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**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12

Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held February 27, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Central Office Teaching and Learning Center, 7001 E. Expressway 83, Mercedes, Texas 78570.

1. Welcome.

Henry LeVrier, Board President, welcomed the guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Henry LeVrier, Board President at approximately 7:00 p.m., at which time he was assured by Superintendent Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., that notices of the meeting were posted properly according to the laws of Texas and that a quorum of the Board was present.

The following board members were present:

David Briones	La Feria
Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Noel Garza, DDS	Mission
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D.	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, DDS	Rancho Viejo

The following Board members were absent:

Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Javier Farias	McAllen
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Rodolfo “Rudy” Ramirez	Edinburg
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following staff members were present:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Mathew Maciel
Efrain Garza	Frank Trevino
Lissa Frausto	Brenda De La Garza, Ed.D.
Marla Knaub	Sandra Torres
Amanda Odom	Vanessa Rivera
Marcos Flores	Ramon Longoria
Reynaldo Rodriguez, Ed.D.	Carmen Noriega
Michele Guajardo, Ph.D.	
Eric Gutierrez	
Jose Lucio	
Marco Zamora	
Maribel Valdez	
Cynthia Chairez, Ed.D.	

3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Hector Gonzales.

4. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

5. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive any requests to address the Board of Directors on any agenda topics.

6. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive any requests to address the Board of Directors on any non-agenda topics for this meeting.

7. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of STISD students and staff for excellence in academic, athletic and/or extracurricular endeavors.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Administration, Amanda Odom recognized Health Professions senior Alfia Bilal for being one of only 150 students to receive this year's \$20,000 Coca Cola Scholarships; the Virtual Academy and Health Professions Battle of the Books teams for their district and regional achievements; and Science Academy teacher Nelly Houston for being selected as this year's Outstanding Teacher by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley College of Engineering and Computer Science.

8. Approval of Consent Agenda.

In order to promote efficient meetings, the Board may act upon more than one item by a single vote through the use of consent agenda. Consent items shall be items placed on the Agenda marked with an asterisk (*) for which no Board discussion is anticipated and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. Prior to the meeting, at the request of any member of the Board of Directors, any item on the consent agenda shall be removed and given individual consideration. Requests for individual consideration are made at least a half-hour prior to Board meetings and requests must be directed to either the Board President or the Superintendent.

A motion was made by E. Larry Cantu, seconded by Robert J. Lerma, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

9. *Action: Review and act on the January 23, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

10. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Sylvia S. Lopez and Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

Dr. Sandra Ochoa reported on the following items:

- A. *Report on STISD Leader Monthly Newsletter.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report: Update on the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA).

Lissa Frausto, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the Board with an update on the Teacher Incentive Allotment. This was only a report.

11. Buildings and Grounds Committee - Margarita Garcia and Jaime Solis, Co-Chairs

Jaime Solis reported on the following items:

- A. Report on the following projects:
 - 1. District wide Cameras and Access Controls
 - 2. Health Professions Parking Lot project
 - 3. Health Professions Gymnasium project
 - 4. 2023-2024 Capital Projects

Frank Treviño, Contruction Manager, reported on the status of the District wide Cameras and Access Controls project, Health Professions Parking Lot project, Health Professions Gymnasium project, and the 2023-2024 Capital Projects. Mr. David Monreal, GMS Architects, was present to answer any questions from the Board.

- B. Action: Review and act on approving the ranking of proposals received for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) 25-001 Health Professions Gymnasium project, and authorize Administration and the Board President to negotiate and enter into a contract in accordance with the approved ranking.

A motion was made by Jaime Solis, seconded by Robert J. Lerma, approving the ranking of proposals received for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) 25-001 Health Professions Gymnasium project, and authorize Administration and the Board President to negotiate and enter into a contract in accordance with the approved ranking. The motion passed with one against (Adrian Garcia).

- 12. Finance & Operations Committee - Adrian Garcia and Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza reported on the following items:

- A. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on removing assets from district inventory.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on proposed 2024-2025 budget calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on private bid submitted by the City of Alton for subject property in Cause No. T-087-09-A (Property ID 318408) in accordance with Texas Property Tax Code Sec. 34.05(i) and approval of resolution to execute the tax resale deed conveying the approved property.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$9,822.22, for the District wide Cameras and Access Controls project.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Robert J. Lerma, approving payment application #3 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$9,822.22, for the District wide Cameras and Access Controls project. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$7,963.96, for the District wide Cameras and Access Controls project.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Robert J. Lerma, approving payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$7,963.96, for the District wide Cameras and Access Controls project. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$18,060.00, for the Health Professions Parking Lot Project.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by E. Larry Cantu, approving payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$18,060.00, for the Health Professions Parking Lot Project. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$14,720.79, for the Health Professions Parking Lot Project.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$14,720.79, for the Health Professions Parking Lot Project. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Payment application #1 to Noble Texas Builders in the amount of \$22,258.50, for the Health Professions Parking Lot Project.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Sylvia S. Lopez, approving payment application #1 to Noble Texas Builders in the amount of \$22,258.50, for the Health Professions Parking Lot Project. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Action: Review and act on budget amendment for Safety and Facilities Enhancement Grant (SAFE) Cycle 1 (429).

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving a budget amendment for the Safety and Facilities Enhancement Grant (SAFE) Cycle 1 (429). The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and act on awarding Request for Proposals (RFP 25-002) for Property, Liability and Auto Insurance proposals.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Adrian Garcia, approving HUB International, Option 1 plus additional coverage for RFP 25-002 for Property, Liability, and Auto Insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

- 13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Abiel J. Cantú and Hector Gonzales, Co-Chairs

Hector Gonzales reported on the following items:

- A. Report on Policy EIC (LOCAL) Academic Achievement: Class Ranking.

Marcos Flores, Executive Director for Student Support, reported on Policy EIC (LOCAL) Academic Achievement: Class Ranking and answered questions from the Board.

- B. Report on partnership with Parent ProTech to provide safety resources for STISD families.

Marcos Flores reported on the new partnership with Parent ProTech, which provides STISD families with resources to safely navigate technology.

- C. Action: Review and act on a revision to policy DNA (LOCAL) Performance Appraisal: Evaluation of Teachers.

A motion was made by Hector Gonzales, seconded by Doug Buchanan, approving a revision to policy DNA (LOCAL) Performance Appraisal: Evaluation of Teachers, to appraise teachers annually using the Texas Teacher Evaluation and Support System (T-TESS). The motion passed unanimously.

- 1. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Eduardo R. Rodriguez and Yolanda Kamel, Co-Chairs

Eduardo R. Rodriguez reported on the following item:

- A. *Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 2. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.
 - A. *Campus and District Reports

1. Preparatory Academy - M. Zamora
2. Rising Scholars Academy - R. Rodriguez, Ed.D.
3. World Scholars - C. Chairez, Ed.D.
4. Medical Professions - J. Lucio
5. Health Professions - M. Guajardo, Ph.D.
6. Science Academy - E. Gutierrez
7. Virtual Academy - M. Valdez
8. Enrollment & Attendance Report
9. Human Resources Report

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on staff ethnicity, gender and degree status.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district staff and student travel:
1. US Chess 2024 National High School Championship, April 5-7, 2024 in Baltimore, MD.
 2. #House of Code Congressional App Challenge National Recognition, April 10-11, 2024, in Washington, D.C.
 3. Leadership Institute for Transformative Education, April 23-25, 2024, in Longmont, CO.
 4. U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl, April 25-29, 2024, in Leesburg, VA.
 5. BPA National Leadership Conference, May 10-14, 2024, in Chicago, IL.
 6. Professional Human Capital Leader in Education, June 11-12, 2024, Hamilton County ESC in OH.
 7. 2024 Future Focused Schools Conference, June 24-26, 2024, in Washington, D.C.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on board members to attend the following:
1. Region One School Board Association Conference, May 17-18, 2024, South Padre Island, Texas.
 2. TASB Summer Leadership Institute, June 12-15, 2024 in San Antonio, TX or June 19-22, 2024 in Fort Worth, TX.

- F. *Action: Review and act on rescheduling the April 23, 2024, June 25, 2024, and July 23, 2024 Board Meeting dates.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. Action: Review and act on a Resolution approving the Formation of a Police Department for the District.

A motion was made by Jaime Solis, seconded by Robert J. Lerma, adopting a Resolution approving the Formation of a Police Department for the District. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Hector Gonzales, seconded by Doug Buchanan, adjourning the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.