

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Fabens ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fabens ISD was held October 19, 2022 beginning at 6:30 PM in the Central Office, Board Room, 821 NE G Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838.

Members Present: Adan Escobar
Orlando Flores
Rosamaria Gallo-Avitia (Virtual)
Sylvia Gonzales
Viola Hernandez
Benjamin Morales
Greg Spence

Members Absent: None

Administrators Present: Dr. Veronica Vijil Ms. Michele Gonzalez
Ms. Debbie Betancourt

Maria T. Rodriguez

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Mission and Vision Statements – 6:33 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Mr. Benjamin Morales, Board President. All members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance, Mission and Vision statements were recited by all present.

2. Communication and Visitors – 6:34 PM

Under this portion of the meeting, no one signed up to address the Board.

3. Fabens ISD Superintendent Update – 6:34 – 7:06 PM

3.A. District Updates

3.A.1. FHS Special Education Room Remodeling Update

Ms. Sofia Maciel, Fabens ISD Media Specialist, provided an update to the board and showed some slides with the remodeling done to the FHS Special Education Room.

3.A.2. FHS Bathroom Remodeling Update

Ms. Sofia Maciel provided an update on the bathrooms at FHS. She provided slides for the 2 completed bathrooms and did state that the remodeling had begun on the next 2.

3.A.3. Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Location Update

Ms. Sofia Maciel, did state that the DAEP had been relocated to a new location and showed pictures of the renovations that were done to accommodate the students and staff.

3.B. Bragging Rights

3.B.1. Senator Cesar J. Blanco Certificates of Recognition & O'Donnell Intermediate STAAR Recognition

Ms. Sofia Maciel, read certificates received from the office of Senator Cesar J. Blanco in recognition of the A rating in different components of the accountability rating. Ms. Maciel also presented a banner to Ms. Corina Ruiz, O'Donnell Principal, and staff for the campus STAAR recognition. Ms. Ruiz thanked all her staff for the success of the campus.

3.B.2. Fabens High School Mariachi Group and Raiz Federal Credit Union Recognition

Ms. Maciel introduced our new mariachi group and they performed 2 songs for the audience. Mariachi teacher, Ms. Carrasco, thanked Raiz Federal Credit Union for their support of the group. A plaque was presented to the representatives from Raiz in appreciation of the support.

3.B.3. Proclaiming October 2022 Principals' Month

Ms. Maciel presented certificates to our principals in recognition of October 2022 Principals Month.

3.B.4. Fabens High School Band Advancement to Area Recognition

Mr. Miguel Soto, FHS Band Director, provided a short history of the accomplishments of the band. He thanked everyone for their support. Band student, Michael Dettman, performed a piece of music and he too thanked everyone for the support the program has received.

4. District Employees and Officers – 7:09 – 7:10 PM

4.A. 2022 - 2023 New Hires

Ms. Debbie Betancourt, Human Resources Director, introduced our newest hires: Mr. Jorge Negrete, Security Officer, Ms. Alicia Acosta, FHS Asst. Principal, and Dr. Daniel Aguayo, FHS Asst. Principal.

4.B. Approval of New Fabens Elementary School Full Time Employees – 7:09 – 7:10 PM

4.B.1. Instructional Aide

4.B.2. Bilingual Aide

Ms. Debbie Betancourt reviewed the information provided to the Board in their packet. She highlighted the justifications for the two new positions. After her presentation, Ms. Viola Hernandez motioned, and Mr. Orlando Flores seconded to approve the FES instructional aide positions as presented.

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

5. Consent Agenda

5.A. Correction to Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, July 27, 2022

5.B. Minutes of the Tax Rate Meeting, August 17, 2022

5.C. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, August 17, 2022

5.D. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, September 21, 2022

5.E. Fabens ISD Monthly and Quarterly Financial Reports

5.F. Region 19 Annual School Board Member / Superintendent Training Agreement

5.G. Interlocal Agreement for the Establishment and Operation of El Paso County Juvenile Alternative Education Programs Pursuant to Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code Memorandum of Understanding

5.H. Approval of Fabens ISD 2022 - 2023 Campus Improvement Plans

5.I. Approval of Fabens ISD 2022 - 2023 District Improvement Plan

5.J. Texas Education Agency Maximum Class Size Waiver

5.K. Memorandum of Agreement for the Establishment and Operation of School Referral to Mediation Program Under Grant Award

5.L. Restated and Amended Interlocal Agreement between El Paso Community College District and Fabens Independent School District for the Operation of the Cotton Valley at Fabens High School

5.M. Linebarger Attorneys at Law - Property Value Study

5.N. Revised El Paso County Elections Department 2022 Board of Trustees Contract

5.O. UTEP / Fabens ISD Upward Bound Agreements

5.O.1. Memorandum of Understanding / Articulation Agreement Fabens Independent School District and The University of Texas at El Paso Upward Bound

5.O.2. Memorandum of Understanding / Articulation Agreement Fabens Independent School District and The University of Texas at El Paso Upward Bound Math Science

Dr. Vijil read the list of Consent Agenda items to include the newly updated MOU for UTEP Upward Bound programs. Mr. Greg Spence motioned and Ms. Sylvia Gonzales seconded to approve the items under this item.

Motion Carried: 7 - 0

6. Student Outcome Goals – 7:12 – 7:43 PM

6.A. Beginning of the Year Diagnostic Data Presentation – 7:12 – 7:19

Under this portion of the item, Mr. Jesus Barba, Director of Elementary Instruction reviewed the information sent to the board in their packets. After the presentation, questions were asked as to how the students Well Below Grade Level were being helped.

6.B. Fabens ISD Program Evaluations – 7:17 – 7:41 PM

6.B.1. Gifted and Talented

6.B.2. Bilingual / ESL

This item was presented by Dr. Samuel Hogue, Director of Secondary Instruction, and Mr. Jesus Barba, Director of Elementary Education. They reviewed the information with the Board and community present.

6.C. Approval of Bilingual /ESL Certification Waiver – 7:41 – 7:43 PM

Dr. Hogue and Mr. Barba reviewed the information sent to the Board explaining the need for the waiver. After the presentation, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales motioned and Mr. Greg Spence seconded to approve the submission of the bilingual / ESL waiver as presented.

Motion Carried: 7 - 0

7. Board of Trustees Business – 7:43 – 9:01 PM

7.A. New Mexico Highlands University & Fabens Independent School District College Accessibility Support Initiative – 7:43 – 7:51 PM

New Mexico Highlands University, Assistant Director of Admissions and Recruitment, presented the item reviewed the agreement that had been sent to the Board. He highlighted points in the agreement that would benefit our students that attend the university. After the presentation, Mr. Greg Spence motioned and Ms. Viola Hernandez seconded to approve the New Mexico Highlands University and Fabens ISD college accessibility support initiative as presented.

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

7.B. Solar Panel Application between El Paso Electric Company and the El Paso County Water Control & Improvements District #4 Presentation Update – 7:51 PM

This item was tabled for a future board meeting.

7.C. Fabens ISD Board of Trustees Board Procedures – 7:51 – 7:58 PM

7.C.1. Review Board Procedures

7.C.2. Set Workshop Date to Revise / Adopt New Updated Procedures

The Board was provided with a copy of the current board procedures and asked for a possible date for a workshop to review/revise and update them. Ms. Sylvia Gonzales motioned to table the item until after the November 8, 2022 election.

Motion died for lack of second.

After a short discussion and request for legal counsel to be present at the workshop, Ms. Viola Hernandez motioned and Mr. Orlando Flores seconded the dates and times of: October 29, 2022, 9:00 AM or November 2, 2022, 6:00 PM.

Motion Carried: 5 -1 – 1

Abstained: Rosamaria Gallo-Avitia

Voting Against: Ms. Sylvia Gonzales

7.D. Approval of 2022 - 2023 Virtual Homebound Services – 7:58 – 8:02 PM

Dr. Samuel Hogue, Director of Secondary Instruction, reviewed the information provided regarding the Virtual Homebound Waiver. After the presentation, Ms. Rosamaria Gallo-Avitia motioned and Ms. Viola Hernandez seconded to approve the virtual homebound waiver as presented.

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

Board Member Ms. Sylvia Gonzales stepped out of the room.

7.E. Approval of Early Release Date for Fabens Elementary (FES) and O'Donnell Intermediate Students (ODI) on January 13, 2023 - UIL Hosted at Fabens ISD – 8:02 - 8:05 PM

Mr Jesus Barba, Director of Elementary Education, presented the item and stated that it is an honor to host the 2022 UIL Meet. After answering questions from the Board, Mr. Orlando Flores motioned and Ms. Viola Hernandez seconded to approve the early release date for FES and ODI students on January 13, 2023 to enable Fabens ISD to host the UIL meet.

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

7.F. Fabens ISD 2021 - 2022 Rating Based on School Year 2020 - 2021 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report – 8:05 – 8:09 PM

Mr. Martin Torres, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the item and reviewed each of the indicators in the report as required.

7.G. Texas Association of School Boards Region 19 Board of Director Vacancy Nomination – 8:10 – 8:12 PM

After opening the item, the Board held a discussion regarding the TASB vacancy. No Fabens board member was nominated. The board discussed the request of support from Ms. Marlene Bullard, Tornillo ISD Board President. Ms. Viola Hernandez motioned and Mr. Orlando Flores seconded to support Ms. Bullard in her quest to fill the vacancy on the TASB Board.

Motion Carried: 7 – 0

7.H. Approval of Tornillo ISD Reunification Agreement – 8:12 – 8:14 PM

Mr. Michael Perez, Safety Director, presented the item and asked if anyone had questions. He did state that for the safety and integrity of the plan, few details could be discussed. After his presentation, Mr. Greg Spence motioned and Mr. Adan Escobar seconded to approve the Tornillo ISD reunification agreement as presented.

Motion Carried 7 – 0

7.I. Approval of Stipend Increase for Homebound Services – 8:14 – 8:18 PM

Mr. Martin Torres, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the item and provided the reasons for justifying the stipend increase. After answering a few questions, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales motioned and Ms. Viola Hernandez seconded to approve the proposed Homebound stipend increase from to \$30.00 and \$35.00 to \$50.00 and \$55.00 as presented.

Motion Carried: 7 - 0

7.J. Fabens ISD Federal Funds Expenditures – 8:20 – 9:01 PM

Board Member, Sylvia Gonzales requested the item to be placed on the agenda. Ms. Sylvia Gonzales motioned and Mr. Adan Escobar seconded to take the item into Executive Session. Per Texas Government Code 551.074 the item was taken into Executive Session at 8:20 PM.

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

Board Member: Ms. Viola Hernandez stepped out of the room

At 9:01 PM the Board reconvened and no action was taken.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales motioned and Ms. Viola Hernandez seconded to adjourn at 9:02 PM.

Motion Carried: 7 - 0

Board Approved: 11/16/2022