



Always Innovating

**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 June 21, 2022, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Biblioteca Las Americas' Lecture Hall, 300 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX 78570.

1. Welcome.

Henry LeVrier, Board Vice-President, welcomed the guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Dr. Rick Villarreal.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence remembering Mrs. Irma Perez Treviño, Mr. Pete Garcia and Mr. Earl Buchanan.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice-President, Henry LeVrier 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:

Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen

Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following Board members were absent:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen

The following staff members were present:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Eric Gutierrez
Efrain Garza	Marcos Flores
Marla R. Knaub	Mathew Maciel
Amanda Odom	Brenda De La Garza, Ed.D.
Nereyda Treviño	Frank Treviño
Lissa Frausto	Ramon Longoria
Criselda Rodriguez	Carmen Noriega
Maribel Valdez	

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 who dedicated 25 years of service or more to South Texas ISD. The Board shared congratulatory remarks and well wishes to the retirees.

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 Ms. Kamel, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the May 24, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

8. *Action: Review and act on amending the March 29, 2022 meeting minutes and approve with corrections.

Approved with the consent agenda.

9. 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.

10. 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.

Mr. Henry LeVrier, Board Vice-President, recommended moving Executive Session as the next item on the agenda for consideration. A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Kamel, approving the recommendation to move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors ended Executive Session at 9:16 p.m.

11. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D. and Ricardo Ochoa, MD, Co-Chairs

Dr. Ricardo Ochoa reported on the following items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on the 2022-2023 STISD Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, and Campus Manual.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on STAAR EOC Results.

Ms. Nereyda Treviño provided the Board with a report on the STAAR EOC Results for Spring 2022.

C. Report on Social and Emotional Services for students.

Dr. Brenda De La Garza provided the Board with a report on the Social and Emotional Services available for students.

D. Action: Review and act on approving the 2022-2023 District and Campus Improvement Plans (Final Reading).

A motion was made by Dr. Ochoa, seconded by Dr. Villarreal, approving the 2022-2023 District and Campus Improvement plans as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Finance & Operations Committee - Israel Quintanilla and Ruth Villarreal, Co-Chairs

Mr. Israel Quintanilla reported on the following 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. *Action: Review and act on removing assets from the capital asset listing.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing bank signatures for Health Professions, Rising Scholars, and World Scholars.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. RFP 20-014 Travel Agent & Charter Bus Services
2. RFP 20-016 Bus & Auto Parts
3. RFP 20-017 Mats & Linens
4. RFP 20-020 Tow Truck Services
5. RFP 21-004 Special Education Contracted Services
6. RFP 21-006 Awards, Incentive & Printed Material

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. Action: Review and act on awarding the following Request for Proposals (RFPs):
1. RFP 23-001 General Merchandise
 2. RFP 23-002 Document Imaging, Shredding, & Retention Services
 3. RFP 23-003 General Maintenance, Building, Grounds Services & Equipment
 4. RFP 23-004 Building Materials
 5. RFP 23-005 Drug Testing Services
 6. RFP 23-006 Video Productions & Photography Services
 7. RFP 23-007 Worker's Compensation Insurance – Fully Funded
 8. RFP 23-008 Petroleum Products

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo, awarding Request for Proposals (RFPs) RFP 23-001 General Merchandise; RFP 23-002 Document Imaging, Shredding, & Retention Services; RFP 23-003 General Maintenance, Building, Grounds Services & Equipment; RFP 23-004 Building Materials; RFP 23-005 Drug Testing Services; RFP 23-006 Video Productions & Photography Services; RFP 23-007 Worker's Compensation Insurance – Fully Funded; and RFP 23-008 Petroleum Products. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and act on rejecting Request for Proposals (RFP 23-009) for Maintenance & Building Repair Services.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo, rejecting the Request for Proposals (RFP 23-009) for Maintenance & Building Repair Services, as recommended by Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

- H. Action: Review and act on the following requisitions:

1. Requisition #101448 to Carrier Corporation in the amount of \$346,000 for a new chiller at Science Academy.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving Requisition #101448 to Carrier Corporation in the amount of \$346,000 for a new chiller at Science Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Requisition #101882 to Mcallen Roofing in the amount of \$216,659.11 for roof repairs at Health Professions.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving Requisition #101882 to Mcallen Roofing in the amount of \$216,659.11 for roof repairs at Health Professions. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. Report on the following projects:

1. New Central Office Building Renovation project.
2. New Rising Scholars Academy project.
3. New Health Professions Gymnasium project.

Mr. Frank Treviño provided the Board with an update on the New Central Office Building Renovation project and a verbal report on the New Rising Scholars and New Health Professions Gymnasium projects.

- J. Action: Review and act on the following Change Orders:
 - 1. Change order #17 to the contract in the amount of \$(4,600) for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 2. Change order #18 to the contract in the amount of \$12,935.23 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 3. Change order #19 to the contract in the amount of \$(97,760) for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 4. Change order #20 to the contract in the amount of \$15,384.60 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 5. Change order #21 to the contract in the amount of \$16,894.90 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 6. Change order #22 to the contract in the amount of \$16,418.60 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 7. Change order #23 to the contract in the amount of \$6,162.20 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 8. Change order #24 to the contract in the amount of \$9,067.30 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 9. Change order #25 to the contract in the amount of \$1,816.10 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 10. Change order #26 to the contract in the amount of \$5,550.60 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 11. Change order #27 to the contract in the amount of \$10,551.20 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 12. Change order #28 to the contract in the amount of \$1,254 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 13. Change order #29 to the contract in the amount of \$10,677.70 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 14. Change order #30 to the contract in the amount of \$93,433.99 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo, tabling action on Agenda Items J.1 through J.14 for review and possible action for Change Orders #17 through #30 for the New Central Office Renovation project pending further review and authorize the Superintendent to proceed as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Rodriguez).

- K. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:
 - 1. Payment application #11 to D. Wilson in the amount of \$616,724.02 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
 - 2. Payment application #7 to Sam Garcia Architect in the amount of \$297,675 for the New Rising Scholars Academy.

3. Payment application #14R to Gignac and Associates in the amount of \$10,463.42 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
4. Payment application #16 to Gignac and Associates in the amount of \$11,043.05 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo, tabling any action on agenda items K. 1, 3, and 4 for consideration of Payment application #11 to D. Wilson Construction, Payment application #14R to Gignac and Associates, and Payment application #16 to Gignac and Associates for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Rodriguez).

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving Payment application #7 to Sam Garcia Architect in the amount of \$297,675 for the New Rising Scholars Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Action: Review and act on approving the 2022-2023 Athletic Stipend.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving the 2022-2023 Athletic Stipend for the District Athletic Coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Eduardo R. Rodriguez and Irma P. Treviño, Co-Chairs

Mr. Abiel J. Cantú reported on the following items:

- A. Annual review of district policy CDA (LOCAL) Other Revenues & Investments.

Review only. No Board action taken.

- B. Review and discussion on developing the framework for an STISD Employee Longevity Incentive.

Dr. Lara shared an update on the STISD Employee Longevity Incentive. He will present options to the Board for review and approval at a future meeting.

14. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Jaime Solis and David Torres, Co-Chairs

Mr. David Torres reported on the following 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 - M. Guajardo
3. World Scholars - Dr. C. Chairez
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. *Action: Review and act on Resolution authorizing the Superintendent to contract for school-related services.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on Resolution calling for South Texas ISD Board of Directors Elections, November 8, 2022.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district staff travel:

1. New York Historical Society, Rethinking Feminism Teacher Institute, July 11-22, 2022 in New York City, NY.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Action: Review and act on the resignation of Irma Perez Treviño from the South Texas ISD Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving the resignation of Irma Perez Treviño from the South Texas ISD Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Review and Act on approving the request for New Professional Positions for the 2022-2023 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:

1. Math Teacher (1) – Preparatory Academy
2. Health Science Technology Teacher (1) – Preparatory Academy
3. Technology Applications Teacher (1) – Rising Scholars Academy
4. Career and Technical Education Teacher (1) – Virtual Academy

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving the request for New Professional Positions for the 2022-2023 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for Math Teacher (1) Preparatory Academy, Health Science Technology Teacher (1) Preparatory Academy, Technology Applications Teacher (1) Rising Scholars Academy, Career and Technical Education Teacher (1) Virtual Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

16. **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 remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
 - a. Career and Technical Education Director
 - b. Principal
 - c. Science Coordinator
 - d. Bilingual Coordinator
 - e. Social Studies Coordinator
 - 2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - a. Principal
 - b. Assistant Principal(s)
 - c. ELL/ELA Coordinator
 - d. Licensed Specialist(s) in School Psychology
 - e. Human Resources Coordinator
 - f. Literacy Instructional Coach (Grant Funded)
 - g. Teacher(s)
 - 3. Discussion and consideration to approve a compromise and settlement agreement and rescind the proposed non-renewal of a teacher's 2021-2022 Chapter 21 term contract, R.C.
 - B. Discussion regarding safety plans and procedures in schools.
 - C. Consultation with attorney regarding architect agreement and compliance.

The Board of Directors ended Executive Session at 9:16 p.m.

17. 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 remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
 - a. Career and Technical Education Director
 - b. Principal
 - c. Science Coordinator
 - d. Bilingual Coordinator

e. Social Studies Coordinator

Mr. Henry LeVrier announced a recommendation from Administration to pull item 1.b. for (Action: Review and act on recommendation of Professional Staff for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year) for Principal.

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the retroactive employment of the following professional staff for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year: Vanessa Ann Rivera as Career and Technical Education Director (12 months); Lacy Nicole Holocker as Science Coordinator (12 months); Niranda Flores as Bilingual Coordinator (12 months); and Andres Ayala as Social Studies Coordinator (12 months).

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, approving the retroactive employment of professional staff as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - a. Principal
 - b. Assistant Principal(s)
 - c. ELL/ELA Coordinator
 - d. Licensed Specialist(s) in School Psychology
 - e. Human Resources Coordinator
 - f. Literacy Instructional Coach (Grant Funded)
 - g. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of the following professional staff for the 2022-2023 school year: Marco Antonio Zamora as Principal (12 months); Roberta Ann Davila as Assistant Principal (12 months); Romina Vasquez as Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (11 months); Juanita Sicairos as Human Resources Coordinator (12 months); Jenelle Edith Esparza as Teacher (10 months); JoLynn Herrera as Teacher (10 months); Paola Salazar as Teacher (10 months); Michelle R. Rutiaga as Teacher (10 months); Jessica June Garcia as Teacher (10 months); Amanda O. Larios as Teacher (10 months); Danny Garcia as Teacher (10 months); Mamta Pankaj Patel as Teacher (10 months); Glenda Y. Espinoza as Teacher (10 months); Cynthia Ortega as Teacher (10 months); Diego Leal as Teacher (10 months); and Bonnibel Manoella Robles as Teacher (10 months).

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantú, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving the employment of professional staff as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion, deliberation and possible action to approve the compromise and settlement agreement and rescind the proposed non-renewal of a teacher's 2021-2022 Chapter 21 term contact, R.C.

A motion was made by Dr. Sánchez Garza, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, approving the compromise and settlement agreement as discussed in executive session and to rescind the

proposed non-renewal of a teacher's 2021-2022 Chapter 21 term contract, R.C. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Ms. Sosa, adjourning the board meeting at 10:05 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.