



## Public Notice 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 will be held October 24, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Central Office Teaching and Learning Center, 7001 E. Expressway 83, Mercedes, Texas 78570.

Individuals who wish to address the Board during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment shall sign up at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by submitting an email to [public.audience@stisd.net](mailto:public.audience@stisd.net) and attaching the District's Public Audience Sign-in Sheet available on the District's website.

During the course of a board meeting, the Board may discuss any item on the agenda in a closed meeting if permitted under the Texas Open Meetings Act. If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the Board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E.

Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.129, the Board of Trustees may use a telephone conference call, video conference call or communications over the internet to conduct a public consultation with its attorney in an open meeting of the governmental body or a private consultation with its attorney in a closed meeting of the governmental body.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

1. Welcome.
2. Board Meeting called to order.
3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.
4. Moment of Silence.
5. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.
6. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

7. Public Hearing on the 2022-2023 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report.
8. Awards & Recognitions.
  - A. Recognition of South Texas ISD Virtual Academy for being recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the 2023–2026 program term.
  - B. Recognition of the district and campuses for a decade of ranking among the best in the state and nation in the Niche Best Schools Rankings.
  - C. Recognition of Medical Professions, Science Academy and the district itself for their selection as 2022-2023 School and District of the Year finalists for the growth and achievements of their Emergent Bilingual (EB) students.
  - D. Recognition of Human Resources Staff in honor of Texas Education Human Resources Day, October 11.
  - E. Recognition of principals in honor of Principals' Month.
9. 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.
10. \*Action: Review and act on the September 26, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.
11. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - David Briones and Rick Villarreal, DDS, Co-Chairs, Co-Chairs
  - A. \*Report on STISD Leader Monthly Newsletter.
  - B. \*Action: Review and act on proposed admission qualifications for students and campus target populations for 2024-2025 school year.
  - C. Report on the Bilingual ESL Program Evaluation for 2022-2023.
  - D. Action: Review and act on the 2023-2024 Gifted/Talented Manual.
  - E. Action: Review and act on the 2023-2024 Campus Course Offerings.
  - F. Action: Review and act on the school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year and legend.
12. Buildings and Grounds Committee - E. Larry Cantu and Ruth Villarreal, Co-Chairs
  - A. Report on the following projects:
    1. Preparatory Academy Pavilion
    2. Cameras and Access Controls
  - B. Action: Review and act on approving the contract with Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. for the 2023-2024 Capital Projects and authorize the Board President to sign the contract.
  - C. Action: Review and act on approving the construction documents for the following:
    1. Health Professions Parking Lot project
    2. Health Professions Gymnasium project

- D. Action: Review and act on proceeding with the 2023-2024 Capital Project: Athletic Fields for Mercedes & Edinburg Complexes project.
- 13. Finance & Operations Committee - Adrian Garcia and Rudy Ramirez, Co-Chairs Co-Chairs
  - A. \*Report on checks written since last report.
  - 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.
  - C. \*Action: Review and act on removing assets from the capital asset listing.
  - D. Action: Review and act on approving a donation from Ruben Ventura of inflatable moon jumps and a slide valued at \$350 for the Class of 2025.
  - E. Action: Review and act on revising the STISD Professionals and Non-Exempt Compensation Plans for the following:
    - 1. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology
    - 2. Speech Language Pathologist
    - 3. Accounts Payable Specialist
    - 4. Payroll Specialist
  - F. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:
    - 1. Payment application #21 to D. Wilson Construction Company in the amount of \$515,282.27 for the New Central Office Building Renovation project.
    - 2. Payment application #3 to D. Wilson in the amount of \$127,234.93 for the Preparatory Academy Pavilion project.
    - 3. Payment application #3 to The Warren Group in the amount of \$207,740 for the New Health Professions Gym project.
    - 4. Payment application #4 to TelePro in the amount of \$293,545.62 for the Cameras and Access Controls District-wide project.
  - G. Action: Review and act on approving requisition #114229 to Thomas Bus Gulf Coast in the amount of \$535,600 for the purchase of four new buses.
  - H. Action: Review and act on approving the cost analysis for the following:
    - 1. Health Professions Parking Lot project
    - 2. Health Professions Gymnasium project
  - I. Action: Review and act on approving the procurement method and authorize administration to advertise for the following projects:
    - 1. Health Professions Parking Lot project
    - 2. Health Professions Gymnasium project
- 14. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Douglas Buchanan and Noel Garza, DDS, Co-Chairs
  - A. Report on the district's current 5-year Strategic Planning sessions.
  - B. Action: Review and approve the 2023-2024 Physician's Standing Orders.
- 15. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Sasha Crane and Yolanda Kamel, Co-Chairs

- A. \*Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.
  - B. Action: Determine the time of the year to host STISD's 60-year anniversary celebration.
16. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.
- A. \*Campus and District Reports
    - 1. Preparatory Academy - M. Zamora
    - 2. Rising Scholars Academy - R. Rodriguez, Ed.D.
    - 3. World Scholars - C. Chairez, Ed.D.
    - 4. Medical Professions - J. Lucio
    - 5. Health Professions - M. Guajardo, Ph.D.
    - 6. Science Academy - E. Gutierrez
    - 7. Virtual Academy - M. Valdez
    - 8. Enrollment & Attendance Report
    - 9. Human Resources Report
  - B. \*Report on professional vacancies.
  - C. \*Report on the proposed date for the required Annual Team Building training for the South Texas ISD Board members and Superintendent.
  - D. \*Action: Review and act on board members to attend TASB's Fall Legal Seminar, November 18, 2023, South Padre Island, TX.
  - E. Report on South Texas ISD Board member training continuing education credit report.
  - F. Report on the hiring process for the position of Chief of Security and Police Services.
  - G. Action: Review and Act on approving the request for a New Professional and Non-Professional Position(s) for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:
    - 1. Professional:
      - a. Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Coordinator (1)
      - b. Payroll Supervisor (1)
      - c. Special Education Coordinator (1)
      - d. Speech Language Pathologist (1)
      - e. Occupational Therapist (2)
      - f. Educational Diagnostician (1)
    - 2. Non-Professional:
      - a. Custodian (2)
  - H. Action: Review and act on submitting nominees by Resolution for the following Appraisal district's Board of Directors:
    - 1. Cameron County
    - 2. Hidalgo County
    - 3. Willacy County

- I. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on approving the selection of Board delegates and travel to attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute or TASB's Texas Federal Advocacy Conference.
  - J. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on the creation of a hiring committee for the newly created position of Chief of Security/Police to include administration, contracted service representatives, Board members, and, if available, local law enforcement leadership, as requested by Board member, Natividad Sosa.
17. **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. 551.071 Consultation with legal counsel regarding Cause No. CL-22-2425-G: Closed Meeting
  - B. 551.071 Consultation with attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation: Closed Meeting.
    - 1. Ryan Busse, Josh Klostermann, Russell Klostermann, Mitch Thomas, Olivia Rincones, Robert Rincones, Ruben Rincones, Enrica Rincones, Adelaida Garcia, Gary Busse, Alison Savage and Lyford Consolidated Independent School District vs. South Texas Independent School District, Elizabeth Barnhart, Willacy County Tax Assessor-Collector in her Official Capacity, and Willacy County, Texas, Cause No. 2023-CV-0282-A.
18. OPEN SESSION: Action on any Item Deliberated in Closed Meeting
- A. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Cause No. CL-22-2425-G
  - B. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding pending or contemplated litigation: Ryan Busse, Josh Klostermann, Russell Klostermann, Mitch Thomas, Olivia Rincones, Robert Rincones, Ruben Rincones, Enrica Rincones, Adelaida Garcia, Gary Busse, Alison Savage and Lyford Consolidated Independent School District vs. South Texas Independent School District, Elizabeth Barnhart, Willacy County Tax Assessor-Collector in her Official Capacity, and Willacy County, Texas, Cause No. 2023-CV-0282-A.
19. Adjournment.

*If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E or Texas Government Code section 418.183(f). Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting. [See BEC(LEGAL)]*

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on **October 20, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

*Crystal D. Solis*

For the Board of Directors