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**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 December 8, 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 7:00 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
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford

Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following Board members were absent:

Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Robert J. Lerma	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
Amanda Odom	Ana Castro
Marcos L. Flores	Criselda R. Flores
Efrain Garza	Harry Goette
Janie Ortiz	Ramon Longoria
Lorena Madrigal	

5. Awards & Recognitions.

There were no awards or recognitions presented.

6. Action: Reorganization of the Board of Directors.

A. Action: Election for President

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marco A. Lara opened the floor for nominations for the office of the Board President.

Mr. Javier Farias nominated Mr. Doug Buchanan for the office of the President. Mrs. Sylvia Lopez seconded the nomination.

Dr. Lara asked for further nominations. After having no further nominations, Mr. Abiel Cantu moved to cease the nominations. Mr. Doug Buchanan was elected President of the Board by acclamation.

B. Action: Election for Vice-President (newly elected President presiding)

Board President Doug Buchanan called for nominations for the office of the Vice President. Mr. Adrian Garcia nominated Mr. Henry LeVrier. Mr. Eduardo Rodriguez seconded the nomination.

Board President asked for further nominations. After having no further nominations, Mr. Larry Cantu moved to cease the nominations. Mr. Henry LeVrier was elected Vice-President of the Board by acclamation.

C. Action: Election of Secretary

Board President Doug Buchanan called for nominations for the office of the Secretary. Mr. Javier Farias nominated Dr. Sylvia S. Garza. Mr. Jaime Solis seconded the nomination. Dr. Rick Villarreal nominated Mr. Larry Cantu. Mr. Adrian Garcia seconded the nomination. Board President asked for further nominations. After having no further nominations, Mr. Javier Farias moved to cease the nominations. Dr. Sylvia S. Garza received the majority of the votes and was elected Board Secretary.

7. Action: Review and accept Financial Statements & Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants, South Texas Independent School District/South Texas Independent School District Public Facilities Corporation, for the year that ended August 31, 2020.

A. Annual Financial Report

Luis C. Orozco, CPA and Jesus Moncayo, auditors, reported on the 2019-2020 school year audit. A report entitled Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountant South Texas Independent School District was distributed, discussed, and accepted. Mr. Orozco reported the financial statements in the report presented fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of South Texas Independent School District as of August 31, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position, thereof, and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In short, STISD received an unqualified report. Mr. Orozco was very pleased to report there were no findings. He thanked the Administration for a job well done.

Current Year Comments/Recommendations:

No comments/recommendations were made.

Status of Prior Year

Finding 2019-001 Significant Deficiency – Incorrect Recording of Long-Term Debt - Item corrected.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the audit report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Board President Doug Buchanan acknowledged Ms. Marla Knaub and staff for their work in ensuring a clean audit.

8. 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. Gonzales, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

9. *Action: Review and act on the October 27 and November 17, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

10. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

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

11. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

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

12. 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 revising Policy BBB (LOCAL) Board Members Elections.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. Action: Review and act on the 2020-2021 District & Campus Improvement Plan (Final Reading).

A motion was made by Mrs. Lopez, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the 2020-2021 District & Campus Improvement Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

13. 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. Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility
 - 2. Preparatory Academy Parking Lot Expansion
 - 3. Edinburg Exterior Restroom project
 - 4. Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project

Mr. JP Villarreal provided a report on the status of each project as listed on agenda page 22.

14. Finance - Israel G. Quintanilla, Co-Chair

Mr. Israel G. 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 annual incentive program pay for qualified employees.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing bank signatures for Health Professions and World Scholars.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the (266) ESSER Grant, Budget Amendment #2.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on designating \$2,400,000 of fund balance for future projects.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. Action: Review and act on awarding request for qualifications for Supplemental Benefits Third Party Administrator.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mrs. Lopez, approving the ranking of the request for qualifications (RFQ-21-00) Employee Brokerage Services (third party administrator) and awarding First Financial Group of America as presented. The motion passed with one against (Mr. J. Farias).

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

1. \$1,000 from Humanities Texas for Medical Professions
2. In-kind donation of a vehicle (valued at \$500-\$1,000) from Joe Lamas for Science Academy

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mrs. Lopez, approving the \$1,000 donation from Humanities Texas and the in-kind donation of a vehicle from Joe Lamas as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #5 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project.
2. Payment application #4 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility.
3. Payment application #2 to Gonzalez Enterprise for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project.
4. Payment application #2 to Gignac & Associates for the New Central Office Building Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the payment application #5 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$4,118.40 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project as presented; payment application #4 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$272,897.95 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility; payment application #2 to Gonzalez Enterprise in the amount of \$44,175.10 for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project; and payment application #2 to Gignac & Associates in the amount of \$48,916.88 for the New Central Office Building Renovation project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

1. 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 - J. Ortiz
4. Medical Professions - H. Goette
5. Health Professions - M. Flores
6. Science Academy – L. Madrigal
7. Attendance Reports - J. Hembree

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on re-adoption of Board of Trustees' Code of Ethics to include new board members.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 2. *Correspondence.

Approved with the consent agenda.

17 **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board of Directors met on December 8, 2020 8:10 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. Teacher(s)
 - 2. Rescission of professional employment contract for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:17 p.m.

18. **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)

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the following staff for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year: Jesus Gonzalez and Miriam Ortiz as Teachers (10-month contract).

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

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

Dr. Lara recommended the rescission of professional employment contract offered to Bianca Ramirez-Cano as Assistant Principal. A motion was made by Mr. A. J. Cantu, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving the rescission of contract as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Dr. Garza, seconded by Mrs. Lopez adjourning the board meeting at 8:22 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.