



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 August 3, 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. Jaime Solis.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence and remembering Mr. Pete Garcia & Irma Perez-Treviño.

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
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville

Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
David Torres	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Natividad Sosa	Mission
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

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	Eric Gutierrez
Janie Ortiz	Ramon Longoria
Maribel Valdez	Janis De Luna, Ph.D.

5. 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.B from consent agenda as requested by a board member. A motion was made by Mr. A. J. Cantu seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the consent agenda items as presented with the exception of agenda item 11.B. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time the Board President asked to move the order of the meeting to address the hiring of staff due to potential loss of power. A motion was made by Mr. A.J. Cantu, seconded by Mr. Solis, moving the order the agenda as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

6. *Action: Review and act on the June 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Mrs. Lopez reported on the following committee items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on the 2021-2022 Student Code of Conduct.

Approved with consent agenda.

- B. Report on Career & Technology Audit findings.

The Board heard a report from Dr. Mark Boshier, Director of Technical Assistance and Training with the Career & Technical Association of Texas. He shared his findings and recommendations being made.

- C. Action: Review and act on 2021-2022 Campus Course Sequences.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lopez, seconded by Dr. Sanchez Garza, approving the 2021-2022 Campus Course Sequences for the six campuses. The Virtual Academy's course sequence will be presented before the board at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Finance & Operations Committee - Martin Castillo, DC & Henry LeVrier, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report on checks written since last report.

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. *Action: Review and act on approving 13 paychecks for new employees.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on setting date for public meeting to discuss the 2021-2022 budget and proposed tax rate to be published on the notice of the public hearing.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing bank signatures for Health Professions, Medical Professions, Science Academy, Rising Scholars and World Scholars.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on Hidalgo County Appraisal District's agreement for the allocation of quarterly payments.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. *Action: Review and act on 2021-2022 school lunch and breakfast prices.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- H. Review proposed preliminary general fund budget.

Prior to the board meeting, the Board held a budget workshop to review the proposed preliminary general fund budget. The Administration will present the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget for approval at the next board meeting.

- 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
 5. New Central Office Building Renovation project

Ms. Knaub shared a powerpoint sharing pictures of the progress of each of the construction projects. This was for board information only.

- J. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:
1. Payment application #11 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$88,734.75.
 2. Payment application #6 to D. Wilson for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project in the amount of \$59,437.37.
 3. Payment application #7 to Gignac & Associates for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$5,545.05.
 4. Payment application #5 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz, Inc. for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project in the amount of \$1,653.75.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla approving Payment application #11 to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility in the amount of \$88,734.75; Payment application #6 to D. Wilson for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project in the amount of \$59,437.37; and Payment application #7 to Gignac & Associates for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$5,545.05 as presented; and tabling Payment application #5 to Gomez, Mendez, Saenz, Inc. for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project in the amount of \$1,653.75 for next board meeting due to pending issues. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

- A. *Action: Review and act on the following Memorandums of Understanding related to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2021-2022 school year:
1. Cameron County
 2. Hidalgo County

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Action: Review and act on amending Policy BQA (LOCAL) Planning and Decision-Making Process District-Level.

A motion was made by Mr. Abiel Cantu, seconded by Mr. Larry Cantu, approving the revisions to Policy BQA (LOCAL) as recommended by the Administration and the changes made by TASB, as per the handout issued at the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Action: Review and act on Policy Update 117, final reading.

A motion was made by Mr. Abiel Cantu, seconded by Dr. Castillo approving Policy Update 117 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Report on the July 2021 Review of Local Policies DED through DP (LOCAL)

Mr. Cantu reported this was a report only. No action is needed as there are no recommended changes at this time.

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

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

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

This was a report only.

- 13. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.

- A. *Campus Reports
 - 1. Preparatory Academy - A. Castro
 - 2. Rising Scholars Academy - J. Ortiz
 - 3. World Scholars
 - 4. Medical Professions - C. Rodriguez
 - 5. Health Professions - M. Flores
 - 6. Science Academy - E. Gutierrez
 - 7. Virtual Academy - M. Valdez

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on request for New Professional and Para-Professional Positions and approval of Announcement of Vacancies for the following:
 - 1. Rising Scholars: Assistant Principal
 - 2. Special Education Dept.: Special Education Secretary & Special Programs Secretary

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on 2021-2022 appraisal calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on Resolutions/Interlocal Agreements to participate in the following cooperatives:

1. Harris County Department of Education Purchasing Co-op Choice Partners
2. Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Buy Co-op
3. OMNIA Partners National IPA & U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance
4. Purchasing Association of Cooperative Entities (PACE)
5. Region 14 ESC National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance
6. Region 19 ESC Allied States Cooperative
7. Region One Purchasing Cooperative, ESC Library, PEIMS, Cafeteria & Food, Transportation Coops
8. Region One Personnel Services Cooperative
9. Region III ESC Purchasing Cooperative of America
10. Region VIII ESC TIPS Purchasing Cooperative
11. Texas Association of School Boards Purchasing Co-op
12. Texas Department of Information Resources - DIR
13. Texas SmartBuy Membership Program

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing the Superintendent to contract for school-related services.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- H. *Action: Review and act on going out for request for qualifications for architectural services for the 2021-22 Capital Improvement Projects.

Approved with the consent agenda.

I. Superintendent's Report on 2021 Summer Activities.

Dr. Lara, Superintendent of Schools, introduced the district's leadership and the new campus principals. Dr. Lara thanked the administration for their work during this pandemic period. Dr. Lara reported that over the summer we held a variety of summer camps at each of our campuses for our students.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board of Directors met on August 3, 2021 at 7:32 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. Teacher(s)
 - b. Counselors
 - c. Finance Director
 - d. Assistant Principal
 - e. Principal

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 7:49 p.m.

15. **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. Teacher(s)
 - b. Counselors
 - c. Finance Director
 - d. Assistant Principal
 - e. Principal

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of the following professional staff for the 2021-2022 school year: Dr. Janis De Luna, Principal (12 month contract); Jose Jaime Faz, Finance Director (12 month contract); Victoria Ann Marin, Assistant Principal (11 month contract); Eduardo James Cuellar, Magda Gonzalez, David Contreras, Jr., Claudia Carranza, Dawn Gordon, Arely E. Gonzalez, Travis Cantu, Michelle Rene Garza, Roel Lopez, Gilbert Rodriguez, Maria F. Martinez, Ana Torres-Aguiree, Lori Urbina-Patlan, Raul Flores, Dulce Martinez as teachers (10 month contract).

In addition, Dr. Lara recommended retroactive to start date Dr. Michelle Guajardo, Assistant Principal (11 month contract); Amanda Cadena, and Jose Roberto Perez Gordillo as Counselors (11 month contract).

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Jaime Solis, approving the employment of the professional staff as recommended by the Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Torres, seconded by Dr. Castillo, adjourning the board meeting at 8:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously