



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Minutes of Special Called Meeting

The Board of Trustees South San Antonio ISD

A Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees of South San Antonio ISD was held Monday, December 23, 2013, beginning at 6:00 PM in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call			
Member	In Attendance	Absent	Late Arrival
Mr. Trinidad Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage	X		6:01PM
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez	X		
Ms. Helen Madla	X		

CLOSED/EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOTICE: The Board of Trustees may elect to go into Closed Meeting any time during the meeting to discuss matters listed on the Agenda when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. In the event the Board of Trustees elects to go into Closed Meeting regarding an Agenda Item, the Board of Trustees will hold a Closed Meeting to discuss individual personnel matters including termination, litigation and other matters the Board deems necessary. Upon completion of Closed Meeting, the Board of Trustees may, in the open session, take such action as appropriate on items discussed in a Closed Meeting. If, during the course of the meeting, any discussion of any item listed on the agenda should be held in Closed Meeting, the Board will convene in such Closed Meeting in accordance with Texas Government Code Sections 551.001 - 551.088. The Board members may take action in the open portion of the meeting on items discussed in the Closed Meeting but no action will be taken in closed session. The Board will consider and discuss, the following items:

Enter into closed session at 6:02PM

Returned from closed session at 7:12PM

Closed Meeting pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code §§ 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.082, and 551.0821

1. Consultation with attorney and acceptance of contingent resignation of Interim Superintendent Mourette Hodge. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.071 and 551.074).

Upon motion by Ms. Prado, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees move to accept the resignation submitted by Interim Superintendent Mourette Hodge effect December 23, 2013 and advise the district administration that Ms. Hodge qualifies for reimbursement of 94.5 days of accumulated state leave under board policy DEC Local at the administrator substitute daily rate of \$190 dollars. 5/1 Motion Carried.

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage		X	
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez			X
Ms. Helen Madla	X		

Discussion:

RoseMarie Martinez,

I'm very very disappointed that we have lost her, she was a very dedicated person to this district and she cared a lot about our kids, our staff and our community, it's a lost towards the district but if she's has given her resignation then I will hear it from her but not from a piece of paper, so madam go ahead.

JoeJo Savage,

This is one of the saddest days in South San history, roll call.

Trinidad Mata,

I myself was disappointed, disappointed in the actions of the Interim Superintendent, the actions of given pay increases without legal consultation, without approval of the school board which is the governing body. (JoeJo Savage, wasn't this discussed in closed session) (Madla, everybody has a chance to give their comment, go ahead Mr. Mata). Thank You. Ms. Martinez along with other board members were present at the meeting when the pay raises were discussed. The media of public officials have been missed lead by individuals that they weren't aware of what was the reason for Ms. Hodge's sudden resignation those are your reasons and again I mention I am disappointed by those actions.

Prado,

The action that were taken were in violations of the law in legal terms, Mr. Escamilla if I'm wrong please correct me, I think that's considered gifting of public funds, is that correct and that is a violation of law we could not continue to have this district act with that kind of practice going on and I'm glad to see that Ms. Hodge although she worked for the district for 32 years but she has taken it upon herself to resign at this time and I will be accepting her resignation.

Helen Madla,

I for one did not want to bring anymore controversy to South San we have more than our share but with the superintendent gifting of public funds I will not sit here and do nothing that was not what I was elected to do, for the last two board meetings, Ms. Prado, Mr. Mata and myself found \$240,000 dollars just sitting there if there is any gifting of monies it should be gifted to our students in the classroom, curriculum is a core of this district educating our students, improving our scores for the past six months a secretary has been running our curriculum department, two PHD's, Doctorate's, applied for this position our Superintendent was content with the secretary running curriculum, this is not the direction we want for South San, South San deserves better and if we have to sit here in front of a firing squad so be it, South San deserves the best.

Joe Jo Savage,

I'm allowed to speak again, Madam President (Malda: No Roll Call Vote), I find it cowardest that ya'll would sit behind here, place the blame on her when you directed her to do those actions, no I will not accept this resignation it was forced.

2. Consultation with attorney and discussion regarding employee pay increases. (Tex. Gov't Code §§551.071 and 551.074).

Upon motion by Mrs. Prado, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to resend the pay raises of the employees listed in exhibit A to closed session item number 6 which is attached hereto made apart hereof which were granted by former Interim Superintendent Mourette Hodge in contravention of state law and board policy and authorize the new Interim Superintendent to take whatever actions necessary to effectuate in this motion and recover the funds illegally granted all as discussed in closed session. 4/1 Motion Carried

Discussion

JoeJo Savage:

I would like to read the names at this time and honestly put some clarity to this, these are the names that are public record, correct Mr. Escamilla. (Pablo Escamilla: they are this is why I made an exhibit so you wouldn't have to do that but it is a public record you could read the names to the record if you would like). Give an example these are the (Pablo Escamilla: if you're going to read the names, you need to read them all). OK perfect.

Jenny Arrendondo

Dan Daiz

Jill Gable – directed by Mr. Mata and Ms. Prado

Dyanne Martinez-Munoz

Jeremy Philips

Eduardo Suarez

Eugene Tovar

Gloria Alvarado
 Leticia Chavez
 Marie Fulgencio – which Ms. Prado directed Ms. Hodge to adjust pay.
 Idalia Hagamon
 Sandra Hernandez – directed by Ms. Madla
 Mark Longoria
 Geraldo Manzannares
 Canderlia Michelle
 Christina Morales
 Angela Moreno
 Christina Moreno
 Sylvia Sandoval
 Sandra Zapata – directed by Ms. Madla

This is not a case of Superintendent giving money this is a case of Superintendent directed to gift money.

Connie Prado:

I have a question for the attorney, please at this time Mr. Escamilla at the time there was investigation done is that correct and during the investigation you or members of your firm met with Ms. Hodge is that correct and her attorney as while and at this time these unlawful acts were brought to her attention correct, so she was aware of this during that meeting. Was Ms. Hodge afforded the opportunity at that time to say that she was being intimidated or bullied or forced to making these decisions (Pablo Escamilla: She was afforded the opportunity and she never said she was). OK and the allegations that are being made by Mr. Savage was Ms. Hodge asked directly. Did any board member direct you to make or direct you to do these increases? (Pablo Escamilla: Yes that question was asked) What did she say? (Pablo Escamilla: No) Thank you that's all I have.

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage		X	
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria			X
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez			X
Ms. Helen Madla	x		

3. Discussion regarding professional resignations, retirements and employment of new personnel. (Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071 and 551.074)

Upon motion by Mr. Longoria, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for professional resignations, retirements and employment of new personnel as discussed in closed session. 7/0 Motion Carried.

4. Discussion regarding auxiliary resignations, retirements and employment of

new personnel. (Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071 and 551.074)

Upon motion by Mr. Longoria, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendations for auxiliary resignations, retirements and employment of new personnel as discussed in closed session. 6/0 Motion Carried.

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage	X		
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez			X
Ms. Helen Madla	X		

5. Discussion regarding terminations, promotions, reclassifications, assignments and reassignments of district personnel as recommended by the Superintendent. (Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071 and 551.074)

Upon motion by Mr. Longoria, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendations regarding the promotions of Audra Groose on term contract at will employee, promotions of Nancy Cavazos, Raquel Diane Morales, Bernadette Terriquez, I further approve the termination of Carlos Garcia all discussed in closed session. 5/0 Motion Carried.

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage			X
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez			X
Ms. Helen Madla	X		

6. Discussion regarding the appointment of the Director of Bilingual/ESL/Title III/Migrant. (Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071 and 551.074)

Upon motion by Ms. Prado, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to appointment Mr. Oscar Garcia as the Director of Bilingual/ESL/Title III/Migrant on a probationary contract as discussed in closed session. 7/0 Motion Carried.

7. Consultation with attorney and discussion regarding termination of the continuing contract of Dorothy Everett. (Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071 and 551.074)

Upon motion by Ms. Prado, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to accept the terminated the employment contract of Dorothy Everett for good cause as set forth in the district notice to her as Ms. Everett has withdrawn

her request for a hearing and no longer wishes to protest her proposed terminated perusing to Texas Education code section 21.159. 5/0 Motion Carried.

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage			X
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez			X
Ms. Helen Madla	X		

8. Consultation with attorney and discussion regarding the appointment of a new Interim Superintendent and the terms of an employment contract. (Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071 and 551.074).

Discussion

JoeJo Savage

I believe that this district needs someone from the inside to get us through these tumultuous times and we need someone who is qualified within, that's all.

RoseMarie Martinez

I just want to, we just need to, I don't want to pronounce your last name wrong so I am going to say Mr. S, cause I don't want to miss pronounce it for you, I think that if we give him the opportunity, he needs help from within we just can't leave him out there by himself. (Madla: so who's Mr. S,) I can't pronounce his name so I just call him Mr. S, OK, I do not want to miss pronounce his name and offend him , so I think it would be great if he had somebody else helping him from within.

Connie Prado

Ok, so I'm confused on the substitute motion is your second motion to Mr. Savage's motion to insert Mr. Abundis instead of Mr. Saavedra.

RoseMarie Martinez

No we're saying that Mr. S and then slash Mr. Abundis to give him a helping hand as while, he's going to need somebody to help him getting everything done, started at least. (Mata: you can't do that) OK.

Sub Motion by Mr. Savage, to amend the motion by slashing Dr. Abelardo Saaverda and inputting Mr. David Abundis. No Second. Motion Failed

Upon motion by Ms. Prado, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to appoint Dr. Albelardo Saavedra as the new Interim Superintendent effective immediately authorizing to proceed as discussed in closed session specifically but not limited to taking action to address issues related to a

potential non compliance with the annual audit required by the Texas Education Agency and issues related to the Texas Association of School Board report and approve the terms of an employment contract with him as recommended by legal counsel all as discussed in closed session. 5/1 Motion Carried.

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage		X	
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez			X
Ms. Helen Madla	X		

Dr. Saavedra – Introduction

First of all let me thank the board of trustees for the South San Independent School District for the vote of confidence. I'll be happy to serve as Interim Superintendent for a few months as the board conducts its search for permanent Superintendent. Let me give just a little bit of my background, I'm a former Superintendent of the Houston Independent School District as while as the Corpus Christi Independent School District. Since my retirement out of Houston ISD in 2009, I've been a professor at Clinical Practice at Texas A&M College Station and do that on a half time basis as while as other consulting work involvement and I look forward to the opportunity. I think, I'm somewhat familiar with the challenges with in South San, I intend to address those challenges. I have the experience and the background to be able to do that, I will be very dependent on the staff here at South San and together with their support, support of the community and support of this board, I think we can make some good things happen in the next several months.

The Board will return to open session and take appropriate action, if any, on items discussed in closed session. No Action will be taken in closed session. Further, Board Members are reminded that all items discussed in closed session must remain confidential so as to avoid liability to the district.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

- 1. Discussion and possible action to authorize the hiring or appointment of an individual/group to conduct an audit/investigation based upon the report issued by the Texas Association of Business Officials.**

Upon motion by Ms. Prado, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to approve the authorize the hiring or appointment of an individual/group

to conduct an audit/investigation based upon the report issued by the Texas Association of Business Officials. 7/0 Motion Carried.

	Yes	No	Abstained
Mr. Trinidad T. Mata	X		
Ms. Connie Prado	X		
Mr. JoeJo Savage	X		
Ms. Julie Ponce	X		
Mr. Carlos Longoria	X		
Ms. Rose Marie Martinez	X		
Ms. Helen Madla	X		


2. Discussion and possible action to approve the Texas Association of School Boards as the search consultant in the Superintendent search process.

Upon motion by Mr. Longoria, seconded by Mr. Mata, the Board of Trustees moved to approve the Texas Association of School Boards as the search consultant in the Superintendent search process. 7/0 Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Mr. Mata, seconded by Ms. Martinez, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously 7/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM.

ATTEST



Helen Madla - President



Connie Prado - Secretary