



Always Innovating

**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 April 25, 2023, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Biblioteca Las Americas' Lecture Hall, 300 Med High Drive, Mercedes, TX 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 A. 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
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Rodolfo "Rudy" Ramirez	Edinburg
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Natividad Sosa	Mission
David Torres	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.	Brownsville

Ruth Villarreal Mission

The following Board members were absent:

Javier Farias	McAllen
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Ricardo Ochoa, MD	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Norberto "Beto" Salinas	Mission

The following staff members were present:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Ramon Longoria
Efrain Garza	Frank Trevino
Lissa Frausto	Mathew Maciel
Marla Knaub	Frank Trevino
Amanda Odom	Carmen Noriega
Nereyda Treviño, Ed.D.	
Eric Gutierrez	
Marcos Flores	
Criselda Rodriguez Flores	
Reynaldo Rodriguez, Ed.D.	
Marco Zamora	
Cynthia Chairez, Ed.D.	
Maribel Valdez	

3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Mr. Israel Quintanilla.

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 for this meeting.

6. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

The Board received the following request to address the Board of Directors:

1. Luz Prukop – Parent Experience at RSA

Individual was allowed three minutes to address the Board.

7. Awards & Recognitions.

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

On behalf of the administration and Board, Amanda Odom recognized and congratulated individual students and teams from throughout the district for excellence in academic, athletic, and/or extracurricular endeavors.

- B. Recognition of all Virtual Academy teachers and paraprofessionals for earning all 6 Apple Teacher Badges for iPad and being recognized as Apple Teachers.

On behalf of the administration and Board, Amanda Odom recognized and congratulated Virtual Academy teachers and paraprofessionals for earning Apple Teacher Badges and achieving Apple Teacher recognition.

- C. Recognition of all 2023 STISD Campus Teachers of the Year for their contributions to student success at their individual campuses and across STISD.

On behalf of the district and Board, Amanda Odom recognized the Teacher of the Year from each campus as well as for their contributions to student success.

- D. Recognition of STISD for receiving Honorable Mention in the National School Boards Association (NSBA) 2023 Magna Awards Program.

On behalf of the district and Board, Amanda Odom recognized STISD and Science Academy for receiving Honorable Mention in the NSBA Magna Awards Program.

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 Doug Buchanan, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

9. *Action: Review and act on the March 28, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

10. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - David Briones and Sylvia S. Lopez, Co-Chairs

David Briones reported on the following items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on the annual instructional materials allotment and TEKS certification for 2023-2024 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on amending the 2023-2024 academic calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Report: Professional Development for Summer 2023.

Dr. Nereyda Treviño, Chief Academic Officer, reported on Professional Development for Summer 2023. This was a report only.

- D. Report on the 2023-2024 District and Campus Improvement Plans (First Reading).

Dr. Nereyda Treviño, Chief Academic Officer, reported on the proposed 2023-2024 District and Campus Improvement Plans. This is the First Reading. The item will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

11. Buildings and Grounds Committee - E. Larry Cantu and Margarita Garcia, Co-Chairs

E. Larry Cantu reported on the following items:

- A. Report on the following projects:
 - 1. New Central Office Building Renovation project.
 - 2. 2022-2023 Capital Projects
 - 3. New Health Professions Gymnasium

Frank Treviño, Construction Manager, provided a report on the status of the New Central Office Building Renovation project, 2022-2023 Capital Projects, and the New Health Professions Gymnasium.

- B. Report from Structural Engineer regarding existing Rising Scholars Academy.

Ms. Knaub gave a report from the Structural Engineer regarding the existing Rising Scholars Academy. This was a report only.

- C. Discussion and possible action on a Virtual Academy building.

A motion was made by Rudy Ramirez, seconded by Doug Buchanan, tabling the agenda item. The motion passed unanimously. Item will be brought to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

- D. Action: Review and act on approving the New Central Office Building Renovation project as substantially complete.

A motion was made by E. Larry Cantu, seconded by Doug Buchanan, approving the New Central Office Building Renovation project as substantially complete. The motion passed unanimously.

- E. Action: Review and act on approving to repurpose the current Central Office into the Special Education Department.

A motion was made by E. Larry Cantu, seconded by Robert Lerma, approving Administration to repurpose the current Central Office into the Special Education Department. The motion passed with three against (Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Sylvia S. Lopez, and Nati Sosa).

12. Finance & Operations Committee - Javier Farias and Adrian Garcia, Co-Chairs

Adrian Garcia reported on the following items:

- A. *Report on District Comparison of Revenues/Expenditures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Report on school district investments:
 1. Investments owned by the district.
 2. Investments held by Wilmington Trust for the South Texas ISD Public Facilities Corporation.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Action: Review and act on approving the following donations:

1. Donation from City of McAllen to Medical Professions in the amount of \$200 for Athletics.
2. Donation from Panasonic Automotive Systems Company of America to Medical Professions in the amount of \$500 for the boys' soccer team.
3. Donation from Sombrero Festival LTD to Medical Professions in the amount of \$1,000 for the Class of 2023.
4. Donation from Oscar and Dolores Zepeda to Science Academy in the amount of \$200 for welding program.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. Action: Review and act on approving use of the Musk Foundation Grant award for CTE Health Science programs in Cameron County campuses.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Robert Lerma, approving the use of the Musk Foundation Grant award for the CTE Health Science programs for Medical Professions. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Action: Review and act on the following budget amendment(s):

1. General Fund Budget Amendment #4
2. 2021-2022 ESSA
3. Title I Part A (211)
4. Title I Part C Migrant (212)
5. Title II Part A (255)
6. Title III Part A – ELA (263)
7. Title IV part A – SSAEP (289)
8. 2022-2023 ESSA - Reallocation
 - a. Title I Part A (211)
 - b. Title I Part C Migrant (212)
 - c. Title II Part A (255)
 - d. Title III Part A – ELA (263)
 - e. Title IV part A – SSAEP (289)
9. Effective Advising Planning for New Coaches (244)

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, approving General Fund Budget Amendment #4, 2021-2022 ESSA, Title I Part A (211), Title I Part C Migrant (212), Title II Part A (255), Title III Part A ELA (263), Title IV part A SSAEP (289), 2022-2023 ESSA Reallocation, Title I Part A (211), Title I Part C Migrant (212), Title II Part A (255), Title III Part A – ELA (263), Title IV part A – SSAEP (289), and Effective Advising Planning for New Coaches (244). The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #19 to Gignac & Associates Architects LLP in the amount of \$12,571.03 for the New Central Office Building Renovation project.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by E. Larry Cantu, approving payment application #19 to Gignac & Associates Architects LLP in the amount of \$12,571.03 for the New Central Office Building Renovation project. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on amending the 2022-2023 Stipend listing for summer instructional programs.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Israel Quintanilla, approving amending the 2022-2023 Stipend listing for summer instructional programs to \$45 per hour. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Action: Review and act on approving the 2022-2023 Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Local Designation System and Compensation Plan.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, approving the 2022-2023 Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Local Designation System and Compensation Plan at 100% allotment to the teacher. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Nereyda Treviño clarified that as per TEA requirements, 90 percent will be paid to the designated teacher. The remaining 10 percent will be used for administrative expenses and professional development. A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Doug Buchanan, amending the previous motion and approving the 2022-2023 Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) Local Designation System and Compensation Plan as per TEA. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Action: Review and act on request for use of funds from MacKenzie Scott donation for CTE Program.

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving the request for use of funds from MacKenzie Scott donation for CTE Program. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Doug E. Buchanan and Abiel J. Cantú, Co-Chairs

Doug Buchanan reported on the following item:

- A. Discussion and possible action on revision to Policy DFE (Local) Termination of Employment: Resignation as requested by Board member, Natividad Sosa.

A recommendation was made by the Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee that no action be taken. A motion was made by Doug Buchanan, seconded by Robert Lerma, taking no action on revising Policy DFE (Local) Termination of Employment: Resignation. The motion passed with one against (Nati Sosa).

14. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Sasha Crane and Yolanda Kamel, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

15. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.
 - A. *Campus Reports
 1. Preparatory Academy - M. Zamora
 2. Rising Scholars Academy - R. Rodriguez, Ed.D.
 3. World Scholars - C. Chairez, Ed.D.
 4. Medical Professions - C. Rodriguez
 5. Health Professions - M. Flores
 6. Science Academy - E. Gutierrez
 7. Virtual Academy - M. Valdez

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on amending summer 2023 office hours.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district student/staff travel:
 1. National Conservation Foundation Envirothon, July 23-29, 2023 in New Brunswick, Canada.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Report on local certification through the District of Innovation Plan.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Report on the UTRGV Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant.

Mr. Efrain Garza, Deputy Superintendent, provided the Board with a report on the Project MHS DGP: A Mental Health Initiative Demonstration Grant Program. This was a report only.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Board of Directors met on April 25, 2023 at 8:36 p.m. in a closed or executive session as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, 551.084 and 551.001. The Board Secretary, Israel Quintanilla served to record the minutes of the closed session to discuss the following:
- A. 551.071, 551.074 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding: Closed Meeting
 - 1. Recommendation of professional staff for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
 - a. College Career and Military Readiness
 - 2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2023-2024 school year.
 - a. Assistant Principal
 - b. College Career and Military Readiness
 - c. Counselor
 - d. Dean of Instruction
 - e. Teacher(s)
 - B. 551.071, 551.076, 551.089 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits and consultation with school attorney regarding Security Devices or Security Audits: Closed Meeting
 - 1. Discussion and consideration of Security Devices/Security Audit.
 - C. 551.071 Consultation with Attorney
 - 1. Attorney consultation regarding legal matters pertaining to Sam Garcia Architects, LLC.
 - D. 551.071 and 551.074 Consultation with Attorney
 - 1. Discussion and consideration of current Board of Trustees vacancy, Elected - Hidalgo County, Precinct 1.

The Board ended the Executive Session at 9:17 p.m.

17. **OPEN SESSION:** Action on any Item Deliberated in Closed Meeting
- A. 551.074, 551.071, 551.076, 551.089 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding:
 - 1. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
 - a. College Career and Military Readiness

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of Jessica Garcia as College Career and Military Readiness Specialist (11 months) for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, Dr. Lara recommended Dwayne Austill Vega as Teacher (10 months) for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by E. Larry Cantu, approving the employment of professional staff as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2023-2024 school year.
 - a. Assistant Principal
 - b. College Career and Military Readiness
 - c. Counselor
 - d. Dean of Instruction
 - e. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of Karla De Luna as Assistant Principal (11 months), Jose Roberto Perez as Assistant Principal (11 months), Christopher Ray Martinez as Assistant Principal (11 months), Jessica Garcia as College Career and Military Readiness Specialist (11 months), Juan Carlos Trevino as Counselor (11 months), Marisol Trigo Rodriguez as Counselor (11 months), Itzahamara Moses as Dean of Instruction (11 months), Isaac Valdez as Teacher (10 months), Jesse Palomo as Teacher (10 months), Raul De La Rosa as Teacher (10 months), Michael Joseph Laverde as Teacher (10 months), Rachel Reynolds as Teacher (10 months), Michelle Clarice Mata as Teacher (10 months), Cillianna Marie Cisneros as Teacher (10 months), San Juanita Hinojosa as Teacher (10 months), Jaime Ramiro Leal as Teacher (10 months), Emily Finch as Teacher (10 months), Mayra G. Montiel as Teacher (10 months), Stephanie Pina as Teacher (10 months), Carolina Trevino as Teacher (10 months), Jennifer Anne Tiangi Scoggin as Teacher (10 months), Alyssa Lynette Olvera (10 months), William Guy Prock (10 months), Osbert Gamaliel Haro-Rodriguez as Teacher (10 months), Teresa Olivia Jasso as Teacher (10 months), Laura Ilyssa Anguiano as Teacher (10 months), Zeila Yameli Rodriguez as Teacher (10 months), Iliana Trevino as Teacher (10 months), Gregorio Ayala as Teacher (10 months), Idelia Paola Ortega as Teacher (10 months), and Edna C. Gonzalez as Teacher (10 months) for the 2023-2024 school year.

A motion was made by Doug Buchanan, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving the employment of professional staff as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion, consideration and possible action on Security Devices/Security Audits.

The Board did not take any action on this item.

C. Discussion, consideration and possible action regarding Sam Garcia Architects, LLC.

The Board did not take any action on this item.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Doug Buchanan, adjourning the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.