



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 September 27, 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 Mr. Henry LeVrier.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence and remembering Ms. Sasha Crane and family.

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
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville

Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg

The following Board members were absent:

Eduardo L. “Larry” Cantu	Los Fresnos
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following staff members were present:

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

## 5. Awards & Recognitions.

### A. Recognition of STISD students for being named Semifinalists in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The Board recognized four STISD students (3 students from Science Academy and 1 student from World Scholars) for being named semifinalists for the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. Certificates were presented to each student and the Board President gave congratulatory remarks on the Board’s behalf.

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 Mr. Torres, approving the recommendation to move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Directors ended Executive Session at 9:42 p.m.

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 any 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 Mr. Quintanilla, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

9. \*Action: Review and act on the August 23, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

10. 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. Report on 2022 College Entrance Scores.

Dr. Nereyda Treviño reported on the 2022 College Entrance Scores (SAT and ACT) and how STISD scores compared to the state and national scores.

B. Report on 2022 Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate scores.

Dr. Nereyda Treviño reported on the 2022 Advanced Placement and IB scores for all STISD campuses.

C. Report on STISD Leader Monthly Newsletter.

Dr. Treviño reported on the September 2022 STISD Leader Monthly Newsletter. This newsletter provides 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.

11. 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 fourth quarter student activity accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. \*Report: Update on change orders 41, 42, and 43 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. \*Action: Review and act on a bank resolution for Science Academy.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. \*Action: Review and act on proposed calendar for South Texas ISD Audit.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Region One ESC and South Texas Cooperative
2. Harris County Department of Education Purchasing Co-op (Choice Partners)
3. Houston- Galveston Area Council Buy Co-op (H-GAC)
4. OMNIA Partners National IPA & US Communities Government Purchasing Alliance
5. Purchasing Association of Cooperative Entities (PACE)
6. Region 14 ESC National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA)
7. Region 19 ESC Allied States Cooperative
8. Region One Purchasing Cooperative, ESC Library, PEIMS, Cafeteria & Food and Transportation Co-ops, South Texas Cooperative- Child Nutrition Program
9. Region III ESC Purchasing Cooperative of America (PCA)
10. Region VIII ESC TIPS Purchasing Cooperative
11. Texas Association of School Boards Purchasing Co-op (BUYBOARD)
12. Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR)
13. Texas SmartBuy Membership Program
14. Sourcewell Cooperative
15. 791 Purchasing Cooperative (Region 15)

Approved with the consent agenda.

I. \*Action: Review and act on carrying forward the following federal funds for 2021-2022:

1. 211 Title I Part A
2. 212 Title I Part C Migrant
3. 255 Title II Part A
4. 263 Title III Part A
5. 289 Title IV Part A
6. 240 Supply Chain Assistant Grant
7. 240 NSLP Equipment Assistant Grant
8. 281 ESSER II
9. 282 ESSER III
10. 397 AP/IB Incentive Program
11. 410 Instructional materials Allotment
12. 279 & 429 Texas COVID Learning Acceleration Support (TCLAS)

Approved with the consent agenda.

J. \*Action: Review and act on the following budgets for the 2022-2023 federal funds:

1. 211 Title I Part A
2. 212 Title I Migrant
3. 224 IDEA B
4. 244 Carl Perkins
5. 255 Title II Part A
6. 263 Title III Part A
7. 289 Title IV Part A

Approved with the consent agenda.

- K. \*Action: Review and act on South Texas ISD's Emergency Operations Plan.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- L. Action: Review and act on the TASB Risk Management Interlocal Participation Agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mr. LeVrier, approving the TASB Risk Management Interlocal Participation Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

- M. Action: Review and act on authorizing the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract with the Architect(s) for the 2022-2023 Capital Projects.

A motion was made by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Lerma, tabling action on agenda item 11.M. Action: Review and act on authorizing the Superintendent to negotiate and execute a contract with the Architect(s) for the 2022-2023 Capital Projects. The motion passed unanimously.

- N. 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.

- O. Action: Review and act on the following Change Orders:
1. Change order #45 to the contract in the amount of \$39,738.60 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #45 to the contract in the amount of \$39,738.60 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

- 2. Change order #46 to the contract in the amount of \$25,978.70 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #46 to the contract in the amount of \$25,978.70 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

- 3. Change order #47 to the contract in the amount of \$22,173.80 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #47 to the contract in the amount of \$22,173.80 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

- 4. Change order #48 to the contract in the amount of \$4,697.55 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #48 to the contract in the amount of \$4,697.55 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

- 5. Change order #49 to the contract in the amount of \$1,760.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #49 to the contract in the amount of \$1,760.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

- 6. Change order #50 to the contract in the amount of \$59,147.46 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #50 to the contract in the amount of \$59,147.46 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

- 7. Change order #51 to the contract in the amount of \$6,853.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #51 to the contract in the amount of \$6,853.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

8. Change order #52 to the contract in the amount of \$3,025.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving change order #52 to the contract in the amount of \$3,025.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Change order #53 to the contract in the amount of \$87,621.16 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #53 to the contract in the amount of \$87,621.16 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

10. Change order #54 to the contract in the amount of \$185,562.67 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #54 to the contract in the amount of \$185,562.67 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

11. Change order #55 to the contract in the amount of (\$15,978.23) for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Mr. Torres, approving change order #55 to the contract in the amount of (\$15,978.23) for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Change order #56 to the contract in the amount of \$3,487.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #56 to the contract in the amount of \$3,487.00 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

13. Change order #57 to the contract in the amount of \$65,872.26 for the New Central Office Renovation project.



A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #57 to the contract in the amount of \$65,872.26 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

14. Change order #58 to the contract in the amount of \$3,050.30 for the New Central Office Renovation project.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla approving change order #58 to the contract in the amount of \$3,050.30 for the New Central Office Renovation project. The motion did not receive a second and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

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

1. Payment application #14 to D. Wilson for the New Central Office Renovation project in the amount of \$341,958.79.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving payment application #14 to D. Wilson for the New Central Office Renovation project in the amount of \$341,958.79. The motion passed with two against (Natividad Sosa and Sylvia Lopez).

2. Payment application #1 to The Warren Group for the New Health Professions Gymnasium project in the amount of \$78,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Castillo approving payment application #1 to The Warren Group for the New Health Professions Gymnasium project in the amount of \$78,000. The Board voted unanimously against the motion and therefore, the motion failed. No action was taken.

12. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Eduardo R. Rodriguez and E. Larry Cantu, Co-Chairs

Mr. Abiel Cantú reported on the following items:

- A. \*Action: Review and act on appointing School Health Advisory Council Members for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Discussion and consideration on options for the STISD Employee Longevity Incentive.

Mr. Efrain Garza reported on options for the STISD Employee Longevity Incentive. The STISD Employee Longevity Incentive will promote retention of employees and greatly curb unnecessary employee absences. Options for Board approval will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

- C. Action: Review and act on revising district policy DEC(LOCAL) Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences: Medical Certification.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Cantú, seconded by Dr. Castillo, approving revising district policy DEC(LOCAL) Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences: Medical Certification to require medical certification when an employee is absent more than three consecutive workdays due to personal illness or illness in the immediate family. The motion passed unanimously.

- 13. 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.

- 14. 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 board members to attend the following:
  - 1. NSBA's Advocacy Institute January 29 - January 31, 2023 in Washington, DC.
  - 2. NSBA Annual Conference, April 1-3, 2023, Orlando, FL.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. Report on district updates.

Dr. Lara provided a report to the Board on updates regarding CTE programs, enrollment, partnerships, and legislative priorities. This was a report only.

- E. Action: Review and accept the Certification (Election Code 2.052) of Unopposed Candidates for Election to the office of South Texas ISD School Board of Directors:
1. Robert Julius Lerma - Cameron County Precinct 1
  2. Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu - Cameron County Precinct 3
  3. David Briones - Cameron County Precinct 4 (remainder of the unexpired term through 2024)
  4. Abiel J. Cantú - Willacy County Precinct 1
  5. Douglas Earl Buchanan - Willacy County Precinct 4

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Solis, accepting the Certification (Election Code 2.052) of Unopposed Candidates for Election to the office of South Texas ISD School Board of Directors as presented (page 226). The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Review and act on a Resolution declaring each unopposed candidate, as per certification, elected to the office of School Board of Directors, ordering the cancelation of election, and authorize an issuance of election to each candidate (Election Code 2.053).

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Ms. Sosa, accepting the Resolution declaring each unopposed candidate as per certification, elected to the office of School Board of Directors, ordering the cancelation of election, and authorizing an issuance of election to each candidate as presented (page 229). The motion passed unanimously.

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 remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
    - a. Counselor(s)
    - b. Teacher(s)
- B. Consultation with Attorney regarding legal updates and legal issues related to Gignac Architects.
- C. Consultation with Attorney regarding legal issues related to Contract with Sam Garcia Architect, LLC.
- D. Board self-evaluation.

The Board of Directors ended Executive Session at 9:42 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 remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
  - a. Counselor(s)
  - b. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of professional staff for the 2022-2023 school year: Retroactive employment of Jose Armando Estrada as Teacher (10 months) and Lorena Cristina Lopez as Teacher (10 months).

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

B. Discussion and Possible action regarding Gignac Architects.

A motion was made by Dr. Castillo, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving establishing a Buildings and Grounds Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible action regarding Sam Garcia Architect, LLC.

No action taken on this item.

17. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Ms. Sosa, seconded by Mr. A. Cantú, adjourning the board meeting at 10:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.