



## Minutes of Regular Meeting

### The Board of Directors

### South Texas ISD

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A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held on June 28, 2021 beginning at 7:15 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 Mr. Henry LeVrier.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence and remembering Mr. Antonio Trad, Irma Perez-Treviño and Dr. Tony Lara’s family.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at 7:15 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:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. “Larry” Cantu	Los Fresnos
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
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
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following Board members were absent:

Sasha Crane	McAllen
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen

The following staff members participated:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Jeff Hembree
Marla R. Knaub	Nereyda Treviño
Lissa Frausto	Sonia E. Rodriguez
Amanda Odom	Ana Castro
Marcos L. Flores	Criselda R. Flores
Efrain Garza	Jose Lucio
Janie Ortiz	Ramon Longoria

#### 5. Awards & Recognitions.

##### A. Recognition of retirees who have dedicated 25 years or more to STISD.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom presented a glass plaque and recognized district retirees whom dedicated 25 years of service or more to South Texas ISD.

#### 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.

The Board President asked to pull agenda item 11.E from consent agenda as requested by a board member. A motion was made by Mrs. Kamel, seconded by Mr. A. J. Cantu, approving the consent agenda items as presented with the exception of agenda item 11.E. The motion passed unanimously.

7. \*Action: Review and act on the May 25, 2021 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. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Sylvia S. Lopez & Rick Villarreal, DDS, Co-Chairs

Dr. Rick Villarreal reported there were no reports at this time. The Board will hear a report on the CATE Audit at the next board meeting.

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

Dr. Martin Castillo reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Report on District Comparison of Revenues/Expenditures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. \*Report on 2020-2021 third quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. \*Annual review of district policy CDA (LOCAL) Other Revenues & Investments.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Action: Review and act on 2021-2022 Employee Benefits and Travel Reimbursement Schedule.

Ms. Knaub reported on the 2021-2022 Employee Benefits & Travel Reimbursement Schedule and explained there was a typo on the health care (should be corrected to read \$525 for health care not \$535). A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving the 2021-2022 Employee Benefits and Travel Reimbursement Schedule as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. \*Action: Review and act on extending the following Request for Proposals (RFPs):

1. Employee Uniform - RFP 19-001
2. Workers' Compensation Insurance RFP 19-012
3. Mats & Linens RFP 20-017
4. Pizza Products RFP 20-018
5. Petroleum Products RFP 20-019
6. Tow Truck Services RFP 20-020
7. General Merchandise RFP 20-002
8. Instructional Material & Technology Products RFP 20-003
9. Document Imaging, Shredding & Retention Services RFP 20-004
10. Building Materials RFP 20-005
11. Building Grounds Repairs & Equipment RFP 20-006
12. Drug Testing Services RFP 20-007
13. Video Productions & Photography Services RFP 20-008
14. Travel Agent & Charter Bus Services RFP 20-014
15. Bus & Auto Parts RFP 20-016

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. Report on Public & Board Notice of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II & III (ESSER II & ESSER III or ARP ESSER) fund.

Ms. Marla Knaub reported on the Public & Board Notice of ESSER Relief II & III funds. No action taken. This was a notice to the Board regarding the ESSER funds.

- H. Action: Review and act on Resolution: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Fund adopting text for inclusion in district policy CB(LOCAL) regarding State and Federal Revenue Sources.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Lerma, adopting the Resolution: Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief III Fund adopting text for inclusion in district policy CB(LOCAL) regarding state and federal revenue sources as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. Action: Review and act on 2020-2021 General Fund (199) Budget Amendment #7.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Kamel, approving the 2020-2021 General Fund (199) budget amendment #7 to reflect anticipated revenues for the remainder of the year, Budget Amendment for ELS & Math Coordinators and TRS on behalf.

- J. Action: Review and act on the 2021-2022 Employee Compensation Plan.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving the 2021-2022 Employee Compensation Plan (Option 2 which includes a 4% increase from the midpoint for all eligible employees; \$2,000 COVID stipend (½ to be disbursed in December and ½ in May); \$35 increase in the health insurance allotment; and \$3.94 increase in the dental insurance allotment (agenda pages 50-55). The motion passed unanimously.

- K. 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
5. New Central Office Building Renovation project

Ms. Knaub provided a report to the board on the progress of each of the construction projects. Ms. Knaub reported the architect was asked to correct the water standing in the parking lot project. This was for board information only.

- L. Action: Review and act on accepting the Science Academy CATE Renovation project as substantially complete.

Ms. Knaub reported the Science Academy CATE Renovation project had 2 pending issues and will soon be addressed by the contractor. A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, accepting the project as substantially complete. The motion passed unanimously.

- M. Action: Review and act on the following Change Orders:

1. Change Order #1 to the betterment fund in the amount of \$4,696.02 for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. A. J. Cantu, approving Change Order #1 to the betterment fund in the amount of \$4,696.02 for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Change Order #1 to the contract as a credit in the amount of \$28,360.48 for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Kamel, approving Change Order #1 to the contract as a credit in the amount of \$28,360.48 for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Change Order #2 to the betterment fund in the amount of \$24,922 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mrs. Kamel, approving Change Order #2 to the betterment fund in the amount of \$24,922 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Change Order #3 to the betterment fund in the amount of \$85,183 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. A.J. Cantu, approving Change Order #3 to the betterment fund in the amount of \$85,183 for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #10 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$245,771.65.
2. Payment application #5 to D. Wilson for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project in the amount of \$33,652.92.
3. Payment application #7 to Gerlach Builders for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project in the amount of \$19,021.81.
4. Payment application #6 to Gignac & Associates for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$9,596.50.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. A. J. Cantu, approving payment application #10 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$245,771.65; payment application #5 to D. Wilson for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project in the amount of \$33,652.92; payment application #7 to Gerlach Builders for the Science Academy CATE Renovation project in the amount of \$19,021.81; and payment application #6 to Gignac & Associates for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$9,596.50 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Cantu reported on the following committee items:

- A. \*Review Policy Update 117, first reading.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on the June 2021 Review of Local Policies DB (LOCAL) through DEAA (LOCAL).

This was a report only. The policies were reviewed by the Board. The administration recommended no revisions to these local policies at this time.

- 13. 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.

This was for report only.

- 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 - J. Ortiz
  - 4. Medical Professions - J. Lucio
  - 5. Health Professions - M. Flores
  - 6. Science Academy
  - 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 request to approve acting Transportation Coordinator & Child Nutrition Supervisor and salary adjustment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. Report on role of Technology Support Specialists as requested by Board Member Ricardo Ochoa, MD.

Dr. Tony Lara reported on the role of the Technology Support Specialists and shared a copy of the job description (they provide support at the campus level).

- E. Report on district's hiring practices as requested by Board Member Ricardo Ochoa, MD.

Dr. Tony Lara reported on the district's hiring practices and explained the district's process as found on agenda page 160.

Dr. Ricardo Ochoa reported that through a personal experience, the district's protocol was not followed and he wanted to share with the Board. Questions/concerns were raised by board members.

- F. Review and act on the following regarding the South Texas ISD Virtual Academy:
  1. Creation of the South Texas ISD Virtual Academy effective 2021-2022 school year for grades 6-12th and approve the official campus name.
  2. Establishing a Campus ID with the Texas Education Agency
  3. Apply with the Texas Virtual School Network system
  4. Proposed admission qualifications for students and campus target populations for 2021-2022 school year
  5. Funding options to create and sustain the new campus
  6. Report on the Instructional Implementation Plan

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving the creation of the South Texas ISD Virtual Academy; authorized the Superintendent to create a new campus identification number with TEA; authorized submitting the application with the Texas Virtual School Network; approved the already established acceptance process for new students to the South Texas ISD Virtual Academy; approved funding for the new campus by way of state and/or local revenues; and approved the Instructional Plan to phase in 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades for 2021-2022 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and act on request for New Professional and Para-Professional Positions and approval of Announcement of Vacancies for the following:
  1. South Texas ISD Virtual Academy: Assistant Principal, Campus Secretary, PEIMS Clerk
  2. World Scholars: Special Education Teacher
  3. Business Office: Finance Director

A motion was made by Mrs. Kamel, seconded by Mr. Farias, approving the new professional and para-professional positions and the Announcement of Vacancies as presented. The motion passed unanimously.



- H. Report on the 2021 NSBA Advocacy Institute from Henry LeVrier, Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D. and Yolanda Kamel.

Board Vice President Henry LeVrier, Board Secretary Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D. and Member Yolanda Kamel participated virtually in the 2021 NSBA Advocacy Institute. They each shared highlights of the conference.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board of Directors met on June 28, 2021 at 8:44 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 Presiding Officer appointed Dr. Sylvia Sanchez Garza to record the minutes of the closed 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 2021-2022 school year.
      - a. Principal(s)
      - b. Career & Technical Education Coordinator
      - c. Special Programs Director
      - d. School Nurse
      - e. Teachers
      - f. Assistant Principal
    - 2. Report on employee removal of certification stipends and employee ineligibility for future salary compensation as requested by Board Member Ricardo Ochoa, MD.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 9:16 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 2021-2022 school year.
      - a. Principal(s)
      - b. Career & Technical Education Coordinator
      - c. Special Programs Director
      - d. School Nurse
      - e. Teachers
      - f. Assistant Principal

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of the following professional staff for the 2021-2022 school year: Eric A. Gutierrez and Maribel Valdez as Principal (12 month contract); Brenda De La Garza as Special Programs Director (12 month contract); Louisa Gallardo as Assistant Principal (11 month contract); Ramiro Castillo, Katherine

Castañeda, Amanda Ellison, Jaime Treviño, Laura Salas, Kathleen Gavino, Maria V. Garza, Liliana DeWitt, Carmen Boffill, Roverta Zamilpa as Teacher (10 month contract); and Elizabeth Quintero, as Nurse (10 month contract).

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. A.J. Cantu, approving the employment of the professional staff as recommended by the Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and possible action on employee removal of certification stipends and employee ineligibility for future salary compensation as requested by Board Member Ricardo Ochoa, MD.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mrs. Kamel, approving the continuation of TASB's compensation plan regarding employee certification stipends and employee ineligibility of future salary compensation. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 17. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Torres, seconded by Mrs. Kamel, adjourning the board meeting at 9:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.