



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 February 2, 2021 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
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
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
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
David Torres	Edinburg
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following Board members were absent:

Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Natividad Sosa	Mission

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.

A. Recognition of South Texas ISD Board of Directors in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

As part of Texas Board Recognition Month, a few students, campus principals and superintendent expressed words of appreciation to board members and presented board tokens of appreciation honoring them for their leadership, work and dedication to South Texas ISD. In addition, students from Ms. Jeter's band class from the World Scholars/STPA presented a virtual performance.

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 Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Mr. Torres, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the December 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Dr. Martin Castillo reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on proposed admission qualifications for students and campus target populations for 2021-2022 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on Policy Update 116, First Reading.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Action: Review and act on changes to district policy BDB(LOCAL) Board Internal Organization: Internal Committees.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu approving the changes to district policy BDB (LOCAL) Board Internal Organization: Internal Committees as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Report on District of Innovation activities.

Mr. Jeff Hembree, Deputy Superintendent reported on the District of Innovation activities as presented on agenda pages 39-40. This is the beginning of the third year of the plan.

E. Action: Review and act on the following Proposed Actions:

1. Course Additions (Health Professions): Sports Medicine I & Sports Medicine II
2. Dual Enrollment Pathway for Medical Office Specialist (Health Professions)

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Kamel, approving Health Professions' new course additions of Sports Medicine I & Sports Medicine II and the Dual enrollment Pathway for Medical Office Specialist as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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 Karle Farms for the maintenance of the orange grove on the Mercedes grounds.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. Report on the following projects:

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

Mr. JP Villarreal provided a report on the status of each project as listed on agenda pages 49-51.

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

Mr. Israel Quintanilla reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Report on first quarter 2020-2021 District Comparison of Revenues/Expenditures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *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.

C. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Report on the 2021-2022 budget calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Report on 2020-2021 first quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing bank signatures for new officers.

Approved with the consent agenda.

G. *Action: Review and act on extending the Landscaping and Maintenance (RFP 17-008) for one year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

H. Action: Review and act on removing assets from the district asset listing.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving the removal of assets from the district asset listing and send to surplus as recommended (agenda pages 75-77). The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #6 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project.
2. Payment application #5 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility.

3. Payment application #3 to Gonzalez Enterprise for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project.
4. Payment application #3 to Gignac & Associates for the New Central Office Building Renovation project.
5. Payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project.
6. Payment application #3 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project.
7. Payment application #3 to Gerlach Builders for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project.
8. Payment application #1R to Gignac & Associates for the Medical Professions wing addition.

A motion was made by Mr. Solis, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the payment application #6 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$4,118.40 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project as presented; payment application #5 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$248,609.30 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility; payment application #3 to Gonzalez Enterprise in the amount of \$78,001.85 for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project; payment application #3 to Gignac & Associates in the amount of \$59,897.53. for the New Central Office Building Renovation project; payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$1,939.25 for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project; payment application #3 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of 2,587.95 for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project; payment application #3 to Gerlach Builders in the amount of \$161,766.29 for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project; and payment application #1R to Gignac & Associates in the amount of \$33,832.50 for the Medical Professions wing addition as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- A. Action: Review and act on extending the independent auditor's contract (RFQ 20-013) for one year or authorize the administration to advertise for independent auditor's qualifications for the 2020-2021 audit.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mr. Lerma, extending the independent auditor's contract with Luis C. Orozco, CPA by one year between for the 2020-2021 school district audit. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Action: Review and act on the following donation(s):
 1. \$1,000 from United Way to South Texas ISD
 2. \$300 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa to STPA
 3. \$100 from Mrs. E. Hernandez to Rising Scholars
 4. \$300 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa to World Scholars

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantu, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the \$1,000 donation from United Way; \$300 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa; \$100 from Mrs. E. Hernandez and \$300 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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 - 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. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Report on staff ethnicity, gender and degree status.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on request to approve acting principal at Science Academy and salary adjustment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Report on local certification through the District of Innovation Plan.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. Action: Review and act on legal services contract with Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle PC (RFQ 19-010) or authorize the administration to advertise for legal services qualifications.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. A. Garcia, approving to continue the legal services contract with Walsh, Gallegos, Treviño, Russo & Kyle PC. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and act on Resolution regarding Extension of Time to Use Emergency Paid Sick Leave for the 2020-2021 School Year.

A motion was made by Mr. Torres, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the Resolution regarding Extension of Time to Use Emergency Paid Sick Leave or the 2020-2021 school year as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

14. *Correspondence.

No correspondence was received.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on February 2, 2021 8:20 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)
 - b. School Nurse
 - c. Assistant Principals
 2. Summative Evaluation of Superintendent's job performance.
 - a. STISD - Superintendent contract and fringe benefits

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 9:02 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. Teacher(s)
 - b. School Nurse
 - c. Assistant Principals

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the following staff for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, retroactive to start date: Laura Barrera, Travis Maldonado, Francisco Piña, Dena Poppe, Adan Salinas, Christopher Wiley and Krystal Whitworth as Teachers (10-month contract); Elizabeth Quintero as School Nurse (10-month contract); and Janis De Luna, Eric A. Gutierrez and Magdalena Ojeda as Assistant Principals (11-month contract).

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mrs. Crane approving to hire the professional staff for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year retroactive to start date as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on Summative Evaluation of Superintendent's job performance.
 - a. Action: STISD - Superintendent contract and fringe benefits

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. A. Cantu, approving Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr.'s, Superintendent of Schools, Summative Evaluation for his job performance; extending the Superintendent's employment contract for one additional year; and increasing his annual salary by 8.8%. The motion passed unanimously.

The Superintendent received an excellent evaluation. The Board Officers will meet with Dr. Lara to share the evaluation comments.

17. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzales, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu adjourning the board meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.