



SANTA MARIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, August 31, 2015

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Notice is hereby given that a scheduled Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Santa Maria Independent School District was held on Monday, August 31, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Santa Maria ISD Board Room, 11119 Military Hwy, Santa Maria, Texas 78592.

The Santa Maria Independent School District offers reasonable accommodations for persons accessing its school facilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require special accommodations, please contact Dalia Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools at (956) 565-6308 for assistance.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board President called Special Board Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ESTABLISH QUORUM

Board of Trustees Present :

Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., Board Vice-President
Miguel Zavala, Board Secretary
Consuelo De la Rosa, Board Member
Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, Board Member

Board of Trustees Absent :

Belinda Lugo, Board President

Adolfo Hinojosa, Board Member walked in at 6:02p.m.

Noe Aleman, Board Member walked in at 6:05p.m.

Present from the District:

Maria J. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools
Dalia Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant of the Superintendent
Enrique Cuellar, Business Manager
Alyssa Romero, The Law Offices of Guerra & Farah, PLLC

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



1. Presentation by Adrian Webb, Certified Public Accountant for fiscal year 2015-2016

Mr., introduced himself. Internal control, stated they are available every day. Stated the credentials of their Accountants, forty years' experience. They have worked with Mission ISD, Rio Grande City ISD, La Joya ISD, Weslaco ISD, IDEA Academy. Five are currently still with their agency. Mr. Garza was not available today.

2. Presentation by Pattillo, Brown & Hill, LLP, Certified Public Accountant for fiscal year 2015-2016

Ms. Lizzete Alafa, introduced herself to the Board. She works in the Brownsville office with partner Carlos Pecero she stated overall they have ten CPAs in there office. They do audits for Waco ISD, Houston ISD, San Antonio ISD and Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Brownsville office has several local school districts: BISD, Hidalgo ISD, Valley View ISD, Progresso ISD, Raymondville ISD, Lyford ISD, Rio Hondo ISD, Mercedes ISD, South Texas ISD. Along with some colleges, such as STC and Victoria College.

Ms. De la Rosa asked, since they do so many schools, do they complete the audits on time. Ms. Alafa stated yes. They've always submitted on time.

Mr. Rivera asked if all school districts audits are due at the same time or who sets the dates.

Ms. Alafa stated it depends on when the school year ends.

One of the tasks we do is preliminary planning; two to four people will come in and review the books sometime in September/October to kind of get started before they come in for the field work. We issue a management letter at the end of the year with recommendations to improve the school district.

3. Presentation by Luis C. Orozco, Certified Public Accountant for fiscal year 2015-2016

Mr. Luis Orozco, introduced himself. Has done school audits. He previously worked with Santa Maria ISD.

Ms. De la Rosa asked if he has ever been late with any of his audits.

Mr. Orozco stated when it comes to school districts, no.

Ms. Ortiz asked what other school districts he is working with right now.

Mr. Orozco stated, for the past three years he has only worked with Edinburg CISD.

Ms. De la Rosa asked if that's the only one he has ever worked with.

Mr. Orozco stated he has worked with Donna ISD, Weslaco ISD, and South Texas ISD in the past.

Ms. De la Rosa asked since he only has a staff of two or three employees, does he foresee a problem on being on time with our audit.

Mr. Orozco stated, he also has a gentleman that helps him. Mr. Roberto Lopez from Harlingen, Tx.

4. Presentation by Long Chilton, LLP Certified Public Accountants for fiscal year 2015-2016

Mr. David Segovia introduced himself on behalf of Long Chilton. Plenty of experience with school districts audits. They have worked with many districts in the valley. They have three offices here in the valley McAllen, Brownsville and Harlingen. They have over one hundred employees or there about and ten partners who have many years' experience. McAllen where he is from has thirteen CPAs. Currently they audit McAllen ISD, Harlingen ISD, Mission ISD, Sharyland ISD, Edcouch Elsa ISD and South Texas College. For a district size of Santa Maria ISD they will probably assign two to three people to work for us.

Mr. Hinojosa asked if we have any questions will we be able to communicate with him. He stated yes, we will communicate with him or one of his staff and that should not be a problem. He also asked if a decision will be done today.

Ms. De la Rosa stated yes, they will be making a decision today.



5. Presentation by Raul Hernandez, Certified Public Accountant for fiscal year 2015-2016

As per Superintendent, Mr. Raul Hernandez was not available to make a presentation today due to other commitments. He communicated that based on his work and how he was able to meet the deadlines in the past year's audits, his work spoke in itself. He communicated he would be sending a letter if it was required.

6. Update of TGE 5th Grade Building Construction Project-HVAC System by Mr. George Lazaro, Fulcrum Consulting Services

Item # 6 was not be addressed

ACTION AGENDA

Finance

7. Discussion and possible action to approve Financial Auditor for 2014-2015 fiscal year

Motion to approve Raul Hernandez, CPA as the district's Financial Auditor for 2014-2015 fiscal year was made by Miguel Zavala, seconded by Oralía "Lala" Ortiz. Three against; Rambaldo Rivera, Jr., Adolfo Hinojosa, and Noe Aleman. One Abstain; Consuelo de la Rosa. The motion did not pass.

Motion made by Adolfo Hinojosa to approve Long Chilton, LLP Certified Public Accountants for fiscal year 2015-2016 with pending negotiation. School attorney, Alyssa Romero stated it could only be a motion, without pending negotiation.

Motion made by Adolfo Hinojosa to approve Long Chilton, LLP Certified Public Accountants for fiscal year 2015-2016, seconded by Consuelo de la Rosa. Three against; Miguel Zavala, Rambaldo Rivera, and Oralía Ortiz. One Abstain; Noe Aleman. The motion did not pass.

Motion to approve Raul Hernandez, CPA as the district's Financial Auditor for 2014-2015 fiscal year was made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Oralía "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible action to approve TGE 5th Grade Building Construction Project HVAC recommendations

No action at this time.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve 2015-2016 TASB Policy Service Membership Fee

Motion made by Miguel Zavala, seconded by Oralía "Lala" Ortiz. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board Vice-President announced it is 6:46p.m., asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Motion made by Noe Aleman, seconded by Adolfo Hinojosa. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Vice-President announced Board of Trustees will now be going into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION



Discussion under the authority of Section 551, Texas Government Code: If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed session of the Board should be held or is required in relation to any item included in this Notice, then such closed session as authorized by Section 551.001 *et. seq.* of the Texas Government Code (the Open Government Act) will be held by the Board after the commencement in open session of the meeting covered by this Notice. Such closed session may concern any or all of the subjects and be conducted for any and all purposes permitted by Section 551.071 through and including Section 551.084 of the Texas Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to, private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law.

- A. Section 551.071—Consultation with Attorney on Any Permitted Subject Including, But Not Limited to:
 - 1) Discussion with School Attorney on Item(s) Exempted under Attorney-Client Privilege
- B. Section 551.072—Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.073—Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift
- D. Section 551.074—Personnel Matters
 - 1) Resignations, retirements, terminations, proposed terminations, appointments, evaluations, Reassignments, duties, and discipline of Professional, Paraprofessional and Non-Contract Employees; Teacher Substitutes and Substitutes for Maintenance, Transportation, and Cafeteria Department
- E. Section 551.076 – Deliberations on Security Devices or Security Audits
- F. Section 551.082—School Children; School District Employees; Disciplinary Matters or Complaint
- G. Section 551.0821—Personally Identifiable Information about Public School Student

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board Vice-President asked for a motion to reconvene in open session.
Motion made by Adolfo Hinojosa, second by Oralía "Lala" Ortiz. The motion passed.
The Board Vice-President announced it is 7:04 p.m. and the Board of Trustees is now in open session.

- 1. Discussion and possible action on items discussed in Executive Session
 - a) Discussion and possible action on recommendations for employment of contractual and non-contractual personnel

No items for action to be taken.


ADJOURNMENT


The Board President announced it is 7:04 p.m. , asked for a motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made by Consuelo de la Rosa, second by Noe Aleman. Motion passed unanimously.



The Board President announced this meeting is now adjourned.


Belinda Lugo
Board President


Miguel Zavala
Board Secretary

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This notice has been publicly posted at the administrative offices of the Santa Maria Independent School District, 11119 Military Rd., Cameron County, Santa Maria, Texas, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the above mentioned meeting, as required by the following sections of the Texas Government Code: 551.071 through 551.084. During the regular school year, this notice is also posted in all schools in the District. The school district also posts its board meeting agendas on the District's internet web site (www.smisd.net)

Consent Agenda: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Trustees and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired on a specific item(s), that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

Maria J. Chavez, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Trustees

Belinda Lugo, President

Rambaldo "Ram" Rivera, Jr., Vice-President

Miguel Zavala, Secretary

Noe Aleman, Member

Consuelo De La Rosa, Member

Adolfo Hinojosa, Member

Oralia "Lala" Ortiz, Member

