



Always Innovating

**South  
Texas ISD**

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12**

## **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 August 2, 2022, 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 Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

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
Margarita Garcia	San Juan

Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following staff members were present:

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

5. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., by Region One ESC for his selection as 2022 Regional Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Daniel King, Executive Director for Region One, presented Dr. Lara with a plaque for his selection as 2022 Regional Superintendent of the Year.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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. Cantú, seconded by Dr. Sánchez Garza, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

9. \*Action: Review and act on the June 21, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

10. \*Action: Review and act on the July 21, 2022 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza reported on the following items:

A. \*Action: Review and act on the administrators to hold ARDs for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. \*Action: Review and act on appointment of Campus Appraisers for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. \*Action: Review and act on appointment of Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) Members for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. \*Action: Review and act on 2022-2023 appraisal calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Mr. Israel Quintanilla reported on the following items:

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. \*Report on the 2021-2022 second and third quarter Student Activity Accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. \*Action: Review and act on removing assets from the capital asset listing.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. \*Action: Review and act on the following bank resolutions:

1. Health Professions
2. Medical Professions
3. Science Academy
4. Rising Scholars Academy
5. Preparatory Academy
6. World Scholars

Approved with the consent agenda.

G. \*Action: Review and act on 2022-2023 school lunch and breakfast prices.

Approved with the consent agenda.

H. Action: Review and act on setting date for a public meeting to discuss the 2022-2023 budget and proposed tax rate to be published on the notice of the public hearing.

Ms. Knaub recommended setting the date for a public meeting to discuss the 2022-2023 budget and proposed tax rate for the next Board meeting date, August 23, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the date of August 23, 2022 for a public meeting to discuss the 2022-2023 budget and proposed tax rate to be published on the notice of the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. Action: Review and act on awarding the following Request for Proposals (RFPs):
1. RFP 23-012 Instructional Supplies and Technology Products
  2. RFP 23-013 Maintenance Building & Repair Services
  3. RFP 23-014 Employee Uniforms
  4. RFP 23-015 Security Guards

A motion was made by Ms. Crane, seconded by Ms. Kamel, awarding Request for Proposals (RFPs) RFP 23-012 Instructional Supplies and Technology Products; RFP 23-013 Maintenance Building & Repair Services; RFP 23-014 Employee Uniforms; and RFP 23-015 Security Guards as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Action: Review and act on rejecting the Competitive Sealed Proposal Bid 23-010 for Rising Scholars Academy, Olmito, Texas.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. Solis, rejecting the Competitive Sealed Proposal Bid (RFP 23-010) for Rising Scholars Academy, Olmito, Texas, as recommended by Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

- K. Action: Review and act on the following budget amendment(s):
1. General fund (199) budget amendment #6.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Ms. Crane, approving General fund (199) budget amendment #6. The motion passed unanimously.

- L. Action: Review and act on the following requisitions:
1. Requisition #102222 to American Fence in the amount of \$7,140.80 for a motorized gate for the Edinburg Bus Barn.

2. Requisition #102230 to American Fence in the amount of \$139,680.00 for a new fence for the Edinburg Complex.
3. Requisition #102288 to Communication Technology in the amount of \$348,688 for metal detectors district-wide.

A motion was made by Ms. Kamel, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, retroactively approving requisition #102222 to American Fence in the amount of \$7,140.80 for a motorized gate for the Edinburg Bus Barn, requisition #102230 to American Fence in the amount of \$139,680.00 for a new fence for the Edinburg Complex, and requisition #102288 to Communication Technology in the amount of \$348,688 for metal detectors district-wide. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Report on the following projects:

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

Frank Treviño, Construction Manager, provided the Board with an update of the Central Office Building Renovation project and the New Health Professions Gymnasium project.

Sam Garcia, Architect, provided the Board with an update on the New Rising Scholars Academy project.

N. Action: Review and act on the following Change Orders:

1. Change order #31 to the contract in the amount of \$71,715.45 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
2. Change order #32 to the contract in the amount of \$7,287.50 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
3. Change order #33 to the contract in the amount of \$161.70 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
4. Change order #34 to the contract in the amount of \$8,573.18 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
5. Change order #35 to the contract in the amount of \$2,348.50 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
6. Change order #36 to the contract in the amount of \$8,136.32 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
7. Change order #37 to the contract in the amount of \$29,316.10 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
8. Change order #38 to the contract in the amount of \$17,983.90 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
9. Change order #39 to the contract in the amount of \$12,552.10 for the New Central Office Renovation project.
10. Change order #41 to the contract in the amount of \$5,783.80 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

11. Change order #42 to the contract in the amount of \$(1,856) for the New Central Office Renovation project.
12. Change order #43 to the contract in the amount of \$(51,998) for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Ms. Kamel, approving Change order #31 to the contract in the amount of \$71,715.45 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #32 to the contract in the amount of \$7,287.50 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #33 to the contract in the amount of \$161.70 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #34 to the contract in the amount of \$8,573.18 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #35 to the contract in the amount of \$2,348.50 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #36 to the contract in the amount of \$8,136.32 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #37 to the contract in the amount of \$29,316.10 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #38 to the contract in the amount of \$17,983.90 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #39 to the contract in the amount of \$12,552.10 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #41 to the contract in the amount of \$5,783.80 for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #42 to the contract in the amount of \$(1,856) for the New Central Office Renovation project; Change order #43 to the contract in the amount of \$(51,998) for the New Central Office Renovation project reserving the right to pursue/address existing issues. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #12 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$357,028.87 for the New Central Office Building Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving payment application #12 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$357,028.87 for the New Central Office Building Renovation project. The motion passed unanimously.

P. Review proposed preliminary general fund budget.

Ms. Knaub reported on the proposed preliminary general fund budget. This was a report only.

Q. Report: Update on the Lease Revenue Bond Series 2022 for Rising Scholars Academy.

Ms. Knaub shared an update on the Lease Revenue Bond Series 2022 for Rising Scholars Academy. This was a report only.

13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Eduardo R. Rodriguez and Abiel J. Cantú, Co-Chairs

Mr. A. Cantú reported on the following items:

- A. \*Action: Review and act on the following Memorandum of Understanding related to the Hidalgo County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on Policy Update 119, first reading.

Mr. Cantu shared information on Policy Update 119. The update will be brought to the Board at the next meeting for Board action.

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

Mr. Solis reported on the following item:

- 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 - M. Zamora
  - 2. Rising Scholars Academy - R. Rodriguez, Ed.D.
  - 3. World Scholars - C. Chairez, Ed.D.
  - 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 approving the request for a New Professional Position for the 2022-2023 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:
  - 1. Dean of Instruction (1)

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the request for a New Professional Position for the 2022-2023 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for a Dean of Instruction. 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 2022-2023 school year.
    - a. Assistant Principal(s)
    - b. Counselor(s)
    - c. Teacher(s)
  2. Rescission of professional employment contracts for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board of Directors ended Executive Session at 8:31 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 2022-2023 school year.
    - a. Assistant Principal(s)
    - b. Counselor(s)
    - c. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the retroactive employment of the following professional staff for the 2022-2023 school year: Lindsey Marie Clayborn as Assistant Principal (11 months) and Francisco Javier Villegas, Jr. as Counselor (11 months). Dr. Tony Lara also recommended the employment of the following professional staff for the 2022-2023 school year: Ryan Matthew Santa Ana as Teacher (10 months), Nathan Lee Archibald as Teacher (10 months), and Ruth Jemina Cano as Teacher (10 months).

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

2. Action: Review and act on the rescission of professional employment contracts for the 2022-2023 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. L. Cantú, approving the rescission of professional employment contracts of the following professional staff: JoLynn Herrera as Teacher (10 months) and Zuriel Asaf Lara as Teacher (10 months). The motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Dr. Villarreal, seconded by Ms. Kamel, adjourning the board meeting at 8:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.