

**Donna Independent School District**  
**Regular Board Meeting - Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 12, 2023 - 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 Jose L. Valdez called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm.*

*The following Board Members were in attendance:*

- *Mr. Jose L. Valdez, President*
- *Mr. Fernando Castillo, Vice-President*
- *Mr. Jose Rogelio Reyna, Secretary*
- *Mr. Eloy Avila, Trustee*
- *Ida Garcia, Trustee (via Microsoft Teams)*
- *Dr. Maricela Valdez, Trustee*
- *Mrs. Eva C. Watts, Trustee*

*The following Administrators/Individuals were also in attendance:*

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**II. OPEN FORUM**

*Mr. Juan "JJ" Rodriguez signed up to speak during Open Forum on Lone Star Governance Math and Reading Outcomes. Stated that Fine Arts impacts Math and Reading scores. Wants District to consider hiring a dedicated District Fine Arts Director. Fine Arts ties into Math and Reading outcomes.*

### III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#### A. District Highlights

- *Seven National Merit Hispanic or African American Scholars at Donna High School*
- *Lone Star Governance Update*
  - *Dr. Diana Barrera Ugarte, new LSG Coach*
  - *Student Outcome Scorecard – Last year Team did not meet one of the eight goal progress measure. This year, Team has met all eight goals across the board*
  - *We have met all areas for board constraints and goal progress measures in that area.*
  - *Donna ISD Board is the highest ranking board for Lone Star Governance scores across the state of Texas*
  - *First Lunch and Learn was held this week at Donna North High School. Next Lunch and Learn sessions will be at DAEP and AP Solis Middle School*
- *State Accountability Update*
  - *State has put a pause on release the A-F ratings and how they will re-evaluate how they will be assessing schools particularly in the area of growth.*
  - *Analysis of the growth data.*
  - *Shared Donna ISD 2023 STAAR Exam Results growth*
  - *In 2021 Donna ISD was the lowest performing district at 41% passing, 2022 jumped to 63% passing in one year. Goal for 2023 is 65%*
  - *A legacy doesn't happen overnight.*
- *Dr. Barrera, LSG Coach, introduced herself and stated that she is here to join with the Board and Superintendent to further our district. Ready to challenge the Board to be the best that you can be. As your LSG Coach, she will help the Board become an award winning board and get Donna ISD noticed more from the State and Nation. She will be at all the Board meetings and sharing updates and feedback with Dr. Dominguez and Board President Jose L. Valdez and will communicate updates, via email with the entire Board. Workshop to share new accountability information will be scheduled in January and also do some LSG exercises.*

### IV. MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY (LSG)

#### A. LSG Progress and Accountability Presentation Goal 2; Goal 1-3 Annual Target Report and Superintendent Constraint 1: CPM 1.1 and Board Self-Constraint 1

*Mr. Javier Villanueva and Mrs. Stephanie Powelson-Garza presented on LSG Progress and Accountability, EOY Board Goal 2 Reading; and Superintendent Constraint 1: CPM 1.1 and Board Self-Constraint 1.*

*They reviewed the following: LSG Board Goal 2 Reading Data at EOY (STAAR); Reinforcements and Refinements: LSG Board Goal Targets for 2023-2024; relevant data*

*for Superintendent's Constraint 1.1; relevant data for Board Self-Constraint 1 and examined the Superintendent's Evaluation.*

*Reinforcements:*

- *Increased implementation of Goal 1 strategies: gradual release model, explicit instruction (PK3-12<sup>th</sup>)*
- *Teacher Assistants have been receiving training consistently to support their role in the instruction*
- *System in place to identify teachers in need of additional support and intervention; progress monitoring every 2 weeks for students, weekly for teachers.*

*Refinements:*

- *Continue to develop our instructional assistants to provide small group instruction to students in PK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade*
- *Continue to develop our district Lead Teachers with monthly trainings with focus on observation and feedback*
- *Continue to develop our district instructional leaders (lead teachers, campus administration & strategists) on the district Instructional Coaching model*

*Superintendent Constraint CPM 1.1: The gap between current Emergent Bilinguals and the All Student Group for STAAR 3-EOC in reading and mathematics shall not exceed 15% as measured by the TEA Accountability report. The gap in STAAR Reading (Grades 3-10) is 7% and STAAR Math (Grade 3-9) is 2%. Target for 2022-2023 was 13%. The board is currently in compliance with all required deadlines as listed in statute.*

*Motion to accept Superintendent's recommendation of Model Level was made by Trustee Ida Garcia, seconded by Trustee Eva C. Watts. Trustee Eloy Avila, Board Vice President Fernando Castillo, Board Secretary Jose R. Reyna, Trustee Dr. Maricela Valdez and Board President Jose L. Valdez voted in favor. Motion carried.*

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **A. BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

- a. Approve Accounts Payable.
- b. Approve Financial Statements for July, 2023.
- c. Approval to purchase budgeted food items for all 21 district cafeteria kitchens that cost over \$50,000 or more and have been competitively bid by the South Texas CO-OP for Child Nutrition Program.
- d. Approval of upgrades/repairs for Bennie La Prade Stadium.  
Change order

**B. ACADEMIC SERVICES**

- a. Approve Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between County of Hidalgo Texas, and Donna Independent School District.
- b. Approve Edgenuity (Imagine Learning) Credit Recovery Renewal for Donna High School and Donna North High School.
- c. Approval of HB3 Texas Reading Academy Year 4 Region One Cohort Registration Fees.

**C. HUMAN RESOURCES**

- a. Approval of certified appraisers who can appraise a teacher in place of the teacher's supervisor - Policy DNA Performance Appraisal: Evaluation of Teachers - Local
- b. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Professional Psychiatric Association of RGV, PLLC-PPA which will remain in effect for 2 years subject to applicable termination provisions

**D. SUPPORT SERVICES**

- a. Approve minutes for Public Hearing, August 22, 2023.
- b. Approve the minutes for Regular Board Meeting, August 22, 2023.

**VI. 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 6:57 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 Consideration of pre-litigation hail damage claim matters
- C. 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.

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

*The Board of Trustees reconvened from Executive Session at 8:55 pm.*

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

*Motion to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation as discussed in Executive Session for Professionals to include Contract Renewal, Hiring, Termination, and Rescission Recommendations was made by Trustee Eloy Avila, seconded by Trustee Eva C. Watts. Board Vice President Fernando Castillo, Trustee Ida Garcia, Board Secretary Jose R. Reyna, Trustee Dr. Maricela Valdez and Board President Jose L. Valdez voted in favor. Motion carried.*


**B. Discussion and possible action regarding pre-litigation hail damage claim**

*Motion to approve recommendation as discussed in Executive Session. Recommendations was made by Trustee Ida Garcia, seconded by Trustee Eva C. Watts. Trustee Eloy Avila, Board Vice President Fernando Castillo, Board Secretary Jose R. Reyna, Trustee Dr. Maricela Valdez and Board President Jose L. Valdez voted in favor. Motion carried.*

**VIII. ADJOURN**

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

*The Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm*

  
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Jose L. Valdez, President  
Board of Trustees  
Donna ISD

and

  
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Jose R. Reyna, Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
Secretary

Board approved: October 10, 2023