

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Fabens ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fabens ISD was held Wednesday, February 15, 2023 beginning at 6:30 PM in the Central Office, Board Room, 821 NE G Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838.

Members Present: Luis 'Charlie' Estrada
Orlando Flores
Sylvia Gonzales
Benjamin Morales
Angel Ornelas Jr.
Julieta Sepulveda Ramirez

Members Absent: Adan Escobar

Administrators Present:	Dr. Veronica Vijil	Ms. Michele Gonzalez
	Mr. Martin Torres	Ms. Roseanne Armendariz
	Ms. Debbie Betancourt	Dr. Samuel Hogue
	Ms. Marcela Licerio	Ms. Monica Lyons
	Mr. Michael Perez	Mr. Edgar Rincon
	Ms. Corina Ruiz	Ms. Marlene Bullard
	Ms. Rolaura DeAnda	

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 by Board President, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales at 6:33 PM. All members were present except Mr. Adan Escobar. The Pledge of Allegiance, Mission and Vision statements were recited by all present.

2. Communication and Visitors – 6:35 – 6:39 PM

Under this portion of the meeting, community member, Ms. Rosamaria Gallo-Avitia, addressed the Board and asked that they embrace each other and stated that all members bring something to the table. She asked that they leave personal agendas off of the Board agendas. She stated, "We need focus on student success".

3. Fabens ISD Superintendent Updates - 6:39 – 6:55 PM

Under this item, Ms. Sofia Maciel, Media Specialist, gave a short history of the Destination Imagination Program. She stated it is an international program that allows young people of all ages: kinder through university level to be involved in creative problem solving in the STEM fields. She said, “kids learn vital life and career skills that help them feel empowered and sets them up for success in their future”.

3.A. Destination Imagination State Qualifiers

O'Donnell Intermediate Principal, Ms. Corina Ruiz, presented the state competition participants who were congratulated by the Board and community.

3.B. Wrestling Program Regional Qualifiers

Athletic Director, Rolaura DeAnda, presented both the regional qualifying wrestlers and their coaches. Certificates were presented to them and were congratulated by the Board and community.

3.C. Band / UIL State Qualifiers

Band Director, Mr. Miguel Soto, provided a history of the competition the students had during the year and introduced the state qualifiers. Also recognized were the Gatos Salvages Mariachi group. All were congratulated and recognized by the Board and community.

3.D. Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Update

Fabens ISD received full approval from the Texas Education Agency of our TIA designations which will allow highly effective teachers to be rewarded monetarily. Once amounts are finalized by TEA, notices will be sent out to qualifying teachers.

3.E. UTEP Scholarship Recipients

Ms. Sofia Maciel named the three (3) UTEP scholarship recipients who were congratulated by the Board:

Julian Iglesias – El Paso Excellence Scholarship

Ariana Bañez – Presidential scholarship and

Briana Camacho – Academic Scholarship

3.F. Fabens ISD Graduates Admitted to UTEP Symphonic Band

Two Fabens High School students made UTEP history by auditioning and making the UTEP Symphonic Band as high school students. Mr. Julian Iglesias and Mr. Michael Dettman were introduced to the Board and community.

4. Consent Agenda – 6:57 – 6:58 PM

4.A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, January 18, 2023

4.B. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, February 1, 2023

4.C. Fabens ISD Monthly and Quarterly Reports / Federal Expenditures

Dr. Vijil opened the item and read the list of Consent Agenda. Mr. Orlando Flores motioned and Mr. Luis “Charlie” Estrada seconded to approve as presented.

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

5. District Employees and Officers – 6:58 – 7:00 PM

5.A. 2022 - 2023 New Hires

Ms. Debbie Betancourt, Human Resources Director, introduced new staff hired since our last meeting. New hires:

Melissa Mijares, Richard Orozco, Amparo Rivera, Berenice Ortiz, Rosanne Aldaz and Edna Pena.

6. Student Outcomes - 7:18 – 8:08 PM

6.A. Fabens ISD 2021 - 2022 Annual Report – 7:18 – 8:00 PM

As required by the district, Ms. Michele Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent for Leadership, Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Board and community the Fabens ISD 2021 – 2022 Annual Report. Different points of the report were highlighted and she answered questions from the Board and community. She did state that copies were available at a table in the boardroom, and read the websites where reports are available for public viewing. She also stated that the report had already been posted on the district website and would remain online until the 2022 – 2023 report replaced it.

6.B. Fabens High School Mid Year Data – 8:01 – 8:08 PM

Ms. Michele Gonzalez, Assistant Superintendent for Leadership, Assessment, Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Board and community with the Fabens High School mid year assessments. Questions were asked by the Board and additional information was requested which Ms. Gonzalez stated would be sent to them in their weekly update.

7. Board of Trustees Business – 7:00 – 7:06 PM

7.A. Fabens Alumni Association Scholarship Check Presentation

Mr. Alfredo Valenzuela, Fabens Alumni Association President and officers Carmen Vasquez, Irma Salvio Perez presented the district with a check for \$9,000. Mr. Valenzuela gave a short history of the association and stated that they have donated \$140,000 to Fabens graduating Seniors. With the current balance of \$4,000 in unclaimed scholarships, and the \$9,000 donated, the Alumni can provide six (6) \$2000 scholarships and \$1000 would be divided equally amongst the remaining campuses.

7.B. Presentation of Recognition Plaque for Mr. Reymundo Sepulveda Jr. – 7:06 – 7:17 PM

Under this item, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales read the plaque that will be placed in the Boardroom and thanked his wife and family for the service Mr. Sepulveda provided to the district and community. Board members spoke about their friendship and his mentoring in both community and district committees.

7.C. Notice of Intent to Apply for JET Grant – 8:08 – 8:17 PM

Dr. Samuel Hogue, Director of Secondary Education, presented the informational item. He read the information related to the Jobs and Education Training (JET) grant. After presenting the information, he asked for questions from the Board.

7.D. Discussion and Selection of New March 2023 Board Meeting Date – 8:17 – 8:24 PM

The regular board meeting date for March 2023 falls during our Spring Break week. The board reviewed personal calendars, Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned and Mr. Orlando Flores seconded to move the March 2023 board meeting to March 22, 2023, 6:30 PM.

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

7.E. Far West Texas School Boards Association Board Conference Conflict Date – 8:24 – 8:31 PM

Dr. Vijil opened the item and informed the Board that Region 19 was having a Far West Texas School Board Conference on the same date as the scheduled evaluation and training. After a short discussion, Mr. Angel Ornelas Jr. motioned and Mr. Benjamin Morales seconded to keep the February 25, 2023 evaluation at 9:00 AM and the training at 11:30 AM.

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

7.F. Review and Approval of Fabens ISD 2023 - 2024 Academic Calendar – 8:31 – 9:53 PM

Dr. April Galaviz, Director of Federal Programs and District Improvement Team Chairperson, presented the item/ She reviewed the information that was sent to the members in their packet. She answered questions from the Board. After a very lengthy discussion, Mr. Orlando Flores motioned and Mr. Luis "Charlie" Estrada seconded to approve Calendar B as presented.

Motion Failed: 3 – 3

Voting Against: J. Sepulveda Ramirez, A. Ornelas and S. Gonzales

7.G. Second Reading of Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Localized Policy Manual Update 120 Affecting Local Policies: 9:53 – 9:58 PM

7.G.1. CB - State and Federal Revenue Sources

7.G.2. CKC - Safety Program / Risk Management: Emergency Plans

7.G.3. FFI - Student Welfare: Freedom from Bullying

7.G.4. FNG - Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student and Parent Complaint/Grievances

7.G.5. FO - Student Discipline

Ms. Debbie Betancourt, Human Resources Director, presented the item and did state that this was the second reading for Update 120. The Update would be brought back at a future board meeting for approval.

Dr Vijil did inform the Board that Ms. Sylvia Gonzales had requested an additional draft to Local Policy CB with change of wording to consider when being approved. She did explain that after speaking to district legal counsel this would affect federal grants only for example: ERate .

7.H. Discussion and Approval of Resolution Regarding Employee Pay during the Two (2) Hour Delay Start on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 – 9:59 – 10:00 PM

Dr. Vijil opened the item and stated that in their packets was the resolution needed for payment of the two (2) hour delay start on January 31, 2023. Mr. Orlando Flores motioned and Mr. Luis “Charlie” Estrada seconded to approve the resolution regarding employee pay during the two (2) hour delay start on January 31, 2023.

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

7.I. Discussion and Approval of Mariachi Stipend – 10:00 – 10:03 PM

Ms. Debbie Betancourt, Human Resource Director, presented the item. She explained that when the 2022 - 2023 stipends were approved, the Mariachi stipend was not listed. If the group competes in UIL, a request for a stipend of \$2,500. Per year was requested. After the presentation Mr. Orlando Flores motioned and Mr. Benjamin Morales seconded to approve the mariachi stipend as presented.

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

7.J. Discussion and Possible Approval of Stipend Payment – 10:03 – 10:19 PM

This item was taken into Executive Session at 10:03 PM per Texas Government Code 551.074.

The meeting reconvened at 10:19 PM.

Mr. Orlando Flores motioned and Mr. Benjamin Morales seconded to approve the stipend as discussed in closed session.

Motion Carried: 6 - 0

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned and Mr. Luis “Charlie” Estrada seconded to adjourn at 10:20 PM.

Motion Carried: 6 - 0