



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 25, 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 and remembering Irma Perez-Treviño, David Torres family and former board member Joe Rodriguez.

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
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
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
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Javier Farias	McAllen
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Ruth Villarreal	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. District & Campus Texas Academic Performance Report Public Hearing.

Jeff Hembree reported on the District and Campus Performance reports which included the District Call to Action, Strategic Plan Goals; guidelines for the Texas Academic Performance Report; 2019-2020 Texas Academic Performance Report; PEIMS Financial Standard reports; District Accreditation Status 2019-2020; Campus Performance objectives; report on criminal incidents and reports of student enrollment and academic performance after graduation.

6. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of South Texas Preparatory Academy and Rising Scholars Academy for being nominated for 2021 National Blue Ribbon Honors.
- B. Recognition of Mr. Harry Goette for his retirement and years of service as Medical Professions Principal.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized South Texas Preparatory Academy and Rising Scholars Academy for being nominated for 2021 National Blue Ribbon Honors and Mr. Harry Goette for his retirement and his 46 years of service.

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. L. Cantu, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously

8. *Action: Review and act on the February 2, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

9. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

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

10. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

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

11. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Sylvia S. Lopez & Rick Villarreal, DDS, Co-Chairs

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

A. *Report: District-wide Professional Development for the month of March.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Science Academy Course Additions: Digital Art Pathway (Art 1 - Art & Media Communications; Art 2 - Design I; and Art 2 - Digital Art & Media I)
2. Health Professions Course Additions: Mathematics for Medical Professionals, Principles of Diagnostic Healthcare, Introduction to Imaging Technology, Princ.

Of Agriculture, Small Animal Management, Advanced Animal Science, Veterinary Medical Application, Financial Mathematics, Equine Science and Emergency Medical Tech-Basic

3. World Scholars Course Additions: Principles of Cosmetology Design and Color Theory; Introduction to Cosmetology; Principles of Human Services; Entrepreneurship II; Audio Video Production II; Practicum of Audio/Video Production; Practicum in Graphic Design and Illustration; Practicum in Animation; and Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security

A motion was made by Mrs. Lopez, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the proposed actions for course additions for Science Academy Course Additions: Digital Art Pathway (Art 1 - Art & Media Communications; Art 2 - Design I; and Art 2 - Digital Art & Media I); Health Professions Course Additions: Mathematics for Medical Professionals, Principles of Diagnostic Healthcare, Introduction to Imaging Technology, Princ. of Agriculture, Small Animal Management, Advanced Animal Science, Veterinary Medical Application, Financial Mathematics, Equine Science and Emergency Medical Tech-Basic; and World Scholars Course Additions: Principles of Cosmetology Design and Color Theory; Introduction to Cosmetology; Principles of Human Services; Entrepreneurship II; Audio Video Production II; Practicum of Audio/Video Production; Practicum in Graphic Design and Illustration; Practicum in Animation; and Practicum in Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Finance & Operations Committee - Martin Castillo, DC & Henry LeVrier, Co-Chairs

Dr. Martin Castillo 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 Resolution authorizing bank signatures for Health Professions, Medical Professions, Science Academy and World Scholars.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on removing capital assets from district inventory.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the following budget amendments:

1. (199) General Fund, Budget Amendment #3
2. (244) Perkins Reserve Grant, Budget Amendment #1

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Action: Review and act on requisition #090997 to Longhorn Bus Sale for the purchase of new school buses.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving requisition #090997 to Longhorn Bus Sale for the purchase of 10 new school buses for a total amount of \$1,045,160. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Payment application #7 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project.
2. Payment application #6 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility.
3. Payment application #4 to Gonzalez Enterprise for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project.
4. Payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project.
5. Payment application #4 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project.
6. Payment application #4 to Gerlach Builders for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project.
7. Payment application #4 to Gignac & Associates for the New Central Office Building Renovation project.
8. Payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project.
9. Payment application #1 to D. Wilson for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the payment application #7 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$3,744 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility project as presented; payment application #6 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$256,363.20 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility; payment application #4 to Gonzalez Enterprise in the amount of \$34,055.22 for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project; payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$570.02 for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project; payment application #4 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz Inc. in the amount of \$1,246.05 for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project; payment application #4 to Gerlach Builders in the amount of \$78,236.35 for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project; payment application #4 to Gignac & Associates in the amount of \$92,150.05 for the New Central Office Building Renovation project; payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$588 for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project; and payment application #1 to D Wilson in the amount of \$38,395.20 for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. \$608.14 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa to Health Professions

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Solis, accepting the \$608.14 donation from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- H. Action: Review and act on awarding Property, Liability and Auto Insurance proposals.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Solis, awarding the Property, Liability & Auto Insurance proposal to Shepard Walton King for April 1, 2021 through April 1, 2022 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. 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 100-102.

- J. Action: Review and act on the Electrical Easement and Right for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility as proposed by AEP Texas Inc.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Lopez, approving the 0.10 acre Utility Electrical Easement and Right of Way as requested by AEP Texas Inc. (agenda pages 104-108). The motion passed unanimously.

- K. Action: Review and act on Change Order #2 to the betterment fund for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving Change Order #2 to the betterment fund for the Preparatory Parking Lot Expansion project to provide labor and material for the demolition, grading and concrete of sidewalk in the amount of \$3,573. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Abiel J. Cantu & Larry Cantu, Co-Chairs

Mr. Abiel J. Cantu reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on Policy Update 116, Final Reading.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Review and act on revisions to Policy DCE (LOCAL) - Employment Practices/Other Types of Contract.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 14. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Sasha Crane & Jaime Solis, Co-Chairs

Mr. Jaime Solis reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 15. 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. *Action: Review and act on approving wage payments to district employees for time missed due to severe weather conditions and power outage.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on request for new non-professional positions for an HVAC Technician, Electrician and Plumber, for the 2020-2021 school year and approval of announcement of vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Action: Annual review and approval of revisions to update the Board Operating Procedures.

A motion was made by Mr. L. Cantu, seconded by Mr. A. J. Cantu, approving the revisions to the Board Operating Procedures as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Review and approve Missed School Days Waiver to be submitted to the Texas Education Agency by Superintendent of Schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Solis, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the Missed School Days Waiver to be submitted to the Texas Education Agency by Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and select a nominee from the board to the Region I, Position B seat on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kamel, seconded by Mrs. Crane, nominating Dr. Sylvia Sanchez Garza to the Region I, Position B seat on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Board. The motion passed unanimously.

- 16. *Correspondence.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 17. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board of Directors met on February 25, 2021 8:18 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. Counselor

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:23 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. Counselor

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended Irene Perez as Counselor (11-month contract) for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Solis approving to hire Ms. Irene Perez for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lopez, seconded by Mr. A.J. Cantu adjourning the board meeting at 8:26 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.