

**Donna Independent School District
Regular Board Meeting - Minutes
Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

The Board of Trustees will meet in the Staff Development Center/Board Room located at the Donna ISD Administration Building at 904 Hester Avenue, Donna, Texas 78537 to deliberate the matters noted below.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President Fernando Castillo called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

The following Board Members were in attendance:

- *Fernando Castillo, President*
- *Jose Rogelio Reyna, Vice-President*
- *Ida M. Garcia, Secretary*
- *Eloy Avila, Trustee*
- *Jose L. Valdez, Trustee*
- *Dr. Maricela Valdez, Trustee*
- *Eva Castilo Watts, Trustee*

The following Administrators/Individuals were also in attendance:

- *Dr. Angela Dominguez, Superintendent*
- *Rebecca Castañeda, Deputy Superintendent*
- *Adela Troncoso, Assistant Superintendent*
- *Alfonso Perez, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance*
- *Rashad Rana, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services*
- *Tony Torres, School Attorney*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE

II. OPEN FORUM

No one signed up to speak during Open Forum.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. District Highlights

Dr. Angela Dominguez, Superintendent reported on the following:

- *Recognized the Donna ISD School Board as this is School Board Recognition Month*
- *Donna ISD Board of Trustees, for the first time in history has been a State Finalist (1 of 5 State Finalist) for the HEB Excellence in Education Board of the Year Award.*

- *HEB Team will be here next week to interview our Trustees and visit with a panel to see if we are the State winner.*
- *Three categories that we were selected based on:*
 - *Academic/student progress within the district and the Board's role in that area.*
 - *Lone Star Governance Goals*
 - *Board Meetings Focused on Student Outcomes – Monitoring and Tracking (50% of Board meetings spent on Student Outcomes)*
 - *Self-Evaluation of Board's Efforts and Role (Donna ISD is rated as the highest Lone Star Governance Board in the State of Texas)*
 - *Identification of community needs, and specific actions taken based on those needs.*
 - *New and creative methods for community engagement in Donna ISD.*
- *The three areas that our Trustees have set goals for the district are:*
 - *Early childhood Literacy aligned to 3rd grade STAAR*
 - *Early childhood Math aligned to 3rd grade STAAR*
 - *CCMR aligned to graduate readiness requirements*
- *Donna ISD (Board and Administration) considered the following factors when developing the recommended goals and targets:*
 - *COVID-19*
 - *virtual instruction students received from March of 2020 through June of 2021;*
 - *learning loss;*
 - *participation rates of 2021 STAAR assessment;*
 - *STAAR assessment results in Reading and Math;*
 - *local STAAR correlated assessments;*
 - *computer based assessments;*
 - *CCMR trackers*
- *December 2021 – Revisited the Lone Star Governance Goals to adjust for COVID impact and recovery*
- *Goal specific for grade levels in Math and Reading*
- *Superintendent and Board Constraints – Guardrails how we operate and how we do business and our goals are always on Student Outcomes. Constraints are publicly posted on our Board Webpage.*
- *The 2nd Category the HEB identified as an area of excellence in Donna ISD was the ability of the Trustees to identify the needs of our community and take action on those needs.*
 - *Strategic Plan*
 - *Bond Initiative*
 - *Safety and Security*
- *Final Area that stood out in our application was "New and creative methods for community engagement"*
 - *Lunch and Learn Series with Students*
 - *Allocating Resources Based on Identified Needs*
 - *Classroom Libraries – over 500 books in each classroom (PK-5th Grade)*
 - *Adult Education Program*

- *DISD STEPP*
- *A.R.T.E.S. Program*
- *R.E.A.D.Y. Program*

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Ida Garcia, seconded by Eloy Avila. Jose R. Reyna, Jose L. Valdez, Dr. Maricela Valdez, Eva Castillo Watts, and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.

A. BUSINESS AND FINANCE

- a. Approve Accounts Payable.
- b. Approve Financial Statements for November 2023.
- c. Approve Investment Report: 1st Quarter (September 2023, October 2023, and November 2023).
- d. Approve Report of Monthly Tax Collections for November 2023.
- e. Approval to Declare DISD Child Nutrition Program surplus to be taken to auction.
- f. Approval to Award Benz Lawn Services for Request for Proposals (RFP)# 121123-748 Lawn Care Services for Donna High School, Todd Middle School, Learning & Development Center, Central Warehouse and Adjacent Soccer Fields.
- g. Approval to Award Benz Lawn Services for Request for Proposals (RFP)# 121123-747 Lawn Care Services for Donna North High School.

B. ACADEMIC SERVICES

- a. Approval of the MOU between Donna ISD & RGV CDL regarding the Commercial Driver's License Program through the CTE Department for students in Grade 12 from DHS & DNHS.

C. SUPPORT SERVICES

- a. Approve the minutes for the Board Workshop, December 14, 2023.
- b. Approve the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting, December 19, 2023.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION as Authorized by Texas Government

Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.075, 551.076, 551.082, 551.083 and 551.084.

The Board of Trustees went into Executive Session at 6:24 pm.

A. Discussion and Consideration of the Superintendent's Recommendation of Personnel Matters

- Recommendations for Professionals to Include Contract Renewal, Hiring, Adjustments, Termination, and Rescission Recommendation
- Update of District Personnel

- B. Discussion and Private Consultation with Attorney regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Settlement Matters, and/or Matters Where the Professional Duty Under State Board Requires Private Consultation with School Attorney.

VI. OPEN SESSION - Take possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

The Board of Trustees reconvened from Executive Session at 7:19 pm.


- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation of Personnel
- Approve the Recommendation for Professionals to Include Contract Renewal, Hiring, Adjustments, Termination, and Rescission Recommendations

No recommendations at this time.


VII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the Regular Board meeting was made by Ida M. Garcia, seconded by Eva Castillo Watts. Eloy Avila, Ida Garcia, Jose R. Reyna, Jose L. Valdez, Dr. Maricela Valdez and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.

The Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm



Fernando Castillo, President
Board of Trustees
Donna ISD

and 

Ida M. Garcia, Secretary
Board of Trustees
Donna ISD

Board approved: February 13, 2024