



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1450 Gillette Boulevard · San Antonio, Texas 78224 · (210) 977-7000 · Fax (210) 977-7017

Minutes of Regular Meeting
The Board of Trustees
South San Antonio ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of South San Antonio ISD was held Wednesday, May 17, 2023, beginning at 6:00 PM in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1450 Gillette Blvd. San Antonio, Texas 78224.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Table with 4 columns: Trustee, Present, Absent, Late Arrival/Departed Early. Rows list trustees: Ernesto Arrellano Jr., Manuel Lopez, Shirley Ibarra, Stacey Alderete, Cynthia Ramirez, Homer Flores Jr., Abel Martinez Jr.

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
•TEXAS PLEDGE
•PRAYER

Led by Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications

Mr. Yzaguirre made a request for a change order of the day to move the Recognitions to be next so students may participate in their next event.

Mrs. Alderete made a motion: I'd like to make a motion that we move Recognitions to the present, seconded by Mr. Arrellano, and the Board of Trustees votes unanimously to approve.

RECOGNITIONS

- 1. SSAISD Celebrates South San Antonio High School and West Campus High School TopTen Students
Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications, was called to recognize students for their achievements.
2. Commissioner Rebeca Clay-Flores' Proclamation for 100th year of SSAISD
Rebecca Clay-Flores, Commissioner, was called to recognize our District with a Proclamation.
3. Frank Madla Elementary Partners with Gardopia Gardens and Wells Fargo for a NewSustainable Garden
Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications, was called to recognize our partners for their contributions to our District.
4. Scripps Spelling Bee
Kevin Rasco, Director of Teaching & Learning, was called to recognize students for their achievements.
5. 90 Second Newbery Nominations
Kevin Rasco, Director of Teaching & Learning, was called to recognize students for their achievements.
Mr. Flores, Board President, read board meeting rules of decorum aloud.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tom Cummins, AFT Representative, addressed the Board regarding next year's staff pay and work life balance. Gilbert F. Rodriguez, Parent, addressed the Board regarding him identifying the TEA Monitor being a hindrance.

TEA MONITOR REMARKS/REPORT

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA Monitor: Thank you Mr. Flores, members of the Board. At last week's special called meeting, two Trustees took the Superintendent to task. One suggesting that the Superintendent renegotiate his contract and the other publicly scolding the Superintendent. The two Trustees made their remarks during the Citizens to Be Heard section of the meeting. A reminder to these two Trustees as well as all Board members; once you're elected you are always

a Board member, 24/7. Simply stepping away from the Board table does not absolve you of your responsibilities as a Board member. As required by policy and law any discussion concerning the Superintendent's contract and/or performance needs to occur in executive session and only the Superintendent can initiate discussion of his contract and/or performance during the public section of a Board meeting. Also at last week's meeting, several Trustees implied over a period of time that the Board had nothing to do with how ESSER money was spent suggesting that the responsibility belonged to the Superintendent and not the School Board. Well I'd like to call your attention to Board Policy BAA(Legal) that is a policy that implements Texas Education Code 11.051a and under the Governance section of that legal policy, it states that a District is governed by a Board of Trustees who as a body corporate, shall oversee the management of the District and ensure that the Superintendent implements and monitors plans, procedures, programs, and systems to achieve appropriate clearly defined and desired results in the major areas of the district operations. So suggesting that the Superintendent and his staff did not appropriately spend ESSER money puts you in the responsibility of having to oversee the Superintendent. And you recently, just about a month or so back, six weeks at the most, this Board evaluated the Superintendent. That was your opportunity to let him know if he was underperforming and that did not happen. If anything, he received high marks from the Board as a whole concerning his performance. I also want to call your attention to Texas Education Code 11.1511 section b9 which reads "that the Board should monitor District finances to ensure the Superintendent is properly maintaining the Districts financial procedures and records." Again, if you feel that the Superintendent is not doing the management of the finances correctly, you have a responsibility as a School Board, and you also have a responsibility as a School Board to stay informed as to the policies that govern your responsibilities. In addition to that the School Board approves every expenditure that exceeds \$50,000. So it is totally inaccurate to suggest that the School Board had nothing to do with the spending of ESSER money or any other revenues. One of the responsibilities of the Monitor is to recommend or suggest to the Board ideas or actions that could result in better governance of the district. Last week I suggested to the Board that you immediately start discussions on the process that the Board will follow in filling the vacant Board seat that will be left when Mrs. Alderete steps down on June 28<sup>th</sup>. I suggested you discuss and approve the process at this meeting in order to be ready to fill the seat on the same date that Mrs. Alderete steps down which is June the 28<sup>th</sup>. Since that item is not on tonight's agenda, I can only assume that the Board option to ignore the Monitors suggestion, which is your prerogative. The Board President has drafted a plan to fill Mrs. Alderete's vacancy and has emailed that plan to two Trustees. I do not know if the other four Trustees has seen the plan, never the less, the plan I reference has a target date of the August Board meeting to fill the seat. That will be 4 months and almost 2 weeks from the date that Mrs. Alderete first announced her resignation. There has been no explanation for the delay in filling this vacancy, Board seat, but it is clear that the Board majority has no urgency in filling this soon to be vacant seat on the Board. On September the 30<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Texas Education Agency gave the South San ISD Board notice of appointment of a Monitor. The appointment of the Monitor was due to the findings contained in a final report resulting from a Special Accreditation Investigation. The same notice stated that the Board needed to do the following: develop and adopt policies and procedures necessary to ensure required informations obtained by Board members in compliance with the requirements of Texas Education Code 11.051, 11.151, 11.1511, 11.1512, and 11.1513. In addition, the Board was to complete a TEA approved governance training by all Trustees. And finally the Board was to present at a public Board meeting the required policies that delegate specific duties related to the governance of an Independent School District and specific duties of the Superintendent related to the management of South San ISD. Every month the Monitor reports to TEA, that assesses progress, excuse me, or lack of progress on the Board requirements that I just read. Every month I have reported a lack of progress or a lack of even starting to comply with these requirements. The governance training requirement is a requirement that I have reminded the Board of previously nearly every time that I present Monitor Remarks. After 1 year and 8 months since the Board first received this notice, the Board has not completed any of the requirements listed in the appointment notice of September 30, 2021. Not one requirement has been completed and like the lack of urgency to fill a Board seat, the Board has also demonstrated a lack of urgency to complete the requirements of the September 30, 2021 Monitor placement letter from TEA. So at this point, it is clear that the appointment of a Monitor has not been sufficient to improve the governance of South San ISD or improve individual Board member behavior. Squabbling and

bickering among Board members has been demonstrated at nearly every Board meeting and in email communications between Board members. Therefore, it is my intention in the near future to recommend to the Texas Education Agency that they seriously consider elevating governing sanctions at South San. Thank you.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)**

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board and audience highlighting some special dates and accomplishments. Recognizing athletics; West Campus High School girls' softball team made the bi-district playoffs, South San High Schools softball team District 27-5A Champions, and the boys baseball team bi-district champs. He stated that we have the elementary intermural track meet in a week. He stated that a date to remember is May 29<sup>th</sup> as the district will be closed and last day of school is June 1<sup>st</sup>. He informed parents that we are still monitoring attendance and announced that our high school graduations are on June 1<sup>st</sup>. West Campus' ceremony will be at 2 PM at A&M-San Antonio and SSHA's ceremony will be at 7 PM at the Alamodome. He informed that the Summer programs begins on June 5<sup>th</sup> and that the District will be open M-Thursday as well as our summer feeding program starting that day as well. He recognized 2 celebrations in our district recognizing teachers and police; National Teacher Appreciation week and National Police Appreciation week. He stated that our community meetings should remain student focused and not a platform for shaming one another. He asked that he be contacted with any concerns and asked that they repurpose their energy for the good of the District. He encouraged being well versed and knowing each's role and have a united front where personal agendas take a backseat to the collective good of this district. He stated that 9 months ago, he made a 5-year commitment to this community that his work efforts would be solely focused on making this district a great district to learn, work, and live. He stated that he is very confident that our district and campus leadership are on the right track. He stated that he would not let the negative feedback overshadow all that the students and staff have worked to achieve. He stated that he has no intentions of breaking this commitment. He said to join us for a great run or step aside and watch from the sidelines. He said that either way this school district will be back on top. He closed with God bless each and every one of you and God bless South San ISD.

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)**

None

**PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**

1. April 2023 Financials  
Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
2. TIA Updates  
Kevin Rasco, Director of Teaching & Learning, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

**CONSENT**

*Policy BE (Local) states that the consent agenda shall include items of a routine and/or recurring nature grouped together under one action item. All such items shall be acted upon by one vote without separate discussion, unless a Board Member requests that an item be withdrawn for individual consideration. The remaining items shall be adopted under a single motion and vote.*

1. Approve the Board Meeting Minutes
    - A. April 5, 2023 Special Called
    - B. April 19, 2023 Regular Called
  2. Approval of RFP # 2023-05 Charter Bus, Van, and Vehicle Rental Services
  3. Memorandum of Understanding between South San Antonio ISD , Texas A&M University -San Antonio, and Education Service Center - Region 20 ~ Texas Strategic Staffing
  4. Budget Amendment
  5. (2023-2024) Memorandum of Understanding for Dual Credit partnership between TexasA&M University-San Antonio and South San Antonio Independent School District ANDTexas A&M Univeristy-San Antonio MOU for South San Antonio ISD A Dual Credit Partnership ADDENDUM ONE
  6. Dee Howard Foundation MOU
  7. Interlocal Agreement Between The University of Texas at Austin and South San ISD for the2023-2024 OnRamps Program
  8. Memorandum of Understanding between Childsafe and SSAISD
  9. Service agreement between The University of Texas at San Antonio and SSAISD
  10. Service agreement between Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) andSSAISD
- Mrs. Ramirez moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6 & 8-10 as presented, Mrs. Alderete seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		

**CONSENT Items pulled**

**Item #- 7**

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item. Mr. Flores moved to approve the consent agenda item 7 as presented, Mr. Ramirez seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. Discussion and possible action to approve and submit a Program Resolution for the SH Bullet Resistant Shield Grant from the Office of the Governor. This grant is in the amount of \$121,800 to purchase Bullet Resistant Shields for the SSAISD police department. Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, Elizabeth Martinez, Director of Federal Programs, and Eugene Tovar, SSAISD Chief of Police, were called to present and answer questions related to this item. Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the item as presented, Mr. Martinez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 7/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		

2. Discussion and possible action to retain the professional services of an outside auditor to review and report directly to the Board of Trustees on District finances. Mark Sanchez, Legal Counsel, was called to answer questions related to this item. Mr. Flores made a motion: to retain the professional services of Don Southerland Jr. CPA on a to review and report directly to the Board of Trustees on District finances on a forensic audit from 2016 through the present, seconded by Mr. Martinez. Mr. Arrellano called a point of order: that Mr. Flores and his motion referred to a forensic audit, so would you want to change your motion to take the word forensic so it matches. Mr. Flores: there is a motion on the floor as per legal that we can make that motion, it's to be voted on. If you wish to speak for three minutes on the agenda item you're more than welcome, I'll start your count down now. There is no point of order, it's not recognized. Mr Yzaguirre: Mr. Flores, can I just, for clarification, I just need to know because I am sure theyre going to contact us. The forensic audit is from 2016 to present? Mr. Flores: Yes sir. Mr. Yzaguirre: Ok, and it's all accounts, all funds? Mr. Flores: Yes, everything that's financial that the forensic team needs to get into

Mr. Yzaguirre: All accounts all funds. And the name of the auditor, just so we'll know.

Mr. Flores: Yeah, its Don Southerland Jr. CPA

Mr. Yzaguirre: Ok, thank you sir.

Mr. Flores: Thank you.

The Board of Trustees voted 4/3. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.		X	
Manuel Lopez		X	
Shirley Ibarra		X	
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Homer Flores Jr.	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	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 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. The Board will consider and discuss, the following items:

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

1. Consultation with attorney regarding status of pending TEA investigations and matters related thereto.
2. Discussion concerning personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074.

Start time: 7:41 PM.

End time: 8:57 PM.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. Reconvene from Executive Session for action relative to items considered during Executive Session

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Alderete moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Martinez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM.

**ATTEST**

Homer Flores Jr., Board President

Shirley Ibarra, Board Secretary

*NOTICE: This meeting of the Board of Trustees is authorized in accordance with the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.001 - 551.146. Verification of Notice of Meeting and Agenda are on file in the Office of the Superintendent. Closed meeting, if required and if authorized by the statute, will be conducted prior to the conclusion of the meeting for any item listed on this agenda.*

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