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**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12

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 October 28, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Biblioteca Las Americas' Lecture Hall, 300 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX 78570.

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 Ms. Natividad Sosa.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence and remembering Antonio Trad (Yolanda Kamel's father), Irma Perez Treviño, and Jaime Solis.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Doug Buchanan at approximately 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 were present:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville



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Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following Board members were absent:

Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following staff members were present:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Jeff Hembree
Marla R. Knaub	Efrain Garza
Amanda Odom	Nereyda Treviño
Lissa Frausto	Maribel Valdez
Janis De Luna, Ph.D.	Ana Castro
Janie Ortiz	Sonia E. Rodriguez
Marcos L. Flores	Ramon Longoria
Eric Gutierrez	Carmen Noriega
Criselda Rodriguez	

5. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of all six STISD campuses for ranking among the best in the state and nation in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Schools Rankings, including the two middle schools in the first-ever ranking for their category.
- B. Recognition of Human Resources Staff in honor of Texas Education Human Resources Day, October 13.
- C. Recognition of principals in honor of Principals' Month.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized all six STISD campuses for ranking among the best in the state and nation in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Schools Rankings, including the two middle schools in the first-ever ranking for their category. The Human Resources staff was recognized in Honor of Texas Education Human Resources Day and presented with a token of appreciation. The Principals were also recognized in honor of Principals' month and presented with a token of appreciation.



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. L. Cantu and seconded by Dr. Castillo approving the consent items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the September 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with consent agenda.

8. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

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

9. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

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

10. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Dr. Richard Fleming and Ms. Natividad Sosa, Co-Chairs

Ms. Natividad Sosa reported on the following committee items:

A. *Report on College Entrance Scores.

Approved with consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on proposed admission qualifications for students and campus target populations for 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with consent agenda.

C. Report on the 2021-2022 District Improvement Plan (First Reading).

Ms. Natividad Sosa reported on the 2021-2022 District Improvement Plan. This was the first reading of the report, the Administration will bring this report for a second and final reading for board action at the next board meeting.

11. Finance & Operations Committee - Mr. Javier Farias and Mr. Adrian Garcia, Co-Chairs

Mr. Farias reported on the following committee items:

Mr. Farias announced a request was made by the Administration to pull agenda item 11.F. (*Action: Review and act on the approval of the ranking of the request for qualifications for Construction Management Services and authorize the Superintendent to work with the top two firms on approved capital improvement projects and negotiate and execute a contract with one or both firms*).

A. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on Requisition 095526 to Insight Public Sector for the New Administration Building Network.

Approved with consent agenda.

C. *Action: Review and act on extending the lease agreement with Delfino Cornejo, Jr. for the San Benito property.

Approved with consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on revising the STISD Non-Exempt Compensation Plan for Payroll/Insurance Clerk position.

Approved with consent agenda.

E. Report on the following 2021-2022 Federal budgets:

1. 211 Title I Part A
2. 212 Title I Migrant



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3. 224 IDEA B
4. 244 Carl D. Perkins
5. 255 Title II Part A
6. 263 Title III Part A
7. 281 ESSER II
8. 282 ESSER III
9. 289 Title IV, Part A SSAEP
10. 410 Instructional Materials Allotment

Ms. Marla Knaub reported on the 2021-2022 federal budgets. No board action was needed.

- F. Action: Review and act on the approval of the ranking of the request for qualifications for Construction Management Services and authorize the Superintendent to work with the top two firms on approved capital improvement projects and negotiate and execute a contract with one or both firms.

Mr. Farias announced the Administration requested to pull this agenda item.

- G. Report on the following projects:
 1. Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility
 2. Science Academy CATE Building Renovation project
 3. New Central Office Building Renovation project

Mr. Eddie Guerra shared with the Board a verbal report on the status of each construction project and presented pictures showing the progress of each project.

- H. Action: Review and Act on the following projects as substantially complete:
 1. Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance Facility

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving the Edinburg Bus Barn/Maintenance as substantially complete. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Edinburg Exterior Restroom Project

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. Larry Cantu, approving the Edinburg Exterior Restroom Project as substantially complete. The motion passed unanimously.

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



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1. Change Order #1 to the contract for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving Change Order #1 to the contract for the Science Academy CATE Building Renovation Project. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Change Order #1 to the contract for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Dr. Garza, approving Change Order #1 to the contract for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom project. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #8 (final) to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom Project in the amount of \$11,301.74.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving payment application #8 (final) to D. Wilson Construction for the Edinburg Exterior Restroom Project in the amount of \$11,301.74. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Payment application #9 to Gignac for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$5,410.58.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. Abiel Cantu, approving payment application #9 to Gignac for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$5,410.58. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Payment application #3 to D. Wilson Construction for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$391,102.88.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving payment application #3 to D. Wilson Construction for the New Central Office Building Renovation project in the amount of \$391,102.88. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Mr. Hector Gonzales and Mr. Robert J. Lerma, Co-Chairs

Mr. Hector Gonzales reported on the following committee item:



- A. Report on the September 2021 review of Local Policies FJ (LOCAL) through GRA (LOCAL).

The Committee is not recommending any changes at this time to the policies reviewed.

- 13. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Ms. Margarita Garcia and Ms. Yolanda Kamel, Co-Chairs

Ms. Yolanda Kamel reported on the following committee item:

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

This was a report only.

- 14. 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 - J. De Luna, Ph.D.
 - 4. Medical Professions - C. Rodriguez
 - 5. Health Professions - M. Flores
 - 6. Science Academy - E. Gutierrez
 - 7. Virtual Academy - M. Valdez
 - 8. Attendance Reports - J. Hembree

Approved with consent agenda.

- B. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with consent agenda.

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

Approved with consent agenda.

- D. *Report on proposed dates for the required Annual Team Building training for the South Texas ISD Board Members and Superintendent.



Approved with consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on the appointment of South Texas ISD Board members as liaisons to the Education Foundation of STISD Board of Directors.

Approved with consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on board members to attend the following:
 - 1. TASB Fall Legal Seminar, November 20, 2021, South Padre Island, TX.

Approved with consent agenda.

- G. *Action: Review and act on staff to attend the following:
 - 1. National Blue Ribbon Schools Program Recognition, November 3-5, 2021, Washington, D.C.

Approved with consent agenda.

- H. Action: Review and Act on request for New Professional and Para-Professional Positions and approval of the Announcement of Vacancies for the following:
 - 1. Special Education Teacher (1) - District-Wide
 - 2. Classroom Aides (3) - District-Wide

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving the request for the following positions and approval of the announcement of vacancies: Special Education Teacher (1), and Classroom Aides (3) as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. Action: Review and act on Resolution of Board to Convene the District's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to recommend Curriculum Materials for Human Sexuality Instruction.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Dr. Garza approving the Resolution of Board to Convene the District's School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) to recommend Curriculum Materials for Human Sexuality Instruction. The motion passed unanimously.

- J. Action: Review and Act on request from Cameron County for resolution endorsing the Cameron County Venue Arena Project.



A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez approving the Resolution endorsing the Cameron County Venue Arena Project. The motion passed with two against (Mr. L. Cantu and Dr. Castillo).

- K. Report on South Texas ISD Board member training continuing education credit report.

Board President Doug Buchanan publicly announced the continuing education training credit report for each individual board member for the period beginning November 1, 2020 through October 27, 2021 for seven training areas (Local District Orientation, Orientation to the Texas Education Code, Post-Legislative Update to the Texas Education Code, Team Building, Additional Continuing Education, Evaluating Student Academic Performance and Setting Goals, Identifying and Reporting Abuse, Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment of Children, and Cybersecurity) as detailed on page 10.

- L. Report from the Superintendent of Schools on district activities and events.

Dr. Tony Lara gave a verbal report to the Board on the various district activities and events and sharing appreciation to the Administrative staff for their support.

15. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: A closed 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 2021-2022 school year.
 - a. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
 - b. Teachers
 - 2. Rescission of professional employment contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 8:00 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. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
 - b. Teachers



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Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of the following professional staff retroactive to start date for the 2021-2022 school year: Kristina Carpio, Francisco J. Valdez, Rogelio Garza, and Daniel Valle as Teachers (10 months); and for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year Angelica N. Noriega as Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (11 months), and Guadalupe Alvarez, Dr. Sonia B. Aguilar, and Monica A. Perez as Teachers (10 months).

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Gonzales, 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 2021-2022 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Gonzales, approving the rescission of the professional employment contract for Melissa G. Prock for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Farias, seconded by Mr. Gonzales, adjourning the board meeting at 8:24 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Report At a Glance on CEC Requirements Met by Board Members

As of October 22, 2021

BOARD MEMBER	Cybersecurity	Post Legislative Update to TEC	Child Abuse prevention	Evaluating & Improving Student Outcomes	Team Building	Additional CEC
Buchanan, Douglas E.	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Cantú, Abiel J.	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Cantu, Eduardo L. "Larry"	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Castillo, D.C., Dr. Martin	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Farias, Javier	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Fleming, MD, Richard	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Garcia, Adrian	Registered	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Garcia, Margarita	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Garza, Ph.D., Sylvia Sanchez	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Gonzales, Hector	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Lerma, Robert J.	Completed	Registered	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
LeVrier, Henry	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Lopez, Sylvia S.	Completed	Completed	7/2/21	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Kamel, Yolanda	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Quintanilla, Israel G.	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Rodriguez, Eduardo R.	Registered	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Solis, Jaime R.	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed
Perez-Treviño, Irma	Registered	Registered	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Registered
Villarreal, DDS, Rick	Completed	Completed	2020	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed

BOARD MEMBER (Please initial)	Cybersecurity	Post Legislative Update to TEC	Child Abuse prevention	Evaluating & Improving Student Outcomes	Team Building	Additional CEC	New Board Members Local District Orientation	Intro To TEC	Open Meetings Act
	NEO GOV		TASB	TASB				Region I	ONLINE
Crane, Sasha	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Ochoa, MD, Ricardo	Completed	Completed	Registered	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Sosa, Natividad "Nati"	Completed	Completed	Registered	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Torres, David	Completed	Completed	Registered	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Villarreal, Ruth	Registered	Completed	Registered	Completed	Scheduled for November	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed