go out for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSPs) for the New Central Office Building Renovation project.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Report on the following projects:
  - 1. Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility

2. Preparatory Academy Parking Lot Expansion
3. Edinburg Exterior Restroom project
4. Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project
5. New Central Office Building Renovation project

Mr. JP Villarreal provided a report on the status of each project as listed on agenda pages 94-105.

- D. Report on the South Texas ISD 2019-2020 Safety and Security Audit Report.

This was for board information only. No board action was taken.

- E. Action: Review and act on South Texas ISD's Emergency Operations Plan.

A motion was made by Dr. Villarreal, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the district's Emergency Operations Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Ramon Montalvo, III 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 Requisition #088577 to Caldwell County Chevrolet for the purchase of two trucks for the district.

A motion was made Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving requisition #088577 to Caldwell County for the purchase of two trucks as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Action: Review and act on the following budget amendments:
  1. 266 ESSER Grant, Budget Amendment #1
  2. 199 General Fund, Budget Amendment #2

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the 266 ESSER Grant, Budget Amendment #1 for supplies and equipment in response to COVID-19 and approving the 199 General Fund, Budget Amendment #2 for the new HR Specialist position. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:
  1. Payment application #3 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project.

A motion was made by Mr. E. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the payment application #3 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$1,497.60 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Payment application #2 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility.

A motion was made by Mr. H. Garcia, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar approving the application for payment #2 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$44,412.50 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Payment application #1 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project.

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mrs. Camargo approving the application for payment #1 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$11,025 for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Payment application #1 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project.

A motion was made by Dr. Garza , seconded by Mrs. Cuellar, approving the application for payment #1 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$30,850.91 for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Annual report on tax delinquent collection from Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP reported on the annual report on tax delinquent collection for the district. Mr. Michael Cano participated remotely to give the report and answer any questions.

13. 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. Report on South Texas ISD Board member training continuing education credit report.

Board President Doug Buchanan publicly announced the training continuing education credit report for each individual board member for the period beginning November 1, 2019 through October 27, 2020 for Tier 1 Orientation to the Texas Education Code; Update to the Texas Education Code; Tier 2 Team Building; Tier 3 Continuing Education based on needs assessment; and Tier 4 Senate Bill 1566 as detailed on page 9.

- D. Superintendent's report on district activities August thru October.

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, gave a full report on the district activities during the months of August through October. Dr. Lara reported the teachers are doing a remarkable job! The district welcomed back several groups of students back on campus. Dr. Lara commended the Food Service Department and our custodial staff for their work and dedication.

14. \*Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on October 27, 2020 at 8:14 p.m. in a closed meeting 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
      - b. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
      - c. Assistant Principal
      - d. Principal
      - e. Human Resources Specialist

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:38 p.m.

16. 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. Teachers
  - b. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
  - c. Assistant Principal
  - d. Principal
  - e. Human Resources Specialist

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the following staff for the 2020-2021 school year: San Juanita Ortiz, Principal (12 month contract); Julia N. Ramirez and Bianca Ramirez-Cano as Assistant Principals (11 month contract); Alma Delia Espinoza as Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (11 month contract); Juanita Sicairos as Human Resources Specialist (12 month contract); Juliana Alejandro, Randee Sheryl Beglin, Christian Cariaga and Rigo A. Falcon as Teachers (10 month contract).

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

17. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mrs. Cuellar adjourning the board meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



**2020 South Texas ISD Board of Directors  
Continuing Education Credits**

<b>Experienced Board Member Requirements (After First Year – 9-16 hrs.)</b>	<b>Cybersecurity</b>	<b>Child Abuse Prevention</b>	<b>Post Legislative Update to TEC</b>	<b>Team Building</b>	<b>Additional Continuing Education</b>	<b>SB 1566 Evaluating &amp; Improving Student Outcomes</b>
Doug Buchanan	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Grace Camargo	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Abiel J. Cantu	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Eduardo “Larry” Cantu	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Martin Castillo, D.C.	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Yolanda Cuellar	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Completed	Completed
Javier Farias	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Richard Fleming, MD	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Completed	Completed
Adrian Garcia	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Deficient	Deficient
Homero Garcia	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Margarita Garcia	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Sylvia S. Garza, Ph.D.	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Completed	Completed
Hector Gonzales	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Robert J. Lerma	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Henry LeVrier	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Sylvia S. Lopez	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Ramon Montalvo, III	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Eduardo R. Rodriguez	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Jaime R. Solis	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Irma Perez-Trevino	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Completed	Completed
Israel G. Quintanilla	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Exceeded	Completed
Rebecca Villarreal	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Completed	Completed
Rick Villarreal, DDS	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Completed	Completed

<b>New Board Member Requirements (First Year – 25 hrs.)</b>	<b>Local District Orientation</b>	<b>Introduction to TEC</b>	<b>Open Government</b>	<b>Cybersecurity</b>	<b>Post Legislative Update to TEC</b>	<b>Child Abuse Prevention</b>	<b>SB 1566 Evaluating &amp; Improving Student Outcomes</b>	<b>Team Building</b>	<b>Additional Continuing Education</b>
Yolanda Kamel	Completed	To be scheduled and announced	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for December 1, 2020	Completed