

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Trustees Fabens ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Fabens ISD was held Wednesday, April 19, 2023 beginning at 6:30 PM in the Central Office, Board Room, 821 NE G Avenue, Fabens, TX 79838.

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

Members Absent: Adan Escobar Orlando Flores

Administrators Present: Dr. Veronica Vijil Ms. Michele Gonzalez
Mr. Martin Torres Ms. Debbie Betancoourt
Ms. Marlene Bullard Ms. Rolaura De Anda
Dr. Samuel Hogue Ms. Marcela Licerio
Mr. Michael Perez Mr. Edgar Rincon
Ms. Corina Ruiz

Maria T. Rodriguez

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance, Vision and Mission Statements – 6:30 PM

The meeting was called to order by Board President, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales at 6:30 PM. At Roll Call all members were present except Mr. Adan Escobar and Mr. Orlando Flores. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all, Mission and Vision statements were read by Board President, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales.

2. Communication and Visitors – 6:32 – 6:54 PM

Under this portion of the meeting the following community members / employees address the Board:

Ms. Sylvia Amaya stated she was representing Fabens Elementary School and was requesting that the administration consider a release time of 3:30. Competing with neighboring districts, this would benefit teacher retention and would welcome new teachers.

Ms. Cherly Mischen-Liano addressed the Board on teacher retention and a large management team. She stated conference times are being taken from teachers for meetings. Reading Academies are not paid at Fabens ISD but other districts do pay the teachers for them. She hopes that this year the district does better in preparing for the new year, last year some of the curriculum was not ready until the 4th week of school.

Ms. Crystal Ramirez, addressed the Board on the basketball league she runs and use of the gyms. She stated that last year there were no issues with using the gyms but this year questions arose on the use of the gyms by the league. She hoped everything could be resolved and the league would be able to use the Wildcat Den.

Ms. Blanca Hernandez, parent of a high school student addressed the Board on what she feels was an injustice by the campus administration with her son. She stated he was dropped from the high school but has enrolled at a different school but felt they did not help him in staying in school. She hopes they do better and use their ability to help and not hurt students.

Ms. Yesica Espinoza, parent, addressed the Board in support of lending the Wildcat Den for the basketball league. She stated that it is important for our kids to have activities here in Fabens as opposed to having to drive out of town.

Mr. Paul Sanchez, parent, thanked the Board for rectifying the wrestling tournament location situation. He thanked the Board members that attended in support of the students and noticed those that didn't make it out. He stated that the district facilities were not being used for students.

Mr. Rey Calzadias, parent, addressed the Board advocating for the students and using the district's facilities. He thanked the Board for their volunteer time at different activities. He did state that he had not received a response to an email sent on Monday.

3. Superintendent Updates – 6:55 – 7:18 PM

3.A. Fabens High School Tennis Regional Qualifiers

Athletic Director, Ms. Rolaura DeAnda, and Tennis Coach, Mr. Martin Lechuga, recognized the qualifying regional players and presented them to the Board and community present.

3.B. Fabens High School Track Area Qualifiers

Athletic Director, Ms. Rolaura DeAnda and Track Coaches and Assistants recognized the Track and Field District winners. Also recognized were the athletes advancing to Area and competing next week.

3.C. Migrant Program Honoring Ms. Zarai Arambula

Director of Federal Programs, Dr. April Galaviz and Migrant Specialist, Ms. Evelyn Hernandez, recognized migrant parent volunteer, Ms. Zarai Arambula. Ms. Arambula recently passed her GED exams and has already enrolled at EPCC. She was congratulated by the Board and community present.

4. Consent Agenda – 7:18 – 7:19 PM

4.A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, March 22, 2023

4.B. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting, March 29, 2023

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

4.D. Singleton, Clark and Company, PC Letter of Engagement

4.E. TEKS Certification 2023 - 2024

Dr. Vijil opened the item and read the list of Consent Agenda items. Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned and Mr. Angel Ornelas seconded to approve the items as presented.

Motion Carried: 5- 0

5. District Employees and Officers – 7:19 – 7:26 PM

5.A. 2022 - 2023 New Hires – 7:19 – 7:20 PM

Director of Human Resources, Ms. Debbie Betancourt, introduced our newest hires: Rosa Maria Amaya and Jesse Cobos.

5.B. Employee of the Year Recognitions – 7:20 – 7:26 PM

Ms. Debbie Betancourt introduced all the Employee of the Year finalists:

Ms. Hortencia Amaya, Liliana Dominguez, Blanca Guerrero, Antonia Alonzo, Jose F. Ramirez and Amanda Guerrero.

Winner of the 2023 Employee of the Year award is Mr. Jose F. Ramirez.

All finalists were congratulated by the Board and community.

6. Student Outcome Goals – 7:27 – 7:36 PM

6.A. National Clearinghouse Data

Mr. Edgar Rincon, Fabens High School Principal, presented the item. The power point presentation provided to the board members in their packets on the National Student Clearinghouse Data was reviewed for the board and community present. A few questions from the Board were answered regarding the information provided.

7. Board of Trustees Business - 7:39 – 8:29 PM

7.A. Establish Board Member Plaque Requirements – 7:39 – 7:45 PM

The item was opened for discussion by Board President, Ms. Sylvia Gonzales.

Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned to table the item until all members were present.

Motion Failed: No Second

Discussion resumed and requirements considered:

- If the member passes during their term
- Plaques will be placed to the right of tree and name it "Memorial Wall"

Any additional language can be reconsidered at a future meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Angel Ornelas and seconded by Ms. Julieta Sepulveda Ramirez.

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

7.B. Fabens ISD Ten (10) Month Budget Process Approval – 7:45 – 7:49 PM

Mr. Martin Torres, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, presented the item. He provided a short history of the process that had begun prior to some of the current members and explained some of the benefits. He explained that this was the second step in the process to change our fiscal budget year. He stated that this coming fiscal year (2023 – 2024) would be our 10-month fiscal year (September 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). From that point on our new fiscal year would run from July 1st to June 30th. After the presentation, Mr. Luis "Charlie" Estrada motioned, and Mr. Benjamin Morales seconded to proceed with the process of changing the fiscal year.

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

7.C. Approval of Resolution Against Vouchers – 7:49 – 7:53 PM

This item was opened by Ms. Sylvia Gonzales, Board President, who spoke on the resolution against vouchers. Mr. Angel Ornelas Jr. motioned and Mr. Luis "Charlie" Estrada seconded to approve the resolution against vouchers as presented.

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

7.D. Discussion and Possible Action to Become Members of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials – 7:53 – 7:59 PM

The item was opened by Ms. Sylvia Gonzales, Board President, who provided a short history of the organization and stated that at one time members of the board were members of NALEO. After answering a few questions Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned and Mr. Luis "Charlie" Estrada seconded to approve the membership to NALEO.

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

7.E. Discussion on Possible Revisions to Fabens ISD Local Policies: - 8:00 – 8:26 PM

The following policies were brought to the Board for recommended changes in order to submit for new drafts to be considered at a future meeting. The following recommendations were made to each policy:

7.E.1. DBA - Employment Requirements and Restrictions - Credentials and Records

- 3rd paragraph – 3rd line – change 2 months to 3 months

7.E.2. DC - Employment Practices

- Add Board having final authority
- Add for all personnel
- Notification being part of superintendent's practice
- Board receives recommendations
- Board having final authority on Directors and up
- Board having final authority on dismissals

Questions were asked on the process and time frame for new hires/applicants. Time permitting: new hires would be monthly. If not possible, Special Board meetings could be scheduled. Board President Ms. Sylvia Gonzales did state that if the board members absent wished to add language for the drafts they could call administration.

7.E.3. DF - Termination of Employment

- Policy stays as is with Superintendent Vijil putting into practice of notifying the Board immediately.

7.E.4. DK - Assignment and Schedules

- 4th paragraph – 3rd and 4th line – change at least two months to three months

Drafts created by the district policy consultant would be reviewed at a future board meeting.

7.F. Completion of Fabens ISD Superintendent Annual Evaluation Pursuant to Policies BJCD (Legal) and BJCD (Local) – 8:26 – 8:29 PM

Superintendent evaluation was conducted in February, Mr. Benjamin Morales motioned and Mr. Luis “Charlie” Estrada seconded to finalize the annual evaluation that was presented in February.

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Luis “Charlie” Estrada motioned and Mr. Benjamin Morales seconded to adjourn at 8:29 PM.

Motion Carried: 5 - 0

Minutes Approved 5/17/2023

Sginatures on File