



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 August 23, 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. Public Budget Hearing for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Ms. Marla Knaub, reviewed the projected revenues and the projected expenditures by function, object, and location for the 2022-2023 proposed budget.

3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Ms. Natividad Sosa.

4. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

5. 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
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
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
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
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	Albert Tudon
Nereyda Treviño	Frank Treviño
Eric Gutierrez	Carmen Noriega
Criselda Rodriguez	
Maribel Valdez	
Cynthia Chairez, Ed.D.	

6. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of the district and all campuses for earning A ratings in the 2022 State Accountability System.

Amanda Odom, Administrator for Public Relations & Marketing, recognized each of our campuses and the district for earning an A rating in the 2022 State Accountability System. The Board President shared congratulatory remarks to Dr. Lara and the entire school community.

7. 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 Mr. Lerma, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

8. *Action: Review and act on the August 2, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

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 received the following requests to address the Board of Directors:

1. Nancy Ruiz – District Direction
2. Lazaro Fernandez – Security
3. Giselle Fernandez – Enrichment

Each individual was allowed three minutes to speak before the Board.

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 update to the appointment of Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) Members for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on the 2021-2022 State Assessment Results.

Dr. Nereyda Treviño reported on the 2021-2022 TEA Accountability Ratings. All campuses received an A rating. South Texas ISD ranked first in Region One and tenth in the State of Texas.

C. Report on the 2022-2023 Schedule of Formal Grade Reporting.

Dr. Nereyda Treviño reported on the schedule of Formal Grade Reporting for the 2022-2023 school year. This schedule is provided to campus staff and administrators yearly.

D. Report on STISD Leader Monthly Newsletter.

Dr. Nereyda Treviño reported on the STISD Leader Monthly Newsletter. This newsletter will provide communication to the campus leaders such as important news, deadlines and updates from the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department, the Special Programs Director, the CTE Director, and the Data Analytics Director.

E. Action: Review and act on approving the 2022-2023 T-TESS Appraisal Calendar.

A motion was made by Dr. Sánchez Garza, seconded by Dr. Ochoa, approving the 2022-2023 T-TESS Appraisal Calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Henry LeVrier reported on the following items:

A. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on revising the STISD Non-Exempt Compensation Plan for Secretary to the Superintendent's Office.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Action: Review and act on a bank resolution for Rising Scholars Academy.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. Action: Review and act on designating fund balance to unassigned, designated, and committed.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, designating \$34,118,317 to the unassigned fund balance for 6 months of operating cash; \$47,793,002 to the designated fund

balance for future projects including the 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Projects; and \$6,037,015 to the committed fund balance for specific projects. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Report on ESSER I, II, and III funds.

The Board requested an update on the ESSER I, II, and III funds. Ms. Knaub provided a report on the expenditures and balances in each ESSER fund. This was a report only.

F. Action: Review and act on the Resolution adopting the tax rate for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving a Resolution adopting an increase to the tax rate to \$0.492 for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, which is effectively an 8.13 percent increase in the tax rate. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Action: Review and act on Resolution adopting the General Fund, Child Nutrition and Debt Service Budgets for the 2022-2023 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving a Resolution adopting the General Fund (199), Child Nutrition (240), and Debt Service (516 & 518) budgets as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Action: Review and act on extending the TASB Risk Management Unemployment Compensation program.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving to extend the TASB Risk Management Unemployment Compensation program for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on approving the 2021-2022 Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Local Designation System and Compensation Plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Henry LeVrier, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving the the 2021-2022 Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Local Designation System and Compensation Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Action: Review and act on the following budget amendment(s):

1. General Fund (199) budget amendment #7 (final).
2. ESSER III (282) budget amendment #1.
3. TCLAS (429) budget amendment #1.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving General Fund (199) budget amendment #7 (final), ESSER III (282) budget amendment #1, and TCLAS (429) budget amendment #1. The motion passed unanimously.

- K. Report on the following projects:
1. New Central Office Building Renovation project.
 2. New Rising Scholars Academy project.
 3. New Health Professions Gymnasium project.
 4. Edinburg Complex Fencing project

Frank Treviño, Construction Manager, provided the Board with an update of the New Central Office Building Renovation project, New Rising Scholars Academy project, New Health Professions Gymnasium project, and the Edinburg Complex Fencing project and answered questions from the Board.

- L. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:
1. Payment application #13 to D. Wilson for the New Central Office Renovation project in the amount of \$195,113.19.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving payment application #13 to D. Wilson for the New Central Office Renovation project in the amount of \$195,113.19. The motion passed with one abstention (Eduardo Rodriguez).

- M. Action: Review and act on the facilities/capital improvement projects for the 2022-2023 school year, pending approval of budget.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, approving the facilities/capital improvement projects for the 2022-2023 school year (New cameras and access controls (District-wide), New canopy at Preparatory Academy, New parking lot at Health Professions, New sports fields at Mercedes Complex, and a Window replacement at Health Professions). Funds were budgeted in the 2022-2023 school year budget. The motion passed unanimously.

- N. Action: Review and act on hiring Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the 2022-2023 school year projects or go out for Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for architectural services.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving hiring Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. as the Architect on record for the 2022-2023 school year projects. The motion passed unanimously.

- O. Action: Review and act on revising approved vendors for RFP 23-013 Maintenance and Building Repair Services.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, approving the revised list of approved vendors for RFP 23-013 Maintenance and Building Repair services, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Abiel Cantú reported on the following items:

- A. Action: Review and act on Policy Update 119, final reading.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantú, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving Policy Update 119. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Review and discuss proposed STISD Employee Longevity Incentive Summary and Comparisons.

Efrain Garza, Deputy Superintendent, shared with the Board information on the STISD Employee Longevity Incentive and answered questions from the Board.

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

Mr. Jaime Solis 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 - 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 the Highland Hustlers 4-H Club request for the extended use of Rising Scholars Academy facilities.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on rescheduling the November 22, 2022 and June 27, 2023 Board meetings.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on staff members to attend the following:
 - 1. Apple Education Conference for South Texas ISD, October 26-28, 2022, San Jose, CA.
 - 2. ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2022 Conference, November 30 - December 3, 2022, Las Vegas, NV.
 - 3. 2022 ATIXA Annual Conference, October 16-21, 2022, Orlando, FL.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on the proposed Education Foundation of South Texas ISD Memorandum of Understanding for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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. Teacher(s)

The Board of Directors ended Executive Session at 8:46 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. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of professional staff for the 2022-2023 school year: Retroactive employment of Michael David Guerra as Teacher (10 months) and for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year, Edgar Garcia 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.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, adjourning the board meeting at 8:49 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.